

PRactical RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## Poll raises concern about children's spiritual growth

Ventura, Calif. (BP)—Although surveys have indicated parents are frustrated with the corrupt culture in which they are trying to raise moral children, researcher George Barna said he is surprised that the percentage of parents who are concerned about their children's spiritual development is not larger.

A recent poll by the Barna Group found four out of 10 Christian parents of children between the ages of 3 and 18 said they do not face any spiritual challenges in their life.

"Our studies show that the faith principles and practices that a child absorbs by age 13 boldly shapes their spirituality for the duration of their life," Barna said in a news release Aug. 6. "Parents have a greater impact on that process than anyone else."

Barna said he expected the study of exclusively Christian parents with young children to yield a broader emphasis on the challenges related to raising spiritually healthy offspring. He noted the need for parents to live out a vibrant, authentic faith in order for children to see a pattern worth following.

"Children rarely embrace spiritual principles and practices that their parents fail to demonstrate in their lifestyle," he said.

The study, Barna said, indicates that personal spiritual development is a secondary consideration for millions of Americans.

"Many of the same people who claim that their faith is very important to them and that they are absolutely committed to Christianity also say that they face no spiritual challenges in life," he said. "Many other adults are only vaguely aware of such challenges and do not put much energy into addressing them."

## 'Super' strategy



**TRAINING TIME** A crowd of almost 900 people gathered Aug. 18 for the KBC's Super Saturday ministry training at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

## Annual conference highlights practical ministry tips

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Lexington—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Super Saturday training conferences got off to a rousing start Aug. 18 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Almost 900 participants gathered for the annual focus on "Practical Training for Kentucky Baptists," the first of six one-day sessions scheduled across the state through mid-September. The Lexington conference featured more than 100 workshop options, in-

cluding the second annual teen track and a first-ever African-American track.

Workshops on such diverse issues as Sunday school, discipleship, evangelism, church finance, and worship and music included such topics as "Becoming a Contagious Christian," "Spiritual Strategies for a Servant's Heart" and "Six Steps for a Great Sunday School Year."

"The excitement and response has been good," noted conference coordinator Darryl Wilson, di-

rector of the KBC's adult Sunday school department. He said participants "seemed to think that what we offered was fresh, practical help they can go back and implement."

During the conference's opening session, Marvin King challenged Kentucky Baptists to pursue "one common purpose—to advance the Kingdom of God for the glory of God."

King, minister of ministry at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, cited the Old Testament  
□ See Super Saturday ... Page 3

## Master's Church leads the way for KBC High Impact churches



**CHURCH ON THE MOVE** Pastor Alex Kinchen stands alongside busy Leestown Road in Lexington, with a sign pointing the way to Master's Church. "Keepin' It REAL" is the church's official slogan. According to Kinchen, "REAL" is an acronym for Relevant, Exciting, Applicable and Life-changing. "If that's what Christ is, then that's what we can be," Kinchen said. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—In the sanctuary of Master's Church sits an unpainted, wooden box, about three feet tall with a lid on top. The box is located in a former warehouse complex nestled in the middle of a Lexington business park—the place Master's Church calls home.

"That's our new baptistry," Pastor Alex Kinchen explained, pointing to the front of the portable baptismal pool, where he plans to place a cross.

But if it had been up to church secretary Betty Jo Hudson, the new baptistry would not have been the church's first.

"The first few Sundays, the auditorium really looked like a warehouse. I think we still had a bathtub in there," Hudson recalled. "I said, 'Leave it, it'll make a nice baptistry.'"

But nobody listened to me."

The new addition to the sanctuary is just the latest move forward for Master's Church, the first of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's high impact churches. Although the official launch date was Oct. 3, 2004, the church certainly had a running start.

Seeing tremendous growth in the northwest area of Lexington in 2003, Jim McGee, a regional church development strategist for the KBC, noticed something missing.

"I just got a burden for that area to start a church," said McGee, who also is interim pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin.

In September of 2003, McGee was speaking at a funeral, when he met a family member who was serving as the youth minister at Fall Creek Baptist Church in India-  
□ See Lexington High Impact ... Page 6

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Aug. 22.

## Drake urges God's wrath on Americans United

By Hannah Elliott  
Associated Baptist Press

**Buena Park, Calif.** (ABP)—Wiley Drake, a colorful and controversial former Southern Baptist Convention second vice president, has called on Baptists to pray for misfortune to befall employees of a church-state watchdog group.

Drake, a California pastor and radio commentator, issued an Aug. 14 statement calling for "imprecatory prayer" from his supporters against two communications staff members for Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The term "imprecatory prayer" is used to describe prayers, mostly in the Old Testament, that the righteous used to call down God's wrath against their enemies.

Americans United, based in Washington, advocates for a strict interpretation of the Constitution's ban on government support for religion. They asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate the tax-exempt status of Drake's congregation, First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., after Drake used church letterhead and a church-supported radio show to endorse a Republican presidential candidate.



Wiley Drake

### Drake seeks SBC presidency

Drake, who served as the SBC's second vice president in 2006-2007, also became the first person publicly announced as a nominee for the SBC presidency. Robert Bosworth, a member of Drake's church, announced Aug. 13 his intention to nominate his pastor for the SBC presidency at the denomination's next annual meeting, in June in Indianapolis.

Drake drew criticism last year from SBC officials for creating his own makeshift letterhead proclaiming "Southern Baptist Convention, Office of the 2nd Vice President" and using it to endorse a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Drake sent out his latest statement endorsing former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee Aug. 11, and later endorsed him again on his radio show. On Aug. 12, Huckabee surprised many observers by coming in second place in the Republican field in the Iowa straw poll.

The federal revenue code prevents churches and other non-profits organized under certain sections of the law from endorsing political candidates or parties. However, they are allowed to speak out on ballot issues.

"Federal tax law is clear," Barry Lynn, Americans United executive director, said in a press statement on the investigation request. "Churches and other non-profits may not endorse candidates, if they want to keep their tax exemption. I am confident that the vast majority of Americans do not want to see their houses of worship politicized."

In Drake's written endorsement, he said that of all the candidates running for president, "Mike Huckabee will listen to God." Before serving as governor, Huckabee was pastor of several prominent Arkansas Baptist churches. He also served as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"After very serious prayer and consideration I announce today that I am going to personally endorse Mike Huckabee," Drake wrote. "I ask all of my Southern Baptist brothers

and sisters to consider getting behind Mike and helping him all you can. First of all, pray and then ask God, 'What should I do to put feet to my prayers?' Do what God tells you to do."

Lynn wrote that Drake may express personal views on political candidates but said federal tax law prohibits such endorsements by religious leaders acting as officials of non-profit religious groups.

"Use of church letterhead to endorse a candidate for public office appears to violate the provisions of federal tax law that prohibit non-profit intervention in political campaigns," Lynn said. "Drake's endorsement of a candidate on a church-based radio show raises the same concerns."

In the past, churches that faced similar charges have lost their tax-exempt status, although often the IRS simply warns tax-exempt organizations against further violations.

### Letterhead cites past SBC post

The letterhead Drake used for the Huckabee endorsement also lists his SBC vice presidential office. The fact that he formerly served as an SBC officer is also noted on the press release calling for God's wrath on Americans United.

In the statement, Drake asks supporters to "specifically target" the group's communications director, Joe Conn, and his associate, Jeremy Leaming.

Drake's statement justifies his call to arms by citing statements from Jesus, the Apostle Paul, John Calvin, Martin Luther and the book of Psalms. It quotes extensively from Psalm 109, in which the Psalmist asks God that his enemy's "children be fatherless, and his wife a widow."

## Southwestern's homemaking program sparks debate about women's roles

**Fort Worth, Texas** (BP)—A new undergraduate homemaking program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary "is raising eyebrows among some Southern Baptists," according to Associated Press.

The classes are part of a homemaking concentration for a bachelor of arts in humanities degree through The College at Southwestern, the Texas seminary's undergraduate school. Three-credit-hour courses in the concentration are General Homemaking, Biblical Model for the Home and Family, and The Value of a Child. Also required are seven credit hours in meal preparation and nutrition and seven hours in the design and sewing of clothing.

Students also must take 23 hours in biblical studies, two years of Greek and Latin and do extensive reading in history's great philosophers, said Terri Stovall, Southwestern's dean of women's studies.

The AP article cited one critic of the homemaking program, blogger Ben Cole, who recently was named to the staff of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla.

The homemaking program "is quite superfluous to the mission of theological education in Southern Baptist life," Cole wrote on a blog, according to AP. "It's yet another example of the ridiculous and silly degree

to which some Southern Baptists, Southwestern in particular, are trying to return to what they perceive to be biblical gender roles."

Another critic was cited in a Southwestern news release in early July. Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, which is partly funded by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, wrote in a June 18 column, "What is dangerous about Christian homemaking programs is that they diminish the Christian faith and deceive naïve Christians."

Stovall said the homemaking concentration is biblically grounded in the Apostle Paul's command to Titus to train women how to be good homemakers and it is needed "because of the low standard of family and home life in contemporary culture."

While Southwestern is the only Southern Baptist seminary to offer homemaking studies, three others offer various women's ministry programs. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary offer master of divinity and master of arts programs in women's ministry. Southeastern, New Orleans and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville also offer certificate programs.

## Baptist relief teams aid mine rescue efforts

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

**Huntington, Utah** (BP)—As rescue teams worked last week to locate six coal miners trapped 1,800 feet underground at Crandall Canyon Mine, Southern Baptist disaster relief workers have been busy feeding the Utah miners' families and rescue personnel.

Underground search efforts were suspended Aug. 18 after a second cave-in killed three rescue workers, but officials continued drilling efforts to seek to determine if the miners trapped Aug. 6 were still alive.

"Since we started last Saturday, we've prepared and served up to 750 meals a day," said Wade Gayler, disaster relief director for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

Gayler said the American Red Cross asked the Utah-Idaho Baptist team to continue meal service through Aug. 19 at a rate of 500 meals a day. On Aug. 20, the team was scheduled to start supporting the Salvation Army with up to 550 meals a day for at least four more days.

Two Utah-Idaho feeding units and a support truck were on the scene in Huntington, Utah, a small coal-mining town of 2,100 people located approximately 110 miles south of Salt Lake City.

"The families of the missing coal miners are staying at Huntington Junior High School and meals are being trucked to them via Red Cross emergency response vehicles," Gayler said.

Since the family members have been kept isolated, Gayler said SBC disaster relief chaplains on the scene have not been able to counsel with them. Instead, chaplains are staying busy counseling the disaster relief workers.

In addition, 175 meals were being prepared and delivered via helicopter to the Crandall Canyon Mine, where miners and rescue personnel had been working around the clock at the drilling rig site near the accident.

Gayler said last week depending on what happened at the rescue site, the disaster relief workers could be on hand in Huntington another two weeks.

"First, we obviously pray that the missing coal miners will be found safe and sound," Gayler said.

"But we also need Southern Baptists to pray that God will continue to provide the DR volunteers needed to feed the rescue workers and family members, and that He might open doors for us to provide eternal hope for these people—that ultimately, we'll have opportunities to minister and speak with people in the community about Jesus."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Ridgecrest to host conference on Calvinism.** Calvinism, a frequent topic of debate within the Southern Baptist Convention and beyond, will be the theme of a Nov. 26-28 conference sponsored by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Founders Ministries. The conference, titled "Building Bridges: Southern Baptists and Calvinism," will be held at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Among almost 20 scheduled speakers are Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary; Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; and Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. For more information, contact LifeWay Ridgecrest at (800) 588-7222 or online at [www.lifeway.com/buildingbridges](http://www.lifeway.com/buildingbridges).

**Falwell's life insurance policy erases university's debt.** Thanks to a substantial life insurance policy on the late Jerry Falwell, the university he founded is now debt-free, according to university officials. Jerry Falwell Jr., Liberty University's chancellor and son of its founder, announced the \$34 million policy during a fall briefing with faculty and staff Aug. 10. Part of the money also went to Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., which Falwell founded in 1956. The school had reached a debt of \$82 million in 1992 which had since been reduced to \$27 million, according to Associated Press reports.

**Progressive Baptists urge protests of demeaning lyrics.** Delegates to the annual meeting of the Progressive National Baptist Convention have called for protests of music lyrics demeaning to women and minorities. "We are speaking out publicly against the denigration of women, minorities and the kind of self-hatred that is often perpetuated by bad language and bad music," said DeWitt Smith Jr., president of the historically black denomination. "Our youth department, in particular, has asked us not to patronize the rappers that use language that denigrate our people and others."

## Workshops address 'unique needs' of African-Americans

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—Kicking off his Super Saturday workshop, Carl Jones asked the group attending his presentation to say the word "traditional" out loud with a smile.

Why?

"Because we live in a time where the word 'traditional' is said with a face like you just ate something you didn't like," said Jones, pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

About 40 individuals gathered for Jones' conference titled "An Effective 'Traditional' Church in an Ever-Changing Culture," Aug. 18 at this year's first Super Saturday event at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

The session was one of the first offered as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new African-American church ministry track, featured at four of the six Super Saturday gatherings this year.

KBC and African-American Baptist leaders were steadfast in their effort to reach out to the state's African-American congregations. And it paid off with more than 200 African-Americans attending the Lexington event.

"I know that there are some things that are unique to the African-American Christian community," said Lincoln Bingham, the KBC's consultant for cooperative ministries, "and we needed those subjects addressed by African-Americans."

Darryl Wilson, director of the

the KBC's adult Sunday School department, agreed that there are topics specific to the needs of African-American churches.

"It isn't just the African-American track that Super Saturday has to offer," Wilson said, "but that's the hook that has really piqued some interest this year."

The new emphasis was the result of months of collaboration between Wilson and African-American church leaders Bingham and Willis Polk.

But even with the strong response, Bingham said the African-American track is not intended to be repeated each year, but to get those leaders involved in all of the conferences.

### Focus on effectiveness

For those attending Jones' session, the challenge was how to keep a traditional church effective in a time when there often is tension between traditional and contemporary worship.

Jones noted that his Louisville congregation has maintained many traditions throughout its 163-year history, but that no matter how hard churches try not to be "traditional," it is unavoidable.

"After the first Sunday, traditions begin to be built," he noted.

Jones explained that there are traditional churches and effective churches, and offered ways for a congregation to seek to combine the two.

He presented five questions for

participants to answer about their own churches:

- What does it mean to be an effective church?
- What does it mean to be a traditional church?
- What is the membership profile of an effective traditional church?
- What is the message of an effective traditional church?
- What are the ministries of an effective traditional church?

Jones said the word "effective" means that "the church does what it's supposed to do." To illustrate, he pointed out the five biblical purposes of the church: worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship and ministry.

Discipleship remains a concern for Joe Owens, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Lexington. Owens said his church has more new members arriving recently and he struggles with trying to reach them in a church that is predominantly traditional.

"I am in a process of trying to bring some balance with the tension of the traditional and contemporary and trying to find a happy medium," Owens said.

### Seeking to "bridge the gap"

Craig Anderson, an associate minister at Bracktown Baptist Church in Lexington, said the challenge he has accepted is to "bridge the gap" between the younger contemporary generation and the older traditional generation.

Jones, Owens and Anderson all



### MEETING OF THE MINDS

Carl Jones (left), pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in Louisville; Willis Polk (center), pastor of Imani Baptist Church in Lexington; and Lincoln Bingham, the KBC's consultant for cooperative ministries, visit together at the Super Saturday event in Lexington Aug. 18. Polk and Bingham were instrumental in conceiving the new African-American track offered at four of this year's six Super Saturday gatherings.

agreed music is not the only aspect of a church that makes it traditional or contemporary.

"What do you wear? Part of the tradition is that people will typically dress more formal than in a contemporary setting," Jones pointed out.

He also listed language as a difference between traditional and contemporary churches.

"In the most traditional churches, you would be looked upon as almost not being spiritual if you use hip-hop language," Jones said.

Even with the tensions in the debate over traditional versus contemporary, Jones pointed out that two things supersede tradition—God's Word and human need.

"There are some biblical principles that need to be held on to in the church, not just traditions," Jones said. "God has not given up on the traditional church."

## Super Saturday speakers call for Christian unity, discipleship

Continued from page 1

examples of Moses, Gideon and David, emphasizing that "God always tends to raise up people to do His work when society seems to be at its lowest."

Warning that "in many ways we are at our lowest socially, morally, politically and economically" as a nation, King added that God "has brought us together for such a time as this. The harvest is ripe but the laborers are few."

Affirming the multi-racial mix of conference participants, King declared, "Our society has been characterized by segregation on Sunday morning. Now we find folks coming together for a common cause on a day we call Super Saturday. It is indeed a super Saturday."

### Unity of purpose

Urging Christian brothers and sisters to unite "in purpose, in spirit, in love and in joy," King added, "All we need is few good folks who will say, 'I am willing to stand for Christ.' ... We can do the unthinkable through God."

"The good news about God is He has already planted the seed and prepared the harvest," he emphasized. "All we have to do is position ourselves to win."

"If we want to align ourselves with people of different perspectives, different ethnicities, ... God can do a work that blows our mind, because the work is bigger than us," King concluded. "Will you be one of those chosen few to partner with Jesus, to partner with the Kentucky Baptist

Convention to turn this state upside down for Jesus?"

During a breakout session for pastors, church staff members, directors of missions and discipleship leaders, Steve Rice, Glen Cummins and Claude King highlighted keys to "Establishing a Strategy for Discipleship."

Rice, the KBC's director of discipleship and assimilation, noted that in many congregations "for too many years, our thought of discipleship was those classes we teach before the evening service on Sunday night."

While that often is one aspect of an overall discipleship strategy, "if that is all the discipleship that is taking place, we're in trouble."

Citing the Great Commission's call to "go and make disciples" as the primary motivation for effective discipleship, Rice added, "One of the very last things Jesus said is 'make disciples.'"

"In many cases, we're making Christians, but we're not making anything beyond that. We're not making disciples," Rice warned. "They can't be disciples without being Christians, but we don't drop them there. Our work doesn't end there, it begins there."

"What is your church doing in the area of discipleship?" he asked. "You may be doing more than you think in the area of discipleship. ... It may be that you need to tweak it a little bit and be more intentional in what you're doing."

Rice encouraged pastors to develop "a personal discipleship minis-

try" through such areas as preaching, teaching, mentoring, ministry and missions.

Emphasizing the importance of being intentional in making disciples, Rice urged participants to "invite people into your life for the purpose of discipleship."

Glen Cummins, a KBC church development strategist, noted that "if discipleship is going to happen in your church, it's got to stay in front of your people."

In addition to the pastor, Cummins said discipleship leaders should include church staff members, deacons and Sunday school teachers.

### Strive to make an impact

Suggesting that "the Sunday school teacher's main responsibility is making disciples," Cummins added, "We can teach the Bible and never make a disciple."

As an example, after up to 52 Sunday school lessons a year, Cummins asked, "Do they visit more? Do they pray more? Do they care more? Are they more like Jesus in 2008 than they were in 2007? If not, are we really making a difference in people's lives?"

"The idea of moving people into discipleship ... is not a 100-yard dash; it is a marathon," he added. "You don't just do discipleship one way if you're going to reach your people."

Claude King, an editor for LifeWay Christian Resources, emphasized the importance of Christian obedience in pursuing effective dis-

cipleship.

"We've got a lot of people in our churches who are content to be spectators in this sport of discipleship," he remarked. "They're glad to be a cheerleader for the pastor and staff and others, but they're really not interested in getting into the game. ... To really get serious about obeying Christ and letting Him control their lives is not on their agenda."

King, co-author of "Experiencing God," cautioned against "living a life of mediocrity when God has an abundant life of fruitfulness waiting for us."

The foundation for successful discipleship "is the love relationship with Jesus Christ," he explained. "If we can help God's people fall in love with Jesus all over again, ... their heart is ready to obey."

Urging pastors and other church leaders to "work on helping God's people to return to their first love for Jesus Christ," King said, "Part of the process is to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross."

"People who really love the Lord," he concluded, "God has put it in their hearts to want to love God and want to obey Him—and we need to help them."

In addition to last week's Super Saturday training in Lexington, upcoming sessions will be held Aug. 25 at First Baptist Church of Owensboro and First Baptist Church of Pikeville; Sept. 8 at First Baptist Church of Paducah and First Baptist Church of Somerset; and Sept. 15 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.



MINISTRY CHALLENGE  
Marvin King, minister of ministry at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, urges Kentucky Baptists "to advance the Kingdom of God for the glory of God."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Navigating Christianity &amp; culture with C.S. Lewis

By Dick Staub  
Religion News Service

Seattle (RNS)—I just returned from sailing the Irish Sea with 80 Americans on a C.S. Lewis Study Cruise. That C.S. Lewis is still in vogue is a minor miracle.

Sixty years ago during World War II, this Oxford academic calmed and comforted a frazzled British populace with a rousing set of radio talks aimed at explaining Christianity to a so-called "Christian nation." His voice over the BBC became one of the most recognizable in Britain, second only to Winston Churchill.

Fifty years ago, that series of talks was published as "Mere Christianity."

Forty-four years ago, Lewis died on the same day John F. Kennedy was assassinated and Aldous Huxley bid this world farewell.

Just months before Lewis died, a young American named Walter Hooper arrived to help him organize his papers, an enterprise Lewis cheerfully endured as folly, for as he said, "Five years from now, no one will remember C.S. Lewis."

## Lewis' influence multiplying

Yet here we are in 2007 and Lewis is still selling a few million books a year. The 2005 release of "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" was a rousing box-office success. Francis Collins of the human genome project, Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan, Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson and countless others name Lewis as most influential in their commitment to Christian faith.

Every year, literally thousands of people study Lewis through dozens of local, regional and national organizations devoted to advancing Lewis' legacy.

What gives?

How is it that a decidedly un-hip Lewis, who dressed sloppily, spent his entire career in the academy

and was more comfortable with ancient myths than contemporary literature—how is it that such a man is wielding such influence even today?

One can point to his prolific work as a gifted writer. Lewis published more than 60 books in genres as diverse as children's fiction ("The Chronicles of Narnia"), science fiction ("Perelandra"), satire ("The Screwtape Letters"), autobiography ("Surprised by Joy") and Christian apologetics ("Miracles" and "The Problem of Pain").

## Close ties to Tolkien

One can say he benefited from and contributed to the collaborative inspiration of friends like J.R.R. Tolkien ("The Lord of the Rings"), whom he met weekly for years at a pub with a group of literary, thoughtful creatives dubbed "The Inklings."

But the real genius of Lewis in my view, is that he was the prototypical culturally savvy Christian in the classic—not contemporary—sense.

Ever since the 1960s, when John Lennon declared that "the Beatles are more popular than Jesus," Christian leaders have been on a quest for relevance. In the contemporary view, the pertinence of Christian witness requires constant attentiveness and stylistic adaptations to new and changing trends.

In a sense they have succeeded. New York Times columnist Walter Kirn wrote a few years ago that "Christianity doesn't compete with pop culture. It is pop culture."

Yet there is a widespread sense that today's Christianity, though

more tied in to culture, is unbearably light. Where is the deep spiritual, intellectual and creative tradition that once marked Christian contributions to culture?

Enter C.S. Lewis, who was serious about faith, savvy about faith and culture, and skilled at relating each to the other.

## A connoisseur of culture

Lewis understood that Christianity is rooted in a severe commitment in which one denies self and submits to Jesus as Lord. He understood that to be "savvy," or to "get it," about culture means at times to be differentiated and alien from culture. His call to savvy-ness made him a connoisseur of culture—not merely a consumer of, or adaptor to, the latest trends.

Lewis also understood that he was called to be a creator of good work in culture, not just a critic. Lewis and Tolkien both believed their ultimate aim was to do whatever they did for the glory of God. For them, such a calling meant meeting the highest standards of quality and excellence.

Their work is still germane today because it is born of deep faith and is at the same time deeply human. They understood that one bears witness to God's image by becoming an authentic human who reflects the rich spiritual, intellectual and creative qualities of God.

So I sailed the Irish Sea with humans who, with Dante, understand that ultimately and spiritually, "our course is set for an uncharted sea." In such a situation, C.S. Lewis is a worthy and relevant guide.

Dick Staub is the author of "The Culturally Savvy Christian: A Manifesto for Deepening Faith and Enriching Popular Culture in an Age of Christianity-Lite"

## COMMENTARY

## 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.

## Empowering givers make ministry impact

On a recent Sunday, my wife, Kay, and I heard an outstanding stewardship sermon by our pastor, Mike O'Neal. This was the final message in a series on stewardship at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

The sermon focused on Barnabas as an empowering giver in Acts 4:32-37. God revealed to Barnabas His way of investing in people so they can grow and build the Kingdom of God.

The name "Barnabas" means "son of encouragement." Barnabas was sent

to Antioch to check out the spread of the gospel. He saw the potential in Paul and endorsed him. Barnabas then served faithfully on missionary journeys, which demonstrated his willingness to give and to go personally (Acts 13:1-3).

Barnabas also was willing to let go when he and Paul disagreed over taking John Mark. Barnabas wanted to encourage John Mark so he was willing to release Paul to fulfill his calling to extend the gospel as far

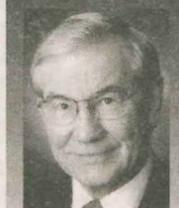
as possible.

As I listened to the sermon, I was reminded of a modern-day Barnabas for whom Kentucky Baptists are deeply indebted. Charles Barnes has served in so many key leadership roles as needed. Due to his faithful service, many people have been encouraged, needless conflict has been avoided and many individuals have come to Christ.

In his early years, Charles and his wife, Shella, served in inner city churches. In recent years, he has assisted Hurstbourne Baptist Church in developing a mission plan for the church. Recently, our Sunday school class needed a teacher and Charles responded and does an excellent job. He has served in many roles behind the scenes, and recently was co-chair of the fundraising campaign for the church.

Space and time do not permit me to mention all of Charles' roles of service but they include service as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theo-

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

## GIVING

## Endowment fund can make your tithe last forever

By Laurie Valentine

Tithing is part of our Christian stewardship responsibilities. It is a discipline practiced by many people all of their lives and it is vital to the continued viability of the programs and ministries of our churches.

When you die, will there be someone to "step into your shoes" to provide the funds your tithe has been providing to the church?

If you would like to assure your church will have the financial resources it needs until the Lord returns, consider including in your estate plan a provision for the creation, at your death, of an endowment fund for the benefit of your church. Or establish an endowment fund during your life to which you make modest gifts at regular intervals with provision in your estate plan for a final gift at your death to the fund.

An endowment fund is a permanent, perpetual fund that distributes only the earnings to the church; the original gift amount is never distributed. An endowment fund can be established through a bequest in your will or trust, or through a life insurance or IRA beneficiary designation. The bequest or beneficiary designation can be directly to the church or to a third-party fiduciary.

To assure the funds will be used as an endowment, you must specify that in the bequest or beneficiary designation.

To create an endowment fund large enough to have sufficient earnings to fund your tithe in perpetuity requires a gift at your death (or a combination of gifts during life and at your death) equal to approximately 20 times your current annual tithe. This assumes an annual return of 5 percent.

For example, if the current amount you tithe each year is \$5,000, the endowment fund would need to have \$100,000 in it (\$5,000 x 20). Assuming the fund is invested to grow its value over time, the amount the endowment fund will distribute should grow also, which means the distributions to the church will keep up with inflation over time.

In the future our churches will require increasing financial support to minister to needs in the community currently met by other sources. Assure your church will have the financial resources to meet those challenges by setting up an endowment fund. The result? Your tithe will last forever.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## How can parents help kids achieve academic success?

**Q: What ideas do you have for helping our middle schoolers achieve academic success as the new school year begins? How can we contribute to a healthy learning environment in our home?**

Be clear with your students that you are striving for learners, not performers. Helping them give maximum effort and establish strong study habits should be more important than pressuring them for grades.

### PARENTING

**Create a dedicated area for each young person to study.** Make sure they have the tools they need. Make study comfortable and even enjoyable. Give them some investment, for example, in the desk, chair and other materials they will use by allowing them to go shopping with you. Encourage them to set up a designated time for study and occasionally reinforce their enjoyment by bringing in a snack or other treat.

**Talk regularly with your student about school, not just when there is a problem.** Be interested on a daily basis about homework and let them know you are open to having friends over for study groups that could be linked to enjoying meals and movies together.

**Make television, computer games and phone time contingent on taking care of responsibilities.** It is important to note that listening to music is not always counterproductive to study. Some teens actually perform better with some background music. Other distractions, however, should be eliminated.

**Set and enforce a regular bedtime on school nights and be clear that extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs and social activities should not interfere with the primary job of school.** We are reminded by the Apostle Paul that "whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: My husband says he sometimes is afraid to tell me about things because of how I respond. He doesn't like it when I get angry. He says he feels like I am angry at him. Am I supposed to hide how I feel?**

Rob Flood, a writer and editor for FamilyLife, offers some principles for marriage and communication. His Principle of First Response declares, "The course of a conflict is not determined by the person who initiates, but by the person who responds."

### MARRIAGE

This is a confrontational statement because it challenges us to consider carefully how we respond to others. It reminds us that a great deal of responsibility lies with our choice in how we respond. Consider a self-assessment to recognize any patterns or areas for growth.

Ask yourself: How do I respond when I am tired? Hungry? Overwhelmed? Afraid? Hurt? Angry? Confused?

It is important to be honest with our feelings. For conflict to be a helpful process of sharing and reflection, self-control must be practiced. When we choose a response, we are taking time to think before we act. When we take time to reflect before responding, we choose the direction of the conversation. We are also choosing the direction of the conflict. Will our response invite more openness? Will our response reveal our deeper feelings? Will our response help us find a connection to one another? Will our response help us grow toward one another? Toward God? Where will our response lead us? Where will my response take me?

Sometimes we do not take care to look where we are going. Parents often remind children to take care and look so they do not trip and hurt themselves. This is still good advice for those of us who are no longer children. Look where you are going. Respond according to the destination you are seeking. If you do not pay attention, the danger is there for being hurt and hurting others.—*Valerie Vincent*

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## Reflections on 25 years as a Baptist editor

As ministry milestones go, this one is especially significant for me. This week marks 25 years that I have served as a full-time Christian journalist with state Baptist newspapers.

Beginning in August 1982, I served 10 years as managing editor of the Word & Way in my home state of Missouri. From there, I served six-plus years as editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine. Since 1999, it has been my privilege to serve among Kentucky Baptists as editor of the Western Recorder.

During my 25 years in denominational journalism, including 15 years as editor, I have had the opportunity to report and editorialize on an incredible array of issues. Among the most challenging topics have been news coverage and editorial reflections on school shootings, devastating natural disasters and the aftermath of Sept. 11.

In denominational life, I've been a firsthand witness to the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative shift as well as such related topics as SBC actions on the Baptist Faith & Message and Baptist World Alliance membership. Here in Kentucky, I've reported and editorialized on Billy Graham crusades, Georgetown College's decision to establish a self-perpetuating board of trustees and the state convention's current "Kentucky Baptists Connect" ministry emphasis.

Through it all I have sought to maintain accurate, fair, balanced reporting on our news pages and honest, straightforward perspectives in my editorial writing.

As I noted in my inaugural Western Recorder editorial in July 1999, "What is the bottom line? In the words of the prophet Micah, 'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' That is my goal as editor of the Western Recorder—and my prayer for Kentucky Baptists." Eight years and several hundred editorials later, that remains my steadfast commitment.

As I reflect on a quarter-century of ministry as a Christian journalist, here is a sampling of my editorial comments along the way:

**1993: Baptist cooperation.** "Southern Baptists have the choice of majoring on the things which divide us or the things which unite us. The latter remains a much broader category. ... What does the future hold? It remains our choice. What is the bottom line? Trust—and trustworthiness."

**1994: Dilday dismissal.** "Whatever else the dismissal of Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday may signal, it is not a sign of peace in our troubled convention. ... May God forgive Southern Baptists for allowing family-fracturing feuds to weaken our worldwide witness. May He give all Southern Baptist leaders ... the wisdom and integrity to discern between the right to take action and taking action which is right."

**1998: Clinton crisis.** "Can President Clinton be forgiven for his moral failure? Yes. ... Does that mean forgiveness excuses the president from the consequences of his actions? No. ... The basic question is whether our nation is willing to affirm that right is right and wrong is wrong in such crucial areas as honesty, integrity and sexual purity. ... If not, our nation will face far greater crises in the future."

**1999: Expanded gambling.** "From a moral perspective, there is no reason to spend state resources to conduct a study of gambling's impact. Kentucky Baptists repeatedly have gone on record in recent years opposing expanded gambling. Anti-casino resolutions approved by convention messengers in 1993 and 1995 affirm 'the biblical principles which define gambling as inherently evil and grossly immoral.' ... Don't merely sit back and allow others to set our state's moral and social agenda. Now is the time for Kentucky Baptists to let their voices be heard."

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

**2000: Y2K and beyond.** "Welcome to the 21st century! ... If you actually are still around to read these words, that suggests civilization has survived the dreaded Y2K cataclysm. While there may be a few technological glitches to smooth out in the days ahead, we finally can put to rest the shrill predictions of worldwide catastrophe. ... Far more significant than calendar calculations or computer concerns is the fact that the Son of God's arrival on earth just over 2,000 years ago remains the defining moment in world history. ... Mankind's most sweeping measure of time was recorded in Hebrews 13:8 which triumphantly declares, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever'—even at the dawn of Y2K."

**2001: Sept. 11.** "Horrific. The word was numbly repeated thousands of times last week by survivors, eyewitnesses, rescue workers, government leaders, commentators and countless citizens across the nation. In the wake of the devastating terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, other words used to describe the deadly assault include barbaric, evil, vicious and cowardly. But those painful words fall far short of describing the horror that unfolded minute-by-minute on television screens around the world. ... The haunting question of "Why?" never will be fully answered. The more urgent question—"Where do we go from here?"—is a question every American can help answer. In the shadow of last week's horrific acts of evil, Americans are demonstrating an unwavering spirit of resolve, compassion and hope. ... Just one week after Sept. 11, 2001, Americans already are showing the world our best."

**2002: Billy Graham.** "Billy Graham did it again. Or to put it more precisely, God did it again through Billy Graham. Amid widespread racial tension in Cincinnati and recent reports of Graham's critical comments about Jews in a taped conversation 30 years ago with President Nixon, the esteemed evangelist once again stood and faithfully proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ this past week in Cincinnati. ... Even more significant than Graham's focus on racial reconciliation and interfaith respect is his unwavering emphasis on the gospel of Jesus Christ. 'God is waiting to welcome you with open arms,' he told the crowd. 'God is a God that loves you.' That not only is Graham's consistent message; it is his spiritual legacy."

**2003: Missionary dismissals.** "Next week has the potential to become one of the darkest moments in Southern Baptists' denominational conflict of the past 20-plus years. Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, issued an ultimatum this month to more than two dozen veteran missionaries: Affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message statement, resign or face termination. Six other missionaries were given only two options: resign or be fired. ... Several missionaries view endorsement of a man-made document as a violation of Southern Baptists' historic aversion to creedalism. ... No charges of doctrinal heresy have been filed against any of the missionaries expected to be dismissed. ... Rather than charging faithful missionaries with questionable generalities, Rankin should lead the way in calling on trustees to affirm the ongoing ministry of long-term mission workers unless there are specific violations of doctrinal or moral issues."

**2006: Prayer.** "When was the last time your church altar was filled with people praying? What about you? Have you personally walked down the aisle and knelt at the altar to seek God's face in response to burdens in your life or the lives of those around you in the past few weeks? The past year? The past five years? ... As Kentucky Baptists seek to make an eternal impact across the commonwealth for the sake of the gospel, there is no better place to begin than on our knees at our own church altars."

## Lexington High Impact church seeks growth through giving

### MASTER'S CHURCH AT A GLANCE

**Location:**  
Lexington

**Pastor:**  
Alex Kinchen

**Launch Date:**  
Oct. 3, 2004

**Sponsoring Church:**  
Victory Baptist Church, Lexington

*Continued from page 1*

napolis. After talking at length, McGee asked the man if he would be interested in coming to Lexington to plant a church. The youth minister declined, but Scott Wilkins, Fall Creek's senior pastor, accepted McGee's invitation.

In November of 2003, a core group of about 25 people began meeting once a month and on Easter Sunday of 2004, with Wilkins in the pulpit, Master's Church held its first official service at a local middle school. One week later, the congregation moved to its current location.

Through discussions with the KBC and with Victory Baptist Church in Lexington on board as a sponsoring church, the plan was put into motion to make Master's Church the initial church plant for the state convention's new High Impact initiative. On Oct. 3, 2004, that plan became reality.

That was also the day that the entire Kinchen family arrived at Master's Church.

Kinchen, 36, took the scenic route to Lexington. Born in Georgia, he grew up in New Orleans and graduated from Georgetown College. He was working as a teacher in a southeastern Alabama high school when he said he felt God calling him to the ministry.

Heeding that call, Kinchen packed up his family and moved to Winston-Salem, N.C., to attend Southeastern Baptist Theological

Seminary. Kinchen eventually became the pastor of an area church before making the move to Lexington in July of 2004.

Counting on the belief that God would find him a church that needed a pastor, Kinchen said he searched for the right place to serve. When October rolled around and he was still without a ministry position, Kinchen said he struggled to understand why.

"I did some pious pouting there for a while," Kinchen recalled. "You said go, we're here and now You've not given me a church to pastor."

One Sunday in late September, with Kinchen at home sick, his wife, Gretchen, headed out with their daughter, Samantha, now 11, and son, Thomas, now 7, to check out Master's Church.

Kinchen said his wife came home after visiting the church and told him the family had to go back the next week—the day of the high impact launch.

The family began attending Master's Church and soon after, Wilkins offered Kinchen a part-time position as an associate minister.

After a lot of prayer, Kinchen said, he agreed to the offer. Little did he know he would soon take on a much greater ministry role.

In December of 2004, Wilkins an-

nounced to the church that he felt he was being called back to Indiana. McGee said he knew exactly who should take his place.

"As soon as Scott left, I suggested we make Alex the interim with the possibility of being our pastor,"

McGee recalled. "And everybody, knowing Alex, was all in favor of that."

Kinchen became the congregation's interim pastor in December and was called full-time in February of 2005. Since then, Kinchen and Master's Church have moved full steam ahead.

The church currently has a mem-

bership of about 150 people and consistently reaches out to the nearby community, which is one of the fastest growing in Lexington.

Earlier this year, Master's Church celebrated a milestone by giving back to the KBC, through the Cooperative Program, more than the \$100,000 that the convention put into the church through the High Impact program. For a church that is less than three years old, Kinchen said he was "surprised" when he realized the giving level, but maintained that the giving will not wane.

"We're going to keep on giving," Kinchen declared. "Whether we're making budget or not, that percent-

age is coming out and it's going to the Cooperative Program."

Another church that does its share of giving is Victory Baptist, Master's Church's sponsoring church. Victory knows what it's like to be a fledgling congregation. The church began in 1992 as a church plant by members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Victory donates \$1,000 a month to Master's Church which Kinchen said goes into a fund to purchase land on which to build in the future.

In addition to the partnership with Victory, Master's Church enjoys a close alliance with several other churches, which Kinchen described as "a successful part of our ministry."

While affirming the momentum that Master's Church has going, Kinchen said he is concerned about complacency. But he added that he believes the make-up of the congregation will help keep that from happening.

"It's just amazing how radically different a church can be to get some folks who have no concept of church to come in and really push our limits," the pastor emphasized. "And I don't mean to say that we want freedom to just set our hair on fire and run around the building seven times and hope that God does something. It's nothing like that."

"But there's freedom here, it's a unique church."



## Preaching Workshop

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**Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.**

Beeson Divinity School  
Samford University, Birmingham, AL

**Monday, October 8, 2007**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

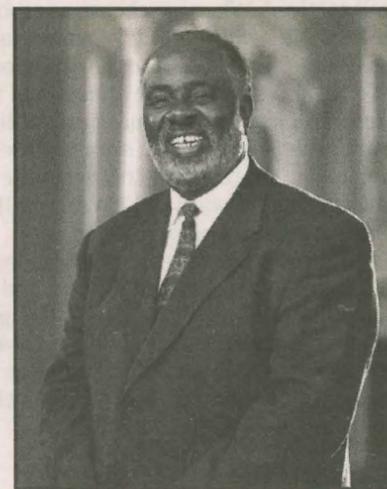
Hall of Fame Room  
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Georgetown, KY

Registration: \$35 per person  
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featuring

**Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.**



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**GEORGETOWN**

C O L L E G E

*Live. Learn. Believe.*

Centenarians

Older adults offer examples of living meaningful lives

One of our longtime clients will become a centenarian this month. To our knowledge she is the first Kentucky Baptist Foundation donor to become a centenarian, and we are so pleased. She prefers to remain anonymous.

In the book, "Centenarians: The Bonus Years," author Lynn Adler interviewed 250 people across America who were 100 years of age or older. I was struck by one of her findings, which she reported in a chapter titled, "Legacy of Values and Beliefs." She reported: "Centenarians urge younger generations to focus on living life with deeper meaning, living in the present and enjoying life each day, while de-emphasizing materialism, commercialism, greed and self-centeredness. From having seen it all over the course of a century, centenarians advise us to turn toward simpler pleasures and traditional values, and to live with integrity and self-determination." That's good advice, isn't it?

It reminded me of the advice the Apostle Paul gives us in 1 Timothy 6:17-19: "Do not be arrogant nor put your hope in wealth, which is

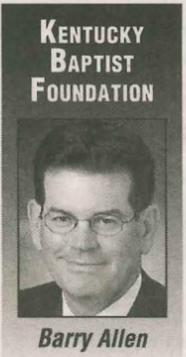
so uncertain, but put your hope in God, who richly provides you with everything for your enjoyment. ... Do good, be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share. In this way you will lay up treasures for yourselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that you may take hold of life that is truly life."

To the extent we in the KBF can assist you in putting into place an estate and legacy gift plan that will enable you "to take hold of life that is truly life," please give us that privilege.

When I last visited our soon-to-be centenarian client, I was reminded of a poem Adler included in her book. Cora Belle Gilland, a Wyoming pioneer and mother of centenarian Ida Fox, passed on this poem in her diary:

"Age is the top of the mountain  
Nearer the sky so blue;  
A long, hard climb,  
A bit of fatigue,  
But, oh, what a wonderful view!"  
Amen? Amen!

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp

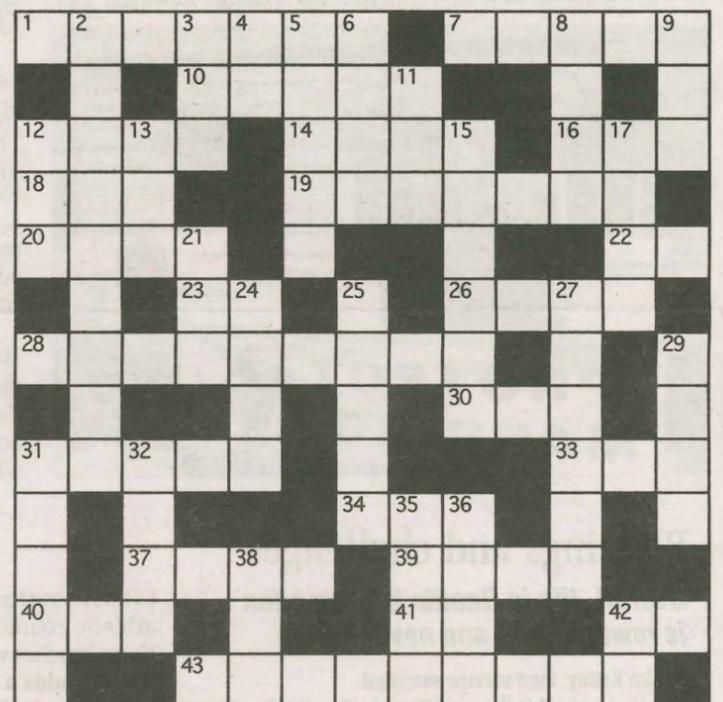


Bible Crosswords

By Michael J. Landi

Across

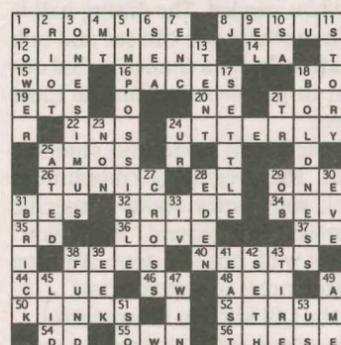
- 1 Sister of David (1 Chronicles 2:15-16)
- 7 "Unto ten virgins which took their \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 25:1)
- 10 City of Asher (Joshua 19:30)
- 12 "The \_\_\_\_ of the Lord" (Proverbs 9:10)
- 14 "So let it be" (Matthew 6:13)
- 16 "\_\_\_\_ no man any thing" (Matthew 13:8)
- 18 Acted as both judge and high priest in Israel (1 Samuel 1:9)
- 19 "\_\_\_\_, yet regarded as imposters" (2 Corinthians 6:8 NIV)
- 20 A priest who returned from Babylon to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 12:1)
- 22 David's book, abbr.
- 23 Physician, abbr.
- 26 "\_\_\_\_ their swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4)
- 28 "For \_\_\_\_ to the faith among all nations, for his name" (Romans 1:5)
- 30 Loyal member of David's court (1 Kings 1:8)
- 31 "He threw him into the \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 20:3 NIV)
- 33 Last book of the Bible, abbr.
- 34 "Upon the tip of the right \_\_\_\_ of Aaron" (Exodus 29:20)
- 37 "Yet have I set my \_\_\_\_ upon my holy hill" (Psalm 2:6)
- 39 "Turned about with a very small \_\_\_\_, whithersoever the governor listeth" (James 3:4)



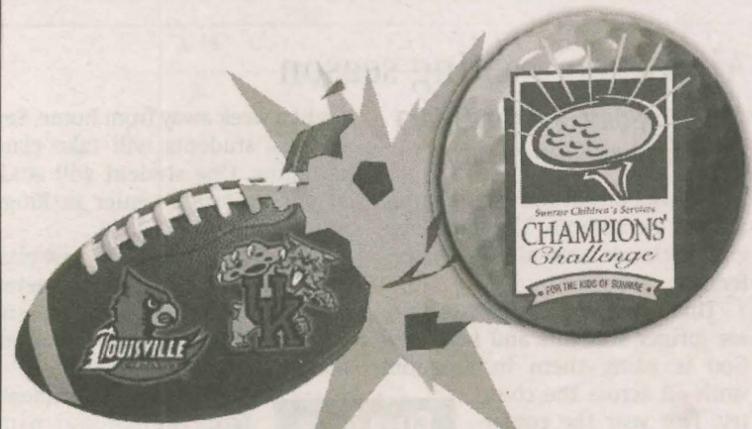
- 40 Light of the body (Matthew 6:22)
  - 41 Associate in Arts, abbr.
  - 42 "Thou shalt not muzzle the \_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 25:4)
  - 43 "\_\_\_\_ block" (Romans 14:13)
- Down
- 2 "If they have called the master of the house \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 10:25)
  - 3 When King Ahaziah fled from Judah he went here (2 Kings 9:27)
  - 4 "I \_\_\_\_ Alpha and Omega" (Revelation 1:8)
  - 5 "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great \_\_\_\_" (Daniel 2:31)
  - 6 "Then shall the \_\_\_\_ man leap as an hart" (Isaiah 35:6)
  - 8 "The sun and the \_\_\_\_ and the eleven stars" (Genesis 37:9)
  - 9 "I was blind, now I \_\_\_\_" (John 9:25)
  - 11 Son of Zephaniah (Zechariah 6:14)
  - 12 "Every prostitute receives a \_\_\_\_" (Ezekiel 16:33 NIV)

- 13 "Not as one that beateth the \_\_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 9:26)
- 15 "More in \_\_\_\_ than the sand" (Psalm 139:18)
- 17 "Peter went out, and \_\_\_\_" (Luke 22:62)
- 21 "Shall not \_\_\_\_ unto the word" (Deuteronomy 4:2)
- 24 "A second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three \_\_\_\_ in the mouth of it" (Daniel 7:5)
- 25 "They will lick dust like a \_\_\_\_" (Micah 7:17 NIV)
- 27 Firstborn of Hiel (1 Kings 16:34)
- 29 Son of Alphaeus (Mark 2:14)
- 31 "Satan himself is transformed into an \_\_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- 32 "Thy father made our \_\_\_\_ grievous" (1 Kings 12:4)
- 35 Son of Omri and seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 16:29)
- 36 "For my flesh is \_\_\_\_ food" (John 6:55 NIV)
- 38 "In vain the \_\_\_\_ is spread" (Proverbs 1:17)
- 42 Amorite king of Bashan (Deuteronomy 31:4)

Last week's solution



BEFORE THEY MEET ON THE FIELD, THEY WILL COMPETE ON THE GREEN to benefit the children of Sunrise Children's Services.



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For more information, team registration, or sponsorship opportunities, call (800) 456-1386 Space is limited. Call today!

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Sunrise Children's Services provides hope and healing to hurting families and children statewide through therapeutic foster care, residential treatment facilities, adoption services and counseling centers. Sunrise is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

## Capitol rally urges legislators to protect traditional marriage

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Frankfort—Braving 95 degree heat, several hundred Kentuckians gathered outside the Capitol in Frankfort Aug. 13 for a marriage rally.

Organized by the Family Foundation of Kentucky, the one-hour rally included brief messages by Kentucky Baptist Convention President Darren Gaddis and fellow Kentucky Baptist pastor Ronnie Mayes.

The rally was billed as an effort "to encourage state legislators to take action to stop the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky from redefining marriage by offering domestic partner insurance benefits to unmarried couples."

Kentucky Attorney General Greg Stumbo ruled earlier this summer that the two state schools could not offer health insurance and other benefits to domestic partners in light of a 2004 constitutional amendment that defines marriage as being between one man and one woman.

Since his ruling, however, nei-

ther Stumbo nor the Kentucky General Assembly has taken action to enforce the ruling. With a special session of the legislature set for this week, pro-marriage advocates are seeking to encourage legislators to address the issue.

"We are here for marriage," Kent Ostrander, executive director of the Family Foundation, told the crowd. "We are here to affirm the 2004 Marriage Protection Amendment. We are here to protect the institution of marriage that some are trying to encroach."

Several legislators, including Sen. Vernie McGaha, who has led the legislative effort to protect traditional marriage, also briefly addressed the crowd.

"It's a sad day that we have to do this," McGaha declared. "I thought we had already spoken in 2004."

"Where's the uproar?" he asked. "We've got to keep the issue alive."

Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, cited Jesus' parable of the talents as he urged legislators and citizens to "do well" and "do right."

"A couple of our universities have decided that what you think is not all that important," Gaddis said. "Seventy-five percent of us stood up and said one man/one woman—that's a marriage and nothing else. ... The people of Kentucky, we want traditional marriage to be protected and we want no alternatives to that."

Insisting that leaders of UK and U of L "are breaking the law and thwarting the will of the people," Gaddis asked, "Who will hold them accountable? We need statesmen who will stand up and do what they

know in their hearts is right."

Mayes, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, said rally participants "are here to stand for God's glory and God's righteousness."

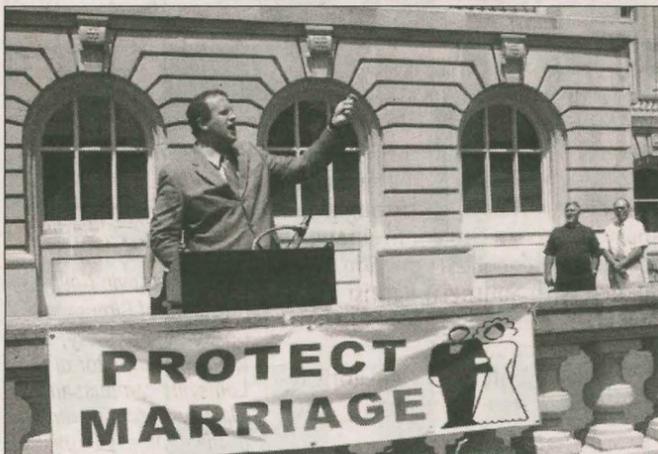
"We're intelligent enough to know that domestic partnership is a backdoor approach to undermine the sacredness of marriage," he said. "We're here to stand for the laws and the constitution of our great com-

monwealth."

Warning that "our entire legal system is at stake," Mayes concluded, "We're here to stand. We're not going away. We're taking names and we're going to vote."

Urging supporters to contact their legislators, Ostrander said individuals can express their views on the issue by calling the legislative message line at (800) 372-7181.

**MARRIAGE RALLY**  
Kentucky Baptist Convention President Darren Gaddis challenges legislators to "do well" and "do good" during an Aug. 13 rally opposing domestic partnership benefits at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.



## Blessings and challenges

**Overall, life in Oneida kitchen often is rewarding ... and never boring**

By Jim Kelley, food service assistant

Life in the kitchen at Oneida Baptist Institute: what a challenge ... and a blessing.

We serve three meals a day, seven days a week to 325 students, 150 staff and sometimes as many as 75 volunteers and guests. Annually we cook 40,000 pounds of beef and 6,000 pounds of pork raised on our farm. Each year we consume 6,710 loaves of bread, 9,288 hot dog buns, 36,924 hamburger buns and 9,360 dozen eggs.

We constantly revise menus to accommodate donated food, and strive to use perishable donations quickly. Once we were blessed with 12 pallets of donated bananas. We had banana "something" every day for weeks. The cooks are very creative.

Ordering the right foods in proper quantities is an intricate task. Not ordering something that is going to be donated in the next few days requires a prophet. Ordering foods while utilizing donated goods and leftovers is a real magic act. We also must keep on top of all the government reports so we can stay in compliance with the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and Summer School and Work Program. This summer we received approval for a new, state-of-the-art computer system to assist us in many of the food service reporting requirements.

Many staff members have preferences we try to honor such as diet salad dressing, hot sauce and low-fat cooking methods. The race to clean trays and silverware between first and second lunch is exciting. Another challenge is making sack lunch-

es for the various co-curricular outings: FFA, choir, athletic events, dorm outings, etc. Making use of these lunches when trips are cancelled at the last minute adds a special twist to the effort. Preparing meals—including grilling outdoors for special events such as the Fall Festival, Spring Fling, FFA Banquet, Senior Banquet, Homecoming, Mountain Missions Conference, etc.—can get interesting. Storing dry, refrigerated and frozen goods with limited storage capacity keeps us hopping.

Regularly we are encouraged by Matthew 19:26 and Mark 10:27 that remind us: "All things are possible with God."

The blessings, however, exceed the challenges. Seeing the students get up early for breakfast, run from chapel for lunch and come back for seconds, and sometimes thirds, is gratifying. OBI is blessed with 19 hard-working kitchen personnel on four overlapping shifts. They not only love the students and staff, they are compatible and quick to

assist each other. OBI also is blessed with a master grill who is not part of the kitchen staff, but is always available when needed. The dining hall is "the" gathering place where you can see and talk to students and staff daily. It's a chance to find out what is important in people's lives and to meet anyone who is new.

We also are blessed with wonderful students and staff to serve. They regularly compliment kitchen personnel, sometimes about a specific dish and other times it is a general "thank you" for the meal as they walk out the door. We have even received written notes of appreciation.

Overall, life in the OBI kitchen is wonderful.

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



W.F. Underwood

## Always an exciting season

**New students get ready for their first academic term**

August is always an exciting time around our campus. The month begins with our annual alumni conference.

This event is an opportunity to see former students and hear how God is using them in Kingdom work all across the country. This year the conference was held during new student orientation. Our campus family had a great time watching alumni interact with new students, encouraging them about their time ahead at Clear Creek.

Orientation always brings a sense of excitement to our campus. We

see the enthusiasm students have as they begin their studies and take the next step in answering God's call. This fall we are proud to welcome 40 new students who have affirmed to us that God called them to Clear Creek. We are honored to help train these men and women for ministry. God continues to call students from all walks of life and from all over the country to serve through different avenues of study.

This term, 27 students will live on campus and study full-time. Five students are enrolled as commuters. They will spend only one

night a week away from home. Seven new students will take classes online. One student will study at our extension center in Kingston, Tenn.

The average age of our new class is 25. There are 33 men and seven women. Sixteen of our male students are married and two of our female students are married.

We have 17 students from Kentucky; nine from Tennessee; four from Ohio; two from Michigan and South Carolina; and one each from Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia.

Most of these future pastors, ministers and missionaries have pursued other occupations

including accounting, child care, the military, contracting, diesel mechanics, farm management, firefighting, paramedics, home-making, retail and clerical. In all, 24 have previous college experience.

Please pray for these new students as they follow God's call to prepare academically for Kingdom work.

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

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CLEAR CREEK  
CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

## Campbellsville celebrates opening of new Louisville campus

### University cuts ribbon on new facility designed for non-traditional students

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—Campbellsville University—on the heels of celebrating its centennial year—marked another milestone Aug. 14, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the school's new Louisville campus.

Faculty, trustees, students and other state and local dignitaries gathered at the newly renovated complex to celebrate the occasion.

"This is a very special day in the life of Campbellsville University," President Michael Carter said during his opening remarks.

The midday heat forced the festivities indoors, but failed to temper the excitement of the Kentucky Baptist school's new endeavor.

"It's going to be a wonderful relationship for Campbellsville here in greater Louisville," said David Morris, chairman of the school's board of trustees.

Campbellsville University has maintained a presence in Louisville since 1994, when the school began a degree completion program at Boyce Bible College. In 1999, classes were moved to St. Matthews Baptist Church.

Four years ago, the university established the Louisville Education Center and expanded its offering of degree programs. And in 2006, Campbellsville launched a partner-

ship with Simmons College of Kentucky in Louisville. The two schools maintain a close relationship that includes a faculty exchange program and joint missions projects.

Designed for the non-traditional student, the 14,000-square-foot campus will offer a variety of associate's, bachelor's and master's degree programs. The campus, located on Greene Way off of Hurstbourne Parkway, will also be home to a technology training center.

The need for the Louisville campus, Carter said, was born out of a study conducted by Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson's office several years ago, that discovered a lack of college graduates in the city and surrounding areas.

"We knew ... about the need for higher education in metro Louisville and that there was a shortage," Carter noted.

Jim Woolums, the director of the Louisville campus, said the school exists for the non-traditional student.

"The largest academic market in higher education is with the non-traditional students," said Woolums, who also serves as teaching pastor at Erlanger Baptist Church in northern Kentucky.

With 60 part-time faculty on board, all classes will be held in the evenings, with students taking only



one class at a time for six weeks, "so they can manage the focus of their life, family and also school," Woolums said. Currently, there are 125 students enrolled, and that number is expected to grow.

Woolums also pointed out that even with the non-traditional approach, the campus will maintain Campbellsville's core Christian values, which begins with the faculty.

They "are all Christ-followers who are committed to bringing Christ to the classroom," Woolums stated.

"It's in the people you hire," Cart-

er said. "There's certainly a strong ethical component to every course that is different than you will find at a secular university."

Carter noted that he is excited about the return of the Carver School to Louisville, through the master of science in counseling program. The school was previously affiliated with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary before being acquired by Campbellsville.

"In Baptist life, that's a historic return that we're excited about," Carter said.

#### GRAND OPENING

Campbellsville University marks the opening of its new Louisville campus Aug. 14. Cutting the ribbon are, from left, Mary Frances May, university trustee; Michael Carter, Campbellsville University president; Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College of Kentucky; Jim Woolums, director of the Louisville campus; and Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. (Photo by Drew Nichter)



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1-888-339-2877, [scminfo@btsr.edu](mailto:scminfo@btsr.edu).

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for an evangelism team from Little River Baptist Association currently serving in Brazil.

■ Pray for evangelism teams from Forks of Dix River Baptist Church and Nelson Baptist Association that will be traveling to Brazil Aug. 27.

■ Pray for Scott and Joyce Pittman, on-site coordinators for Kentucky Baptists' partnership in Brazil, as they host Kentucky Baptist teams serving in Brazil.

■ Pray for the people of Peru in the aftermath of the 7.9-magnitude earthquake that hit several cities Aug. 15 and killed more than 500 people. Pray also for workers who are ministering to survivors and family members.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ANNVILLE**—Bond Missionary Church recently called **Randy Johnson** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Covessville Church in Charlottesville, Va., and Beattyville Church.

■ **BREMEN**—Mount Pisgah Church recently called **Glenn Armstrong**, retired pastor of Beaver Dam Church, as interim pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—South Union Church will celebrate Homecoming Aug. 26 with **Kevin Willie** as guest speaker. Dinner will follow the 11 a.m. service with singing in the afternoon.

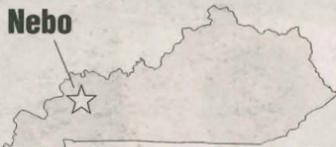
■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cedar Grove Church will celebrate Homecoming Sept. 9. **Billy Vincent** will be the speaker and the **Jessup Family Quartet** will perform. For more information, call (270) 754-4354.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Elizabethtown Church will host a special music program Aug. 26, 6 p.m. featuring **Patrick Henry Hughes** who was born blind and is unable to walk. Despite those obstacles, Hughes plays piano, trumpet and sings. For more information, contact the church at (270) 763-6565. **Danny Haynes** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—**Jeanette McMillen**, wife of retired Baptist pastor **Ira McMillen Jr.**, died Aug. 3 at age 84. A graduate of Georgetown College, she taught vocal and piano lessons and

### Spotlight on ...

#### Nebo



Silent Run Church will celebrate 152 years of ministry with homecoming activities Sept. 9, 2 p.m., featuring the **Southern Sound** gospel quartet. For more information, call (270) 249-3868.

was involved in music ministry in the churches her husband served as pastor. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, a son and two grandchildren. Her funeral service was held Aug. 6 at Georgetown Church where she was a member.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Roland Memorial Church will celebrate Homecoming Aug. 26. **James Doyel** will be the featured speaker and **The Paul Barrett Group** will sing. For more information, call (270) 338-3620.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Church recently called **Carol Collier Harston** as minister to youth. **Joe Phelps** is



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

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.

29 Marriage Celebration, Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

### October

4-6 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.

5-6 Celebrate the Mission, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

12-13 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

15 KBC East—Senior Adult Choir Festival, First Baptist Church, London.

20 Vacation Bible School Theme Preview, Baptist Building, Louisville.

22 KBC West—Senior Adult Choir Festival, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

pastor.

■ **PARIS**—First Church recently called **Bradley Hockensmith** as pastor and **Lee Davis** as student minister.

■ **PEMBROKE**—Pembroke Church will host **Don Mathis** as guest speaker for

Labor Day weekend services Sept. 2, 10:50 a.m. **Jack Studie** is pastor.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—Mayflower Unity Church ordained **Gary Spears** as a deacon Aug. 12. **Tim McClanahan** is pastor.

## 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](http://www.reunionhouse.org).

**FOR SALE:** 22 pews (13.5 feet) in good condition. Contact Helen Stanfill at First Baptist Church Oak Grove, (270) 439-5331.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for First Baptist Church, Hodgenville. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or e-mail to [sally@fbchodgenville.org](mailto:sally@fbchodgenville.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister. Formal music training/experience is preferred. Submit resumé to Olivet Baptist Church, 13741 Palmyra Road, Herndon, KY 42236-8133. For a full position description, please call the church at (270) 439-4155.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship accompanist for Sunday worship, Wednesday worship and choir practice. Piano preferred. Contact Green Acres Baptist Church, (502) 964-8165; or Rev. Daniel Powell.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Southern Baptist church—approximately 20 hours per week. Prefer college training related to church music. Send resumé/application to Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 E Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724, Attn: Personnel Committee. E-mail to: [church@ceciliabaptist.com](mailto:church@ceciliabaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Minister of music for growing congregation in Hodgenville, Ky., with average morning attendance of 350. Duties include leading comprehensive music program, sanctuary choir and blended worship service. All full- and part-time resumé will be reviewed and considered. Please send resumé and a DVD/tape if available to: Music Minister Search Committee, South Fork Baptist Church, 4915 New Jackson Highway, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music (minimum 12 hrs/wk) for Southern Baptist church in Jessamine County (Nicholasville), Ky. Able to help develop blended music, lead in worship, adult choir and help establish children and youth music programs and seasonal programs. Sunday morning attendance: 125-150. Resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, PO Box 669, Nicholasville, KY 40356.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth for First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky. Responsibilities include proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ through biblical teachings; facilitating ministry opportunities and assisting with pastoral care; developing, managing and evaluating a comprehensive program for middle school and high school students and their families. Ability to build and maintain effective working relationships and rapport with members, prospects and staff is required. Compensation includes salary, vacation, insurance, SECA and retirement. Send cover letter, resumé, salary history and available starting date to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, KY 40475; or via e-mail to [richard.landiers@firstbaptistnet.com](mailto:richard.landiers@firstbaptistnet.com).

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor. Send resumé to St. John Baptist Church, 1775 St. John Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader/minister of music. Send resumé to Grace Community Baptist Church, 7300 National Turnpike, Louisville, KY 40214; e-mail [gcbc7300@peoplepc.com](mailto:gcbc7300@peoplepc.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time secretary/administrative assistant. Successful candidate will use personal gifts of communication, organization and technical skills for efficient and effective church office business. Send resumé to: John Bloomer, Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor for Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, a growing, strongly evangelistic, mission-minded congregation helping to build the Kingdom of God, soon to have two campuses. Send resumé to 4695 Hardinsburg Road, Cecilia, KY 42724 by Aug. 27; or e-mail resumé to [franklincrossroads@windstream.net](mailto:franklincrossroads@windstream.net). Visit our Web site at [franklincrossroads.org](http://franklincrossroads.org).

**SEEKING:** Pastor. Union Baptist Church, 25 minutes south of Cincinnati, Ohio, in Northern Kentucky, offers the best of a rural and suburban setting, and is situated in the midst of booming housing developments. UBC is looking for a pastor to lead its flock of 274 (average worship attendance; more than 400 on high Sundays) in outreach to our community. This 120-year-old Southern Baptist church has a newer 500-seat sanctuary ready for its next pastor. Please submit resumé, along with tapes, to Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091, Attn: Mike Webster.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for First Baptist Church of Shepherdsville (20 miles south of Louisville). We are a growing moderate Baptist church transitioning from a traditional worship style to a more blended service. Please send resumé to [drewprince@gmail.com](mailto:drewprince@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music (called to the ministry) for a dynamically growing congregation (20 hours per week). Duties: leading a comprehensive music program. For more information, see our Web site at [www.woodburnbaptist.org](http://www.woodburnbaptist.org). Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister for Belleview Baptist Church, located in Boone County, Ky. Resumé may be e-mailed to [tomwithorn@fuse.net](mailto:tomwithorn@fuse.net); or mailed to Belleview Baptist Church, 6658 5th St., Burlington, KY 41005. All resumé must be received by Sept. 1, 2007.

**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.

## Graham's access to the Oval Office spans 11 presidents

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

**New York (RNS)**—It doesn't take long to make a list of religious leaders who have made personal connections with each of the last 11 U.S. presidents. There's really just one name: Billy Graham.

The famed evangelist who has spent the last six decades preaching the gospel around the world also served as a chaplain and confidant to American presidents. While some relationships were rosier than others, Graham met with each of the 11 in the White House on at least one occasion and learned lessons from carefully—or not so carefully—walking the treacherous line between religion and politics.

Even in his retirement years, Graham accomplished a feat usually reserved for more somber occasions. At the opening of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C., last spring, three former presidents—Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter—all took turns at the podium to praise the evangelist.

A "20/20" special that aired Aug. 10 on ABC pictured Graham and the ex-presidents chatting together at the time of the library dedication.

### Unique presidential forum

"I don't think anyone's ever done that," said Nancy Gibbs, co-author of the new book, "The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House," which she wrote with her Time magazine colleague Michael Duffy.

"It takes Billy Graham to make that happen. Three former presidents together around a table talking and it's not a funeral."

Graham said meeting with all of them at once "overwhelmed" him.

"Each one I've known long before they ever became president and been in their homes many times," he said on the "20/20" program. "Always called them by their first name—until they became president."

Many of those relationships began far from Washington. Clinton

attended Graham's integrated Arkansas crusade as a teen in 1959. Carter recalled that 613 people came to Christ at a Graham evangelistic outreach in Georgia he chaired in 1966, before he was elected governor. The evangelist met Ronald Reagan when he was known as an actor, not a president, in 1953.

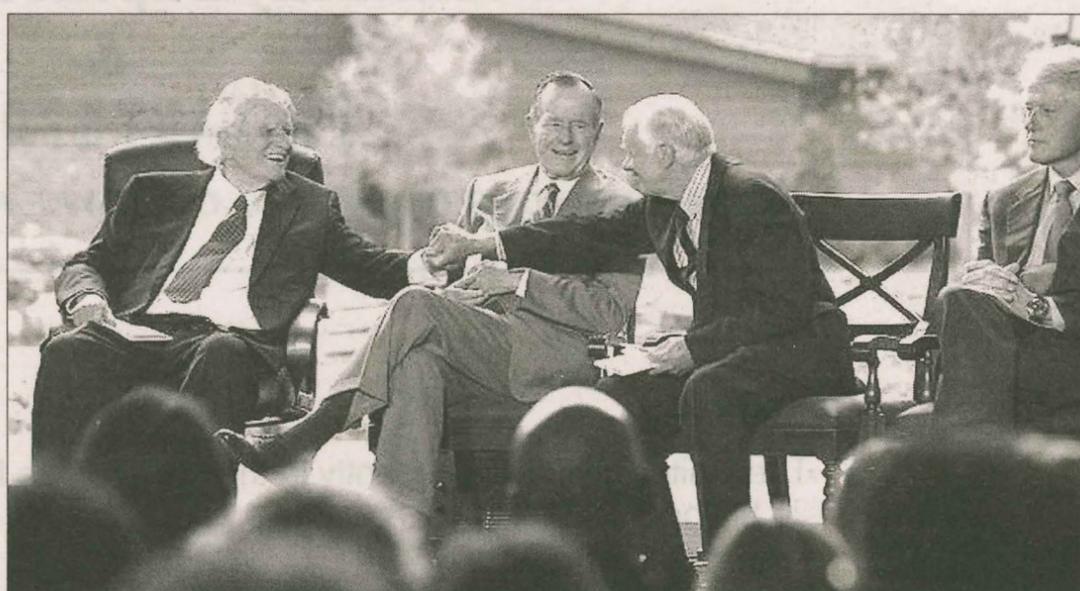
In some cases, they shared a similar faith commitment. In other cases, either the president or the preacher saw advantages that could help advance their respective causes. And in all cases, Graham knew the challenges of celebrity that these powerful men faced each day—their every move watched and chronicled, the accompanying toll on their families, and few people with whom they could confide their private thoughts.

"We saw him with (President George W.) Bush on Sept. 11," Gibbs said. "We saw him with Clinton after Oklahoma City. We would see him praying on Inauguration Day. What we were surprised by was the extent to which ... there was a real private, pastoral relationship with almost all of those presidents."

A key exception was the first of the 11 presidents, Harry Truman. Graham has acknowledged that he didn't handle their White House meeting well, telling Truman his goals of living according to the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule were not sufficient and he needed faith in Christ. Graham then went out on the White House lawn, knelt and prayed with his colleagues to demonstrate how he had prayed for Truman inside.

Though Graham told Gibbs and Duffy "I prayed, a real prayer," the whole episode left him embarrassed and Truman angry. Never again invited to the Truman White House, Graham vowed not to treat another person of influence in that manner and wrote in his autobiography, "Just As I Am," that he "apologized profusely" to Truman years later.

The evangelist acknowledged lessons learned from another president, Richard Nixon, with whom he



had become close friends—so close that he defended him even as the Watergate scandal grew. Graham said he "felt physically sick" when he learned of the harsh language Nixon used when the White House tapes became public.

"I really do think that Graham only saw the one side of him and was therefore, I think, heartbroken when he had to confront the truth of the other side," Gibbs said. "And, of course, chastened by it."

Years later, when a tape of Graham revealed him speaking disparagingly with Nixon about Jews, Graham again apologized profusely.

As Graham offered pastoral aid to the presidents, his connections to them helped him gain international access to spread the gospel. And his role as a diplomat extended to this nation, when he was able to act as a liaison between administrations, ensuring, for example, that Nixon's family would welcome the Clintons at Nixon's funeral.

### Close personal relationships

In the private relationships between Graham and presidents, a word surfaced that is seldom used in political circles: love. Gibbs and Duffy noted Graham's words to Nixon in 1962, for example: "There are

few men whom I have loved as I love you."

Former President Lyndon Johnson said in 1971, "Not many people in this country love me, but that preacher there loves me," noted Patricia Cornwell, biographer of Graham's wife, Ruth, who died in June.

"This is a man who is incapable of an insincere expression. He is really guileless," Gibbs noted. "I think there is an innocent quality about him that makes it very easy to like him and very easy to trust him that tends to put you at ease and not on edge."

In his writings, Graham expressed a unique understanding of the demands of the Oval Office. In "Just As I Am," he concluded in a chapter about Nixon: "The presidency was a lonely spot."

And, ending a new chapter of his updated autobiography that was released Aug. 1, the evangelist asked others to adopt his practice of following the Apostle Paul's urging to pray for "all those in authority."

"In an increasingly complex and dangerous world, our president and other world leaders need our prayers more than ever," Graham wrote. "I am convinced our world would be a far better place if more of us followed this mandate."

### PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT

*Billy Graham (left) and President Jimmy Carter shake hands after Carter finished his remarks during the May 31 dedication of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C. Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton also participated in the dedication service. (BP photo by Guy Lyons)*

## Former KBC president, former governor square off over expanded gambling

By David Roach  
Baptist Press

**Louisville (BP)**—Expanded gambling in Kentucky would be a moral outrage because it involves the government attempting to cash in on sin and broken families, former Kentucky Baptist Convention President Hershael York said recently on "Kentucky Tonight," a statewide television broadcast on KET.

"Enough is enough," said York, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort. "Let's stop it where it is. It's bad enough. Families are being destroyed."

Appearing with York were former Kentucky Gov. Brereton Jones and Patrick Neely, executive director of the Kentucky Equine Education Project, both of whom support expanded gambling. Joining York on the anti-gambling side was John-Mark Hack, director of Say No to Gambling.

The program explored arguments for and against expanded gambling—such as casino-style gaming—and speculated

about how such expansion could affect Kentucky.

York began his argument by quoting an editorial Jones wrote in the Lexington Herald-Leader in 1999, when the former governor opposed expanded gambling.

In the editorial Jones wrote, "Let's get straight to the point. Casino gambling in Kentucky is a bad idea. The very thought of our own government promoting the deception of slot machines and roulette wheels is a sad commentary."

After reading from the editorial, York asked, "Did the deception of slot machines change since 1999? And the answer, of course, is no. There is no two ways about it—you lose. Even the winners lose in casino gambling."

Jones argued that refusing to draw revenue from the millions of Kentuckians who already are gambling in surrounding states, where casino-style gaming is legal, is foolish.

"If I could push a button right now and do away with every casino in Kentucky and in the world, I would push that but-

ton," Jones said. "Unfortunately, sticking your head in the sand is not, in my opinion, the best way to deal with it."

Hack argued that the money lost from expanded gambling would be greater than any money gained.

"The money going to other states will pale in comparison to the money that will leave Kentucky when casino companies come and take up residence here," Hack said. "I think the money that will go to Nevada and New Jersey and other states where casino corporations are located will make us reminisce about the amount of money that is currently supposedly going over the bridge to Indiana."

Neely responded that Kentucky practically already has expanded gambling because of the presence of casinos in neighboring Indiana. The only question is whether Kentucky will allow gambling to boost its economy, he said.

York drew attention to the negative effects of gambling, calling it "addictive behavior" and asserting that "it preys on the weakest people in society." According to

the most conservative estimates, approximately 25 percent of those who enter a casino have an annual household income of \$30,000 or less, York said.

"That is economic disaster," he added. "That is money that's not getting spent sometimes on necessities. What we're doing is we're saying that as government all we want is a piece of the money they're losing. Our concern is simply that we get our piece of the cut, not what it does to those families, not what it does to their children."

But Jones said the state's main concern should be using people's lost money to fund government projects.

"The money that's being lost is Kentucky money," Jones said. "And if they're going to lose it anyway, they need to lose it here as opposed to somewhere else."

"Governor, I find that morally reprehensible," York responded. "To me, we might as well get into wholesale business, we might as well get into drug business because those are vices too that people are going to do anyway."

**Kentucky Baptist Foundation**  
&  
**PHILANTHROCORP**

*EQUIPPING YOUR CHURCH TO CULTIVATE KINGDOM-MINDED STEWARDS*

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**Opportunity:**

- ◆ The United States is presently in the midst of the largest generational transfer of wealth in history.
- ◆ A coordinated planned giving effort will provide additional "above and beyond" financial resources that will permit the church to enhance and expand its programs and ministries.

**Solution:**

- ◆ The Kentucky Baptist Foundation and PhilanthroCorp have joined together to provide the plan and resources needed to educate, encourage and enable church members to become Kingdom-minded stewards, including training for those who will be responsible for the church's program.
- ◆ Resources include:
  - Interactive website pages designed to educate members about planned giving opportunities from a Biblical perspective
  - An interactive Estate Plan Organizer that takes members through the estate planning process from a stewardship perspective
  - A marketing plan
  - Downloadable marketing materials
  - Live interactive donor tele-seminars
  - Assistance in implementing planned gifts

**Investment:**

- ◆ Cost depends on the level of services selected by the church, but can be as low as \$250 per month.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**BARRY G. ALLEN OR LAURIE W. VALENTINE**

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

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