

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

WESTERN RECORDER

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WMU Kentucky Notes



See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

North Carolina WMU loosens ties to state convention. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

KBC leaders OK plan to help churches reduce risk of sex abuse. *Page 3.*

Editorial

What was Wiley Drake thinking this time? *Page 5.*

Education

Kentucky Baptist schools ranked among nation's top colleges. *Page 7.*

Issues

New Jersey officials investigate Christian retreat center amid civil union debate. *Page 8.*

Books

New Gary Chapman book seeks to strengthen marital communication. *Page 10.*

Fifth graders start shoe ministry to help other students

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Greensburg—At least 100 needy students in Green County received clean shoes when the new school year started, thanks to a pair of compassionate fifth-graders who recently started a new ministry to provide this basic necessity.

"Sole to Soul" was inspired by Kayla Estes' concern for children going without shoes, something she observed in a TV spot about other countries. Her friend Masden Griffiths joined the effort and has been storing donations in her basement.

"This is my first time in a missions project," said Estes, 10, a member of Greensburg Baptist Church and a student at Greensburg Elementary School. "I've had fun with it."

"I like it a whole lot," said Griffiths, 10, who attends Pierce Elementary School. "I've had a lot fun helping people and collecting shoes."

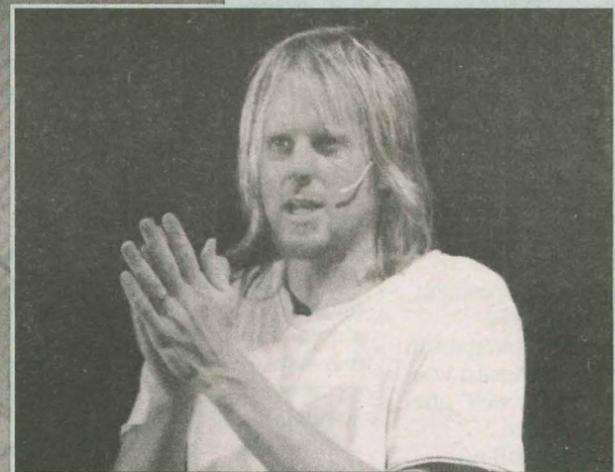
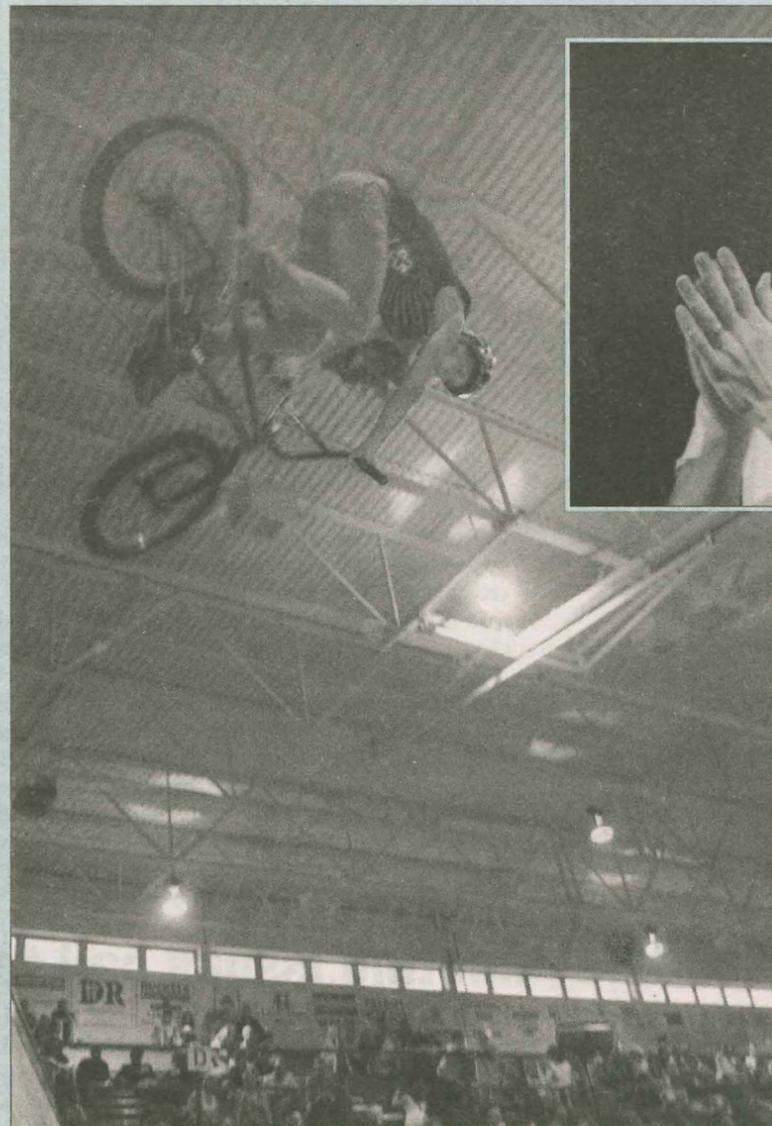
Thanks to donations of more than \$2,000 thus far, the ministry will be able to purchase new shoes if it receives future requests for specific sizes not in stock.

"Sole to Soul" made its first delivery of approximately 100 pairs of shoes to Greensburg Elementary's Family Resource Center a few days before school started earlier this month. An information card with the plan of salvation on the back is attached to each pair.

In addition to students in Greensburg, shoes are being sent to two

□ See Less fortunate students ... *Page 9*

High-flying evangelism



■ **Above:** Christian illusionist Brock Gill talks to the crowd at Freedom Experience Aug. 21 at Lincoln County High School. Gill had just performed an illusion in which he escaped from bondage and revealed to the crowd that someone else had taken his place. ■ **Left:** Ethan DeHart, one of the riders with Outcast BMX, gets the crowd fired up with his aerial acrobatics at Freedom Experience. DeHart, 15, said he has been riding for only two years and was asked by fellow rider Lucas Hastay to join the Outcasters team. According to event organizers, a crowd estimated at more than 6,000 attended the three-night Freedom Experience. Of that number, more than 300 people indicated they made decisions for Christ. **Story and more photos on page 13.** (Photos by Drew Nichter)

Crossing equipped to take Louisville, world on spiritual journey

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—A pastor typically would be pleased to look out his window on a Sunday morning and see a parking lot full of cars. Unless it's in front of his apartment.

"It really was like a watershed moment when I saw those cars and nobody going to church," said Dustin Neeley, pastor of Crossing Church in Louisville.

At the time, Neeley, 29, was serving as an executive pastor at Sojourn Community Church which met on Sunday evenings. The mornings gave him an opportunity to get to know those people who opted to stay in bed rather than fill a pew.

"Sunday morning is a great time to meet unbelievers because they don't go to church," Neeley said. "They are either sleeping off Saturday night or they're out walking the dog or playing with the kids."

Imagining the same scene repeated in apartment complexes throughout the city's east end, Neeley said he felt a strong call to plant a church.

"Somebody's got to do a different kind of church to reach these

people," Neeley declared. "Obviously, the other way of doing church doesn't work for them, or else they'd be there."

By the end of 2004, Neeley had mobilized a group of individuals who shared a similar vision. With the blessing and support of Sojourn and Long Run Baptist Association, Crossing Church was approved as a Kentucky Baptist Convention High Impact church. In September of 2005, the church launched, touching off a roller coaster of membership ups and downs.

Currently, Crossing has more than 100 members. But of the core group that helped launch the church, not a single family remains. In its nearly two years of existence, Neeley estimated the church has lost at least 75 people.

"More than half of the congregation, at some point, has turned over mostly because of the job moving them away," Neeley noted.

He also pointed out that the majority of Crossing's members are adults who are "only about 30 years old" and simply trying to survive in

□ See High Impact Crossing ... *Page 6*



TEACHING AND SENDING Pastor Dustin Neeley delivers a message at Crossing Church's Sunday morning worship service. Neeley said the church is committed to planting other churches and has already sent members out to New Orleans and Cleveland to fulfill that mission. (Photo by John Foster)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Aug. 29.

Evangelist Billy Graham remains hospitalized

Asheville, N.C.—Evangelist Billy Graham continues to recover in fair condition after being hospitalized with intestinal bleeding. The 88-year-old evangelist was admitted to Mission Health & Hospitals in Asheville, N.C., Aug. 19. Graham spent Aug. 26 visiting with family, taking walks around the hospital and even resumed a normal diet, according to the evangelist's Web site.

Graham underwent a colonoscopy Aug. 22 after doctors discovered a third area of active bleeding. The problem was treated and Graham's spokesperson said the evangelist was doing "really well" after the procedure.

There is still no timetable for his release and he remains under close observation, his Web site noted.

Graham suffers from Parkinson's disease and has been largely home-bound in recent years. His wife of 64 years, Ruth, died in June.

N.C. WMU loosens ties to state convention

Cary, N.C. (ABP)—Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has voted to remove itself from the North Carolina Baptist Building—and the state convention executive director's effort to assert authority over its staff.

The dramatic move culminates 16 months of tension between WMU and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Conflicted between the two groups has simmered since April 2006, when WMU leaders voted to change the term that described its relationship with the convention from "auxiliary" to "cooperative partner."

At that time the missions organization also assumed final authority in its own personnel matters, although it committed to stay aligned with state convention personnel policies. At issue was who could make the final call on potential new employees, a responsibility claimed by the state convention executive director because each state WMU staff member is a BSCNC employee.

However, the WMU staff positions primarily are funded through a state missions offering that WMU members promote.

Leaders reach impasse

Several meetings took place between WMU and BSCNC leaders to resolve the issues, but they reached an impasse when neither side would budge from their position on ultimate authority in hiring WMU staff.

WMU board members approved the move via conference Aug. 16 and communicated the results to BSCNC leaders Aug. 21.

The decision to relocate offices "should not be interpreted as a departure from the organization's commitment to supporting and promoting missions through the BSCNC, nor as a lack of appreciation for the mutual partnership the organizations have enjoyed in the past," said Ruby Fulbright, North Carolina WMU executive director.

After meeting with BSCNC Executive Director Milton Hollifield to inform him of the decision, Fulbright added, "For the integrity of the organization and our history and for what God wants us to do, this is what we had to do."

Hollifield, who was elected in April 2006, said in a prepared statement that he was "grieved that the longstanding relationship between the BSCNC (and) WMU of N.C. has moved to this level of consequential uncertainty."

"We have participated in more than 16 months of dialogue, and it was my hope that this process had helped move us forward together," Hollifield said. "However, BSCNC leadership was not given the opportunity to discuss this surprise vote by WMU-NC. ... I am saddened to see that our longstanding relationship has eroded."

Fulbright noted that Hollifield had taken a more active role in hiring matters. She said that in previous BSCNC administrations, WMU was wholly responsible for hiring and managing its staff and that the BSCNC executive director merely signed paperwork to enter new WMU employees into the payroll

system.

Fulbright said churches that rely on the North Carolina WMU for assistance should see no change.

"We intend to continue working with the churches. We intend to keep praying for, promoting and supporting the offerings, as well as providing missions education resources and training," she added.

WMU to assist CBF, BWA

The group also wants to provide resources for other Baptist entities in mission education and involvement, Fulbright said. That includes assistance to churches that affiliate with other denominations and with bodies such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist World Alliance. The SBC's conservative leaders have been highly critical of both groups.

Hollifield said such an intention was "a clear departure from the historic focus of the mission and ministry of WMU-N.C."

WMU leaders have asked the state convention for a nine-month financial transition to deal with insurance and payroll issues, although it might move out of the Baptist Building sooner. Fulbright said the WMU staff will all resign employment from BSCNC and remain with WMU.

"I am hopeful that some level of continued cooperation might be salvaged," Hollifield noted, "but rest assured there will be missions education ministries and women's ministries provided through BSCNC with or without WMU of N.C.'s cooperation."

NAMB leaders' meeting issues call for 'urgency'

By Mickey Noah
SBC Northern Mission Board

Atlanta (BP)—A record number of state Southern Baptist leaders were encouraged to "live with urgency" in order to win North America for Christ during the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's annual North American leadership meeting in Atlanta.

The meeting's 466 participants represented state and associational executives, missions directors, church planters, evangelism specialists and missionaries from 42 state Baptist conventions, Canada and Puerto Rico.

NAMB President Geoff Hammond urged participants to seize the divine moments God is giving Southern Baptists.

"What divine moment is God calling on you to seize?" Hammond asked. "I have to believe God has brought something to your mind this week. If we don't take it, it passes on by and maybe He uses someone else who is more obedient and more willing to seize that moment."

Participants also heard from Southern Baptist President Frank Page, and evangelism leader Sammy Gilbreath, who delivered the "urgency" theme from a personal perspective.

Gilbreath, 59, is director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Convention. He faces each day with a large aneurysm near his heart's left ventricle that—if it ruptures—could kill him instantly. Heart surgeons

say they can do nothing to repair his fatally defective heart and that he would not survive a heart transplant operation.

Yet Gilbreath still serves in his ministry role, speaking as many as 350 to 400 times a year.

"To live with urgency, live like you're all dying," Gilbreath urged. "After all, all of us in this room are (dying). No one is promised to have tomorrow."

"And if we're going to live with urgency by living like we're dying, we must be passionate about the life we have left. If we don't have a sense of urgency about the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we can't have passion about anything."

Hammond urges soul-winning

Presiding over his first summer leadership conference since becoming NAMB's new president in May, Hammond noted that NAMB has three major objectives: share Christ, start churches and send missionaries.

"We share Christ by doing evangelism, planting churches and sending missionaries," Hammond said. "There's a great temptation for us ... to think because we always talk about (sharing Christ), we do it. I want to be personally accountable for soul-winning, like I know you do."

Hammond challenged participants to see North America in terms of the diverse people groups making up its population, a fact that should

cause all Christians to think more like missionaries.

"I sense that we are together and we are all committed to be missionaries," Hammond said. "As you go back, can you be sure that your state convention and your association are missions agencies?"

Approximately 20 individual and state convention awards were presented by Hammond during the July 29-Aug. 1 gathering. The Kentucky Baptist Convention was among state conventions recognized for an increase in baptisms last year.

NAMB's church planting group presented awards for the most new church plants (205), Baptist General Convention of Texas; highest percentage increase in church plants, State Convention of Baptists in Indiana; first in equipping, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio; first in enlistment, South Carolina Baptist Convention; first in readiness/awareness, Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists; and first in strengthening/reproduction, Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition, Frank and Karen Cornelius, church planters in rural Colorado, accepted the annual Dennis Hampton Rural Church Planting Award. In Colorado, Cornelius has served as lead church planter for two rural churches, facilitated five rural churches as a minister of missions and assisted in three church starts as associational director of missions.

Looters in Peru target earthquake relief volunteers

Lima, Peru (BP)—A Baptist disaster assessment team in Peru encountered the kind of lawlessness reported in areas hardest hit by the 8.0 earthquake Aug. 15 that has claimed more than 500 lives.

Kevin Shearer, a missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, reported that a team was on its way to assess earthquake damage Aug. 17 when they found themselves stuck in traffic for almost three hours on the Pan American Highway.

As the four-vehicle caravan finally began moving across the bridge in San Clemente, Peru, a group of looters crowded a window of the trucks, opened a window and stole blankets and personal hygiene items.

When the assessment team arrived in Ica, one of the country's hardest-hit towns, around 4 p.m., they watched a procession of more than 30 people following a casket to the local cemetery—the first of several funerals they watched in Ica that afternoon.

"These were the fortunate ones who were able to have caskets," missionary Wayne Brinkley said, "because there are still a lot of bodies that are just laying in the main square because they haven't been identified."

While Peruvian media outlets estimate the earthquake toppled more than 33,200 homes in the area of Ica and Chincha, the unrelenting aftershocks have caused a devastation that is not only seen but heard.

Throughout the night, police sirens and gunshots awakened team members as looters ran through the streets of Ica.

But the sounds that stood out in Brinkley's mind were the panicked screams of Ica residents as two tremons shook their already devastated hometown.

"The people are so traumatized," Brinkley said. "It wasn't that things fell down on the people during these tremors; it's just that they're so scared."

Many of those living in areas leveled by the earthquake are now sleeping on the streets. Others have returned to structurally unsafe dwellings to protect what little they have from looters.

"Peruvians have shown themselves to be a resilient people," Shearer said. "But this has taken its toll. This has bowed the backs of some of the strongest."

Team members are continuing their assessment to determine types of relief needed in the region. They ask for prayer for Peruvian Christians as they confront their neighbors and for their continued safety amid aftershocks and looting.

KBC plan aims to help churches reduce risk of sex abuse

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Seeking to help curb sexual abuse and help curb crises, Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders approved a communications plan draft last week aimed at protecting Kentucky Baptist churches.

The plan, approved by the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee, was described as an internal document designed to help churches adopt "employee and volunteer best practices."

The plan came in response to a Mission Board proposal adopted in May that called for the board's administrative committee to "consider the feasibility of developing and implementing a registry of ministers/staff/employees in Kentucky Baptist Convention member churches who have been accused, charged, arrested and/or terminated from church responsibilities for any criminal activities including but not limited to child abuse and/or sexual abuse of any nature."

Rather than proposing a registry, administrative committee chairman Bill Henard said the communications plan provides a more comprehensive response to the issue.

"It is a program plan that will allow our convention staff to help churches better protect themselves and protect their flock and communicate in those areas," explained Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

"This is going to be added to a state constitution," he added. "It really goes beyond the idea of doing just a registry which is so limited and has so much liability involved."

The committee action "is trying to handle it not just from a curative state but a preventative state," Henard noted. "We want to help equip churches to effectively be able to do background checks on all staff and volunteers."

The plan's three-pronged strategy includes promoting awareness and providing education about the issue as well as offering incentives for churches to conduct background checks on potential employees and volunteers by negotiating reduced rates for a professional firm to conduct such checks.

The draft plan, which will be reviewed by the KBC's attorney, will be finalized at the committee's next meeting and presented to the full Mission Board this fall for information.

In other actions, committee members approved two personnel recommendations. Angela Cornett was elected associate campus minister at Kentucky State University on a one-year contract basis that can be renewed annually. Kay Hammond, interim Baptist campus minister at Pikeville College, was elected to serve the school as a permanent part-time campus minister.

Keith Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate/young adult ministry group, said KSU campus minister Curtis Woods "had a dream that we could find a lady who would specifically target the female population at Kentucky State" for Baptist campus ministry.



Angela Cornett

"We're excited that she is going to be serving us there," Inman added. "Angela is going to express a unique African-American ministry on the campus of KSU."

Sharing her personal testimony with committee members, Cornett noted that "the joy of the Lord was something I felt at an early age."

"My passion is to tell people about Christ and also to disciple young people," she added. "I believe in one-on-one discipleship as well as within the community."

Cornett, who previously was a US-2 missionary serving as a campus minister at Bowie State University in Maryland, is a first-year student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. A graduate of the University of Houston, she has participated in mission trips to Africa and Central Asia.

Hammond, who has served several semesters as interim campus minister at Pikeville College, also has worked since 2002 as assistant librarian. She is a graduate of Pikeville College and Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. Her husband, Dave, is pastor of Faith Baptist Church of Myra. They are the parents of two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Committee members also heard an update from Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC's business services team, concerning Cooperative Program giving for the year.

Noting that the KBC's fiscal year ends Aug. 31, Ashby said the state convention would need to receive an additional \$725,000 in the final days of the fiscal year to match the previous year's CP total.

"It's a little disappointing that we're going to have a year less than last year it looks like," he acknowledged. Despite the projected budget shortfall, he added, "I think we're going to do a little better than we thought" earlier in the budget year.

Committee members also approved transferring an additional \$50,000 in surplus funds from the convention's medical insurance reserve to help offset the projected budget shortfall. Combined with previous actions, a total of \$200,000 in surplus funds has been transferred to the budget from the reserve account.

Workshop highlights keys to pursuing Sunday school 'dropouts'

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—Reconnecting with lapsed Sunday school members requires more than an address or a phone number.

"It's a love issue," said Jonathan Propes, a Super Saturday facilitator who spoke at the kick-off event in Lexington. "We have to examine our mindset ... to Sunday school dropouts."

Although the topic of Propes' session was "Preventing Propes School Dropouts," he said his approach would require revising the title to "Pursuing Sunday School Dropouts."

Dropouts "happen because life happens," said Propes, senior associate pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn.

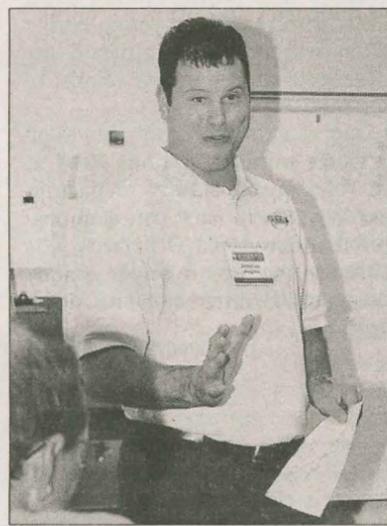
A biblical call to "pursue" people who once attended a Sunday school class or small group comes from Luke 15:3-7, he noted. In the passage, Jesus tells the story of a shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to find one that is lost.

The example is ideal for lapsed Sunday school pupils, Propes said. "Pursue them with the love of Christ," he encouraged.

Leaders of a Sunday school class, and perhaps an entire congregation, should take a hard look at how members welcome newcomers or people who haven't been there for a while, Propes said.

Feeling unwelcome in a class is one of the top reasons people abandon Sunday school, he added.

"I don't know about you all, but my church has a back door, and people will find it when we don't connect relationally with them," he said.



RECONNECTING Jonathan Propes, senior associate pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., discusses Sunday school "dropouts" at the Lexington Super Saturday event. Propes previously served Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

After an attitude check, Propes recommends that Sunday school leaders review their record-keeping practices. If records are incomplete or inaccurate, identifying lapsed members will be nearly impossible.

"Spend time with class secretaries and update the way you do things," he urged.

Adding a word of caution, Propes said accurate records are a must but leaders should not become "attendance police who are more concerned with a 'P' or an 'A' (on the roll) than a real person."

For classes of more than 10 members, Propes suggested creating care groups and assigning group leaders the responsibility of taking attendance in their group on Sunday

morning.

At a certain point in the Sunday school routine, care group leaders pass their attendance report on to the class secretary who compiles the attendance record for the entire class.

Propes suggested a care group of four to six members for smaller classes and six to 12 members for larger classes.

If members of the care group are not in attendance on a given Sunday, the group leader should assign a person to contact the member.

It is best for someone who knows the member to make the contact, but if the missing person is new to the group "that can be an awkward phone call to make," Propes said.

If there is no friend or acquaintance in the care group to contact the dropout, Propes suggested that care group leaders "focus on that person who has the spiritual gift of mercy (to make the contact). ... You want a grace-filled person good at exhibiting care."

There are many ways contact can be made. "There's not just one way of doing things," he said, suggesting a "multi-faceted approach" to reconnecting with lapsed members. Methods include phone calls, personal visits, cards or notes and e-mail.

The contact is about encouragement and asking the lapsed member how the caller can pray for him or her, Propes said.

"Invite them to something outside class," he suggested. When sending notes, cards, e-mail or phone messages, "tell them you'll call or visit," he said. Promising a follow-up sends a message of sincere care.

Knowing how long it has been since a dropout attended will help members decide how to approach them. One way to get this information is to list each member of the class in one of three categories. Propes suggested:

"Touch group." Those who attend up to six times annually.

"Ministry group." Those who attend seven to 23 times annually.

"Core group." Those who attend an average of at least twice a month annually.

This exercise also is helpful for Sunday school leaders as they assign a "cross-section" of members to care groups.

Propes stressed that when lapsed members returned to class, the care that helped bring them back must continue.

"At the core of this, it is a discipleship issue," he said. Churches must be "intentional about helping people cultivate a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ."

An effective way to help a believer grow spiritually is to involve them in service, he said. Some leadership positions require approval from a church committee or staff member, but "there has to be a process for ministry involvement in your church ... without going through the nominating team process."

Service on the church's welcome or hospitality teams is one suggestion, Propes said.

Noting that the topic of Sunday school "dropouts" has many facets that could not be covered in a one-hour session, Propes recommended the books, "Six Core Values of Sunday School," and "Sunday School Done Right," by Allan Taylor.

A record crowd of more than 1,000 participants attended this year's Super Saturday event in Lexington Aug. 18. Training also was offered Aug. 25 in Owensboro and Pikeville. Super Saturday events will be held Sept. 8 at First Baptist Church of Paducah and First Baptist Church of Somerset and Sept. 15 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

SUPER '07 SATURDAY

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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Blended worship?

A recent Sunday school quarterly in a lesson on worship offers the advice to blend the different styles of worship, music and preaching to eliminate the need for two separate services. In this way the old, out-of-touch seniors and the younger, in-touch, emerging church will both be happy.

When did worship develop a style? God gave specific instructions about how we should worship and harshly judged those who refused to comply.

Many believe the problem with the contention in the church concerning worship is simply a matter of likes and dislikes, but the problem is we haven't consulted the Scripture to see what God likes.

I once approached a leader in the church about a clearly unscriptural practice in our worship and was told: "This is how we like it and this is how we will do it. You aren't in charge." No, I wasn't in charge and that's why I appealed to the one who was. I mistakenly believed that what God liked ought to prevail over what we like.

It's one thing to be ignorant concerning what God said, but it's far more serious to know what He said and not care.

This concept of blending is exactly how the world has crept through the front doors of our churches. In the beginning God separated the light from the darkness and Satan has been trying to "blend" them together ever since. In the Garden of Eden, Satan didn't approach Eve with brand-new technology, but he mixed truth with error and the truth served as bait and she swallowed it. A spoonful of sugar facilitates swallowing that which is distasteful.

When gold is mixed with any other substance, its integrity, value and purity are compromised. When we mix what God said with what we like, the result is the same.

Joyce Paul
Louisville

Training future leaders

While other educational institutions, including high schools, colleges, universities and seminaries, are struggling to maintain academic, civil, moral, financial and biblical disciplines, a small Baptist boarding high school is quietly accomplishing all of these.



Over in Appalachia, in a quiet, rural setting, spirits and bodies are being nurtured to become moral and academic leaders all over the world. With some of the finest administrative, moral and academic leaders anywhere, led by W.F. Underwood and his wife, Kay, they are building foundations with countless boys and girls, and sending them out to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Young boys and girls are the hope of a society being beset on every side by an evil and destructive societal culture. These are lofty thoughts and disturbing allegations that we, as Baptists and Christians, can ill afford to ignore and neglect.

Many years ago I discovered Daniel 12:4, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." How true!

Today we have the most intelligent and innovative generation of young people in history. We as Baptists are doing an excellent job of propagating and utilizing that knowledge. But we must accompany that propagation as never before with moral, ethical and biblical precepts that will stand us in good stead in an unknown and challenging society of the future.

I am extremely thankful that Kentucky and Southern Baptists have the University of the Cumberland, Campbellsville University, Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. And one of the most unique Christian boarding high schools in the country—Oneida Baptist Institute. It's extremely important at this time

of year that we lift our hearts and minds in thanks that our leaders of tomorrow are in such vital and caring hands.

Oscar Davidson
Somerset

Ministry dilemma

"More than two-thirds of young adults who attend a Protestant church for at least a year in high school will stop attending church regularly for at least a year between the ages of 18 and 22." So says the front-page Baptist Press article in the Aug. 14 issue of the Western Recorder which I read with much sadness.

But there is an even greater tragedy here, and it involves a situation in which many churches—especially smaller ones—find themselves. When young people graduate from high school (and the church youth group), some move away to college and few may be left at home to carry on.

It is difficult for some churches to offer ministry opportunities for young adults if the churches have only one or two young adults who attend. Yet if congregations don't offer something for young adults, there's nothing to attract the young adults in the first place.

Thus, there is a Catch 22: If you don't offer something to attract them, they won't come. But if there are none (or few) coming, it is almost impossible to offer anything for them.

Are there any solutions? One alternative would be for smaller churches to partner with larger churches who provide young adult ministry so that their young adults will have more opportunities to stay active in church and less reason to drop out.

Even if a church is not able to offer viable ministry options itself, it can refer young adults to partner churches where they can stay connected and involved. Otherwise, our churches may lose a whole generation to indifference and lack of interest.

Jeff Wise
Louisville

Missions priority at First Baptist, Paintsville

Missions is a priority at First Baptist Church of Paintsville—both for the pastor, Donnie Patrick, and for the congregation. Patrick provides strong leadership for missions support and involvement at all levels to make the church a true Acts 1:8 church.

As a young pastor, he has led the church, which averages 125 in Sunday school attendance and 265 in worship attendance, to be involved in 14 partnership mission trips. These have included prayer partnerships for unreached people groups in India, Mozambique and Pakistan. Currently, the church is working in Russia, Bangladesh and, here in the United States, in Pennsylvania.

Associate Pastor Larry O'Bryan has led many mission projects. In 2006, 43 members participated in mission projects.

On the Sunday I was present to speak about missions, the congregation broke into applause as the pas-

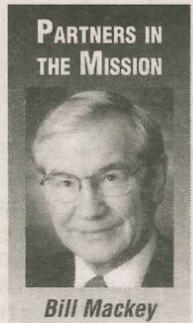
tor shared a report on the results of a recent mission trip to Russia.

I have known Donnie for 10 years, dating back to his Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary days. At that time he had a passion to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ, and it is clear to me that Donnie's passion has grown over these 10 years.

His passion has found expression in compassion for all people. In his prayer on Sunday, he prayed that no mission field would be neglected. In 2006, First Baptist Church of Paintsville reported 17 baptisms with 11 of those of people over 18 years of age.

Donnie grew up in Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg, which has always had a strong commitment to missions and the Word of God.

The members of First Baptist obviously have a strong financial commitment to missions at all levels. The Sunday I was present, Tom Biddle,



Bill Mackey

director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association, presented the church with two certificates from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board for being a leader in total and per capita gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with a total of \$18,496. To the delight of the leadership in Enterprise Association, First Baptist also provides more than \$28,000 (6.5 percent) in associational support each year.

The church's Cooperative Program giving has also grown consistently over several years to \$41,249 in 2006 (about 12.5 percent of undesignated receipts).

The church has also made a commitment to be the primary sponsor of a high impact church start in Rowan County. The church plant pastor is Daniel Lucas who served as youth minister at First Baptist a few years past.

My wife, Kay, and I returned to Louisville filled with gratitude to God for a pastor and people who are passionately committed to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Church finances can be a matter of life and death

By Doug Strader

I recently came across a cartoon in a religious publication that had a picture of a man who had climbed out a window onto a ledge, apparently about to take his life. His secretary has the telephone in her hand and she says to the man, "It's the pastor. He wants to know if you can chair the fund-raising campaign. He says it is a matter of life and death."

I do not know the nature of his problem, but now he is faced with a second problem that seems to be life and death. What is the poor fellow to do? Some people may wonder why church finances are a life-and-death situation. Here are some of the reasons it could be a life-and-death situation when it is about money:

■ Church work is not just about dollars and cents, but it takes money to do ministry. The more money that is given to the Lord through the church, the more ministries that can be accomplished. Many churches are limited in the ministry they can do because of the lack of money.

■ It is a life-and-death situation because most churches need to reach more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is true that salvation is a gift, but churches must provide ministries for children, youth and adults that are designed to reach people with the gospel. In many cases that means more staff people who are assigned the responsibility of helping take the message of salvation to the unchurched. And most families want to be involved in a church that has programs and ministries that challenge them to grow in their commitment to Christ and His church.

■ It could be a life-and-death ministry because as Kentucky Baptists we not only seek to reach those around us in our state and nation, but through the Cooperative Program we are seeking to reach people with the gospel all over the world. It takes a lot of money to send missionaries to the uttermost parts of the earth. But that is our challenge and our mission. It could be the difference between spiritual life and death.

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

How can a single find future spouse with similar values?

Q: I'm approaching age 50 and still haven't met a woman to connect with as a mate. I want someone who wants to build her life around the church as I do. Any suggestions?

People who hunt ducks go where the ducks are. It is silly to go into a hardware store and be disappointed that they do not sell bread. It makes sense to put yourself in situations where you have a good chance of meeting someone, rather than frustrating yourself that they are not where you are currently looking.

SINGLES

What are the demographics of your city? If it is a settled small town filled predominantly with couples, perhaps you should consider a move to a larger city with more single adults. Depending on the size of your church, you might consider visiting a larger church with more single people. If you are happy with your church, seek out Christian single adult groups and conferences in your community where you can attend.

If there are no such groups available, perhaps God is leading you to join with other like-minded single people to start a group. LifeWay Christian Resources has national single adult conferences on Labor Day weekend that might jump start opportunities to meet folks with the same spiritual values you have.

With a goal of finding someone with whom you have a lot in common, take an assessment of your interests and the things you enjoy. Go to places where people gather for that purpose.

Do you know what you're looking for? Neil Clark Warren has a couple of options to help you find out. One is his book, "Finding the Love of Your Life." In the book, you are challenged to take a one-day retreat with a pen and legal pad to brainstorm what is important to you in 10 essential areas (communication, intelligence, etc.).

Ask God to guide your search, and enjoy the journey.—James Stillwell

Q: What can you tell me about the new modesty movement?

Christian parents of older children and preteens will be delighted to learn of a new trend in fashion for girls. For years, many moms have complained about the difficulty of finding clothing for their daughters that was fashionable, but not too revealing or provocative. Now, according to a recent article in Newsweek, a new modesty movement may be afoot.

PARENTING

Author Wendy Shalit's recent book, "Girls Gone Mild," reports that a growing number of girls are rejecting the promiscuous role models who have been paraded before them in recent years. Between 1999 and 2006, Shalit collected more than 3,000 e-mails from girls saying they didn't want to be bad or semi-clad. She describes the new modesty movement as a "youth-led rebellion," with many girls rebelling against the examples being set by their own moms—grown-ups who have forgotten how to encourage their daughters to be ladylike.

Four new Web sites provide what many consider to be old-fashioned tips on style and etiquette: ModestApparelUSA.com; ModestByDesign.com; DressModestly.com; and PureFashion.com. Pure Fashion, which has Roman Catholic ties, has a stated goal of showing the public that "it is possible to be cute, stylish and modest."

Some see the move toward modesty as a result of the mainstreaming of conservative religious beliefs and values. Others compare it to the backlash against the flappers of the 1920s—more of a cultural self-correction. Either way, parents and preteens now have more choices when it comes to choosing clothes that cover.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

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



What was Wiley Drake thinking this time?

The Wiley Drake show in Southern Baptist life increasingly is wearing thin for many fellow Baptists.

Drake, a California Baptist pastor and radio commentator, first gained national attention in the mid-1990s when he led the charge for the Southern Baptist Convention to boycott Disney. Feeding on that success, he introduced so many motions and resolutions on the floor of the SBC in ensuing years that the convention eventually amended its guidelines to restrict the number of business items an individual messenger could introduce.

Drake likely reached the pinnacle of his SBC prominence when he was elected second vice president last year after a humorous nominating speech by Kentucky Baptist pastor Bill Dodson who jokingly told messengers he was nominating Drake for second vice president because the convention doesn't have a third vice president. This summer, Drake has been among the outspoken advocates of a splinter group pulling out of the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Drake's latest proclamation—extreme even by his standards—urges Baptists to employ "imprecatory prayer" against Americans United for Separation of Church and State and its staff members. In laymen's terms, Drake is encouraging fellow believers to invoke the Old Testament practice of calling down God's wrath to destroy one's enemies.

And what is Americans United's great sin? The church-state watchdog group has asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate the tax-exempt status of Drake's congregation after he endorsed a specific presidential candidate on his church-supported radio program and on church letterhead that includes Drake's former role as SBC second vice president.

While some Baptist leaders take issue with some of Americans United's actions, the fact is that the national church-state organization is right on target on this issue.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State (not to be confused with the American Civil Liberties Union) noted that IRS regulations prohibit churches and other non-profit organizations from endorsing political candidates while maintaining their tax-exempt status. Of course, churches and their leaders are allowed to speak without penalty on ballot issues such as abortion, gambling and homosexuality.

"Federal law is clear," emphasized Americans United Executive Director Barry Lynn. "Churches and other non-profits may not endorse candidates if they want to keep their tax exemption."

While Drake and other leaders can express such views if they are willing to forfeit their congregations' tax exemption, Lynn added, "I am confident that the vast majority of Americans do not want to see their houses of worship politicized."

What lessons have I learned?

By Frank Page

Taylors, S.C. (BP)—Traveling across the Southern Baptist Convention over the past year as SBC president has given me an opportunity to see the hearts of many people.

I have traversed this nation visiting state conventions, colleges, seminaries, associations and churches. While I cannot claim that I have a window into every heart across the convention, I have learned a great deal. What are some of the lessons I have learned over this past year?

I have learned that people desperately want a choice in leadership in the Southern Baptist Con-

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tretnis Henderson

And that is exactly the point. It's not a matter of free speech or the right to express a personal opinion. Rather, it is the issue of an organization with tax-favored status being able to maintain that financial benefit while seeking to influence citizens to support a particular political candidate. It's simply not a level playing field.

Church-state separation historically has been a clear-cut issue for Southern Baptists. But those once-sharp lines have become blurred in recent years.

Both the 1963 and 2000 versions of the Baptist Faith & Message state unequivocally that "church and state should be separated."

Declaring that "the church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work," the faith statement adds, "The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. ... A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal."

Here in Kentucky, the state convention's Committee on Public Affairs is charged with the responsibility of keeping the convention "advised of all matters of particular interest to Baptists taking place at the state, national and international levels, with particular reference to the separation of church and state."

Support for church-state separation has waned over the years for a variety of reasons, including claims that the separation of church and state is not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution. While those specific words are not used, the principle is clearly laid out in the First Amendment. It's not unlike Southern Baptists' unwavering commitment to the doctrine of the Trinity—a term never used in the Bible. Yet the principle of one true Triune God revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is unmistakably a bedrock truth of Scripture.

My basic point is that Drake shouldn't call down God's wrath on Americans United for their defense of church-state separation—or for any other reason, for that matter.

While Drake was focusing on the Old Testament practice of imprecatory prayer, he apparently missed Christ's New Testament teachings in John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" as well as Matthew 22:37-40, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. That doesn't leave much room for practicing Old Testament imprecatory prayer, does it?

Rather than urging God's wrath against Americans United, Drake would do well to affirm—and practice—the time-honored principle of church-state separation—as well as that "love your neighbor" thing.

disconnect between leadership and the people in the pew. I continue to believe this.

People want an opportunity to be able to discuss important issues. People want to be heard. Sometimes, these expressions find themselves being manifest through blogs, state convention newspapers, association newsletters or simply in hallway conversations in meetings across this land.

I continue to encourage people to debate, dialogue and discuss important issues, but to remember the words of Ephesians 4:15 which commands us to "speak the truth in love."

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C.

FIRST PERSON

I am encouraging all Southern Baptists to pray diligently about the leadership of our convention in the days ahead. Encourage a number of people to consider running for presidential and vice presidential slots over the next few years. Pray that people of different ethnic backgrounds might consider being a part of leadership. Pray that the day will come when laypeople will once again feel a calling to be a part of this leadership.

I have also learned that people want to be able to dialogue and discuss important issues. One of the things I stated upon my first election was that there seemed to be a great

High Impact Crossing fulfills mission of planting churches

CROSSING CHURCH AT A GLANCE

Location:
Louisville

Pastor:
Dustin Neeley

Launch Date:
Sept. 18, 2005

Sponsoring Church:
Sojourn Community Church, Louisville

Continued from page 1
the corporate world.

"These are first-job, low-rung, 'not much capital with the boss' kind of guys," Neeley added. "So when the plant goes crazy, they have to go."

Job changes have not been the only reason for Crossing's rapid loss of members. Part of it has to do with the root of its calling.

"This is a church that's really about starting churches and being on mission," Neeley explained.

In a short time, Crossing has seen several members—including Neeley's co-pastor, James Welch—leave to plant two churches in other areas of the country.

Welch, 32, was part of the core team that helped start Crossing. Neeley asked Welch to come on board and take on a teaching and family ministry role. But Welch said the two men had an understanding that he would leave in a couple of years with the intention of planting another church.

A plan was in the works for Welch to head to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in 2008. But God had other plans.

"We really sensed that God was urging us to move to New Orleans to start a new church and help rebuild the city," Welch recalled.

In March of 2006, Welch got the ball rolling on the New Orleans church plant. Four months later, he and his family were in the hurricane-ravaged city handing out bottled water.

"It just came together so fast," Welch said. "I think when we drove down here and saw this massive need, we didn't want to postpone coming down here for a year or two."

Welch said that New Orleans still requires a great deal of help, adding that his church with a familiar

name—Sojourn—is working to do that through rebuilding efforts in the city's neighborhoods, as well as its culture.

"Our goal, obviously, is to create a self-sustaining church—going out, evangelizing, sharing the gospel and seeing people converted," Welch noted.

In January of this year, Crossing member Matt Jones left to plant Red Point Church in Cleveland, a city he called, "one of the most radically diverse places I have ever seen."

Red Point is part of a network of church plants motivated by "Cleveland Hope," an offshoot of the North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities initiative.

Jones and his co-pastor, Micah Mills, have targeted an area of Cleveland known as the Heights which is a collection of neighborhoods highly segregated by class and race. Jones said he is trying to use that tension to the church's advantage.

"A lot of what we're doing here is trying to plant a multi-cultural church of small groups," Jones pointed out.

"You really just have to throw worship style out the window," he added. "Because no matter how you draw it up, somebody's going to be alienated."

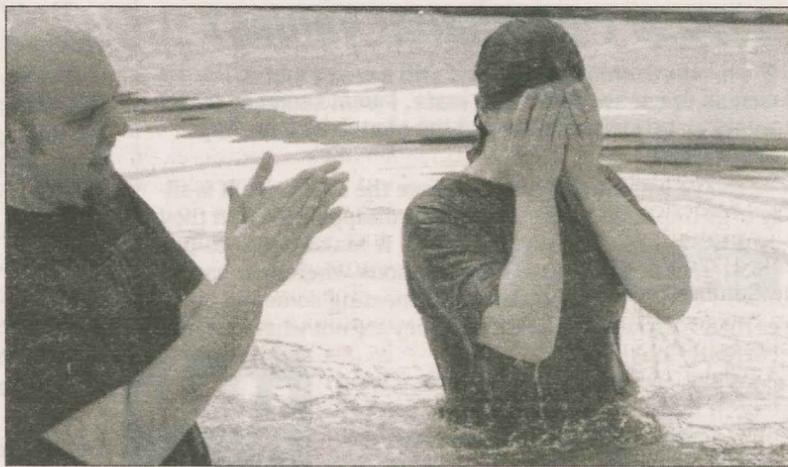
Jones' goal in Cleveland is similar

to Welch's in New Orleans—to begin a network of smaller community groups.

"We will tie these smaller communities into a bigger network that will help them keep accountable," Jones said.

Despite losing several key members of the congregation to fulfill their calling, Neeley said the church has not suffered.

"The church planting has been



RAISED TO NEW LIFE Pastor Dustin Neeley cheers as Lynn Creed is baptized. Crossing Church meets at Kentucky Country Day School in Louisville and used the school's outdoor pool for their baptismal service. (Photo by John Foster)

such a huge spiritual shot in the arm to our people," Neeley said. "Any time we've had people step out, we've had more and better people step into those same positions."

One of the advantages Neeley pointed to in the regeneration of new blood at Crossing is the city of Louisville itself.

"Being in a seminary town, having young guys who would have gotten experience no other way, really get to get their hands dirty here," Neeley said.

Another factor he cited is the abundance of churches in the city.

"We've had people come from larger churches who were just a face in the crowd there," Neeley said. "Here, they're an integral part of the ministry that God's doing through Crossing."

But according to Neeley, "the spiritual apathy that exists within Louisville" has been an impediment to reaching the non-churched community.

"When you go after emerging, unchurched generations," Neeley said, "it's like there's no commitment to denominational loyalty and there's not necessarily any commit-

ment to institutional religion."

Despite the negative outside forces, Neeley said he is confident that Crossing will continue to reach the community by keeping "the main thing the main thing."

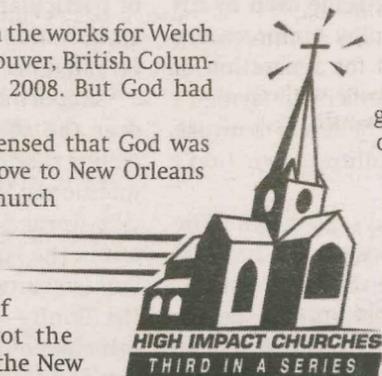
"The filter I run everything through is, 'Does this help us facilitate the mission?'" Neeley said. "When you do that, it makes a lot of other decisions for you."

"Jesus' message is simple, but it's not simplistic. What He has called His church to do is to be on mission in the world and to make disciples."

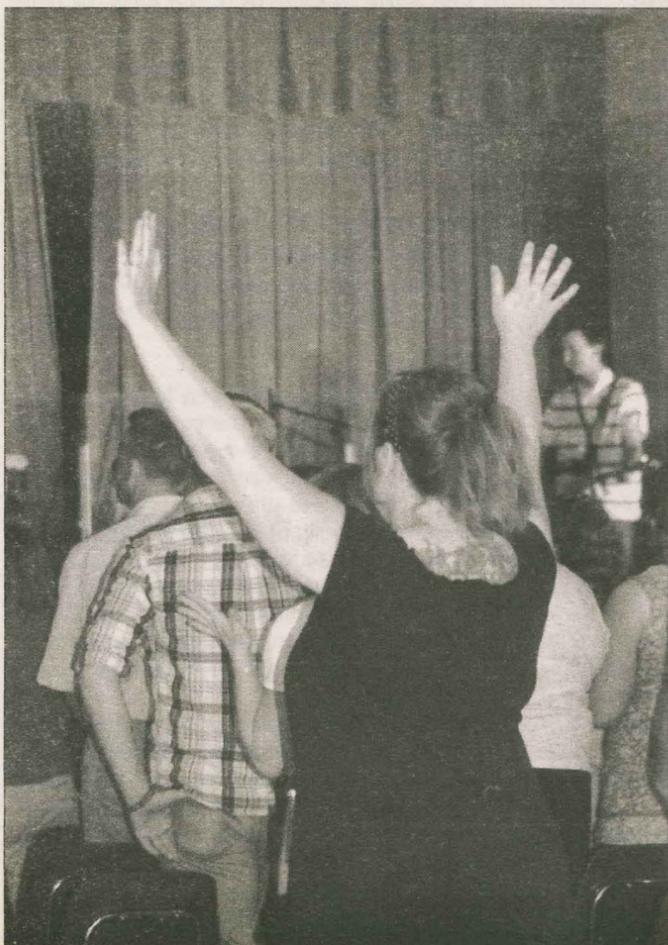
With a "soft goal" of planting 10 churches in 10 years, Crossing Church is well on its way to achieving its goal of reaching others for Christ.

And as Neeley, Welch and Jones continue their work in the cities God has called them to, their sights are set much higher, with the hope of establishing a worldwide network of churches partnering together—with a lasting impact.

"As we can see the spread of the gospel," Welch said, "we can see how that will impact peace, creativity and the spread of Jesus Christ throughout the world."



SURRENDER A member of Crossing Church raises her hands in worship as the praise band leads the music. (Photo by Drew Nichter)



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Kentucky schools cited among top colleges

By Treannis Henderson
Editor

Campbellsville—Two Kentucky Baptist colleges are ranked among top baccalaureate schools in the South in the latest edition of U.S. News & World Report's annual survey of "America's Best Colleges."

Campbellsville University is ranked 22nd and the University of the Cumberlands is ranked 26th in the category of Best Baccalaureate Colleges in the South.

The latest rankings include more than 1,400 colleges and universities in such categories as Best National Universities, Best Liberal Arts Colleges, Best Master's Universities by region and Best Baccalaureate Colleges by region.

"It is an honor to be recognized for providing students with an excellent educational experience," noted Campbellsville President Michael Carter.

While the rankings "recognize significant progress and achievement at the university," Carter added, "We remain diligent in improving and enhancing all areas of the academic programs."

Cumberlands President Jim Taylor said school officials are "delighted" with the ranking, but he voiced concern about putting too much emphasis on the annual report.

"We discount that pretty heavily because we don't think it necessarily tells if it's a good school or not.

There is so much more that it should measure than it does."

Citing the priorities of "personal attention to the student, growth and value," Taylor asked, "What's the value of character development? Without moral principles, who are we? What we want to do is not only produce good students, but students who are good."

The survey is based on up to 15 indicators of academic excellence for each school in such categories as peer assessment, student selectivity and retention, faculty resources, financial resources and alumni giving.

Georgetown College, which is ranked nationally among Best Liberal Arts Colleges, is listed in the third tier in the category's four-tier ranking.

Georgetown President Bill Crouch said the school's long-term focus on achieving Phi Beta Kappa standards has taken priority over pursuing criteria for the U.S. News rankings.

Even with Georgetown in the third tier of its national category, Crouch said, "We're pleased that we're in the national liberal arts category."

The school's ranking "puts us in the top 150 liberal arts colleges in the country which we are very pleased with," he added. "We're still right where we've been the past four or five years."

According to the survey, Camp-

bellsville lists an undergraduate student body of 1,988. It has an average freshmen retention rate of 63 percent and an average graduation rate of 39 percent. The school's tuition and fees total \$17,260 plus room and board of \$6,230. Total endowment is listed at \$5.8 million.

For the University of the Cumberlands, undergraduate enrollment is 1,525. The average freshmen retention rate is 62 percent and the average graduation rate is 40 percent. Tuition and fees are \$13,528 plus room and board of \$6,626. Total endowment is \$58.3 million.

Georgetown College has an undergraduate enrollment of 1,407. Its average freshmen retention rate is 79 percent and the graduation rate is 60 percent. Tuition and fees total \$22,360 plus room and board of \$6,380. The school's endowment is \$38.6 million.

In Campbellsville and Cumberlands' regional category, the top ranked school is Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. Other colleges in Kentucky in the category include Brescia University (ranked 31), Kentucky State University (39) and Alice Lloyd College (47).

Among the national rankings for top liberal arts colleges, Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., was ranked No. 1. Kentucky schools include Centre College (44), Berea College (75) and Transylvania University (87).

Collegiate 'Focus' event to highlight engaging culture

Louisville—College students across Kentucky will learn how Christians can engage culture at Focus 2007, a state-wide collegiate conference set for Sept. 28-29.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's collegiate/young adult ministry department, the two-day conference will be held at Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

Focus conferences, which are held each fall, are designed to equip college students throughout the state with leadership skills, according to Keith Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate ministry. Sessions at this year's conference are designed to help prepare students to transform their culture through the priorities of prayer, purity, proclamation and helping the poor.

Featured speakers include Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Brent Gambrell, president of Brent Gambrell Ministries in Nashville; and Cheryl Noble, student ministries program manager for International Justice Mission in Washington, D.C. Sojourn Community Worship Band will lead worship.

Addressing poverty & injustice

Inman noted that students who attend Focus will have the opportunity to discover how Christians should approach today's culture, what Christians can do to fight poverty and injustice throughout the world, and why career choices matter.

Focus 2007 will be held from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 28, and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 29.

The event is open to all college students in Kentucky. The cost to attend is \$15 per person, and registration is at the door only.

For more information about next month's conference and accommodations, visit the Web site www.kybaptist.org/focus or call (502) 489-3573 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3573.



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N.J. investigates retreat center amid civil union debate

Ocean Grove, N.J. (BP)—The state of New Jersey is investigating a United Methodist retreat center—similar to those of LifeWay Christian Resources—that prohibited a lesbian couple from using one of its facilities for a civil union ceremony.

The question is whether the non-profit Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association violated the state's anti-discrimination law. The two women, Harriet Bernstein and Luisa Paster, filed a complaint with the state's civil rights office.

Even though the investigation is not yet complete, the Ocean Grove ministry filed a federal lawsuit Aug. 11, arguing that the investigation itself is unconstitutional. The suit, filed on behalf of the ministry by the Alliance Defense Fund, seeks an order declaring the law unconstitutional as applied.

Ocean Grove is similar to retreat

centers associated with other denominations, such as LifeWay's Gloria (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers.

"The Division on Civil Rights ... has violated the plaintiff's First Amendment rights by subjecting this patently religious entity to an illegal investigation and threat of prosecution under the law," the lawsuit reads.

The ministry owns one square mile of property and several facilities, although the one at the center of the controversy is the Boardwalk Pavilion, a building located on scenic property overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Allowing the couple to use the facility for a ceremony, the lawsuit says, would have violated the ministry's "religious beliefs as reflected in the United Methodist Book of Discipline and the Holy Bible."

Lee Moore, a spokesman for New

Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram, said the lawsuit was "premature" since findings from the investigation have yet to be released, The New York Times reported.

But Brian Raum, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, said the state should have "refused to entertain a complaint against a religious organization" and told the couple who filed it that "the law against discrimination doesn't apply under these circumstances."

"Whenever the state investigates, they inherently affect your right to operate as you normally would," Raum told Baptist Press. "They put you under compulsion to provide records. There's a stigma attached to an investigation. Any time you investigate, people assume you've done something wrong."

If the ministry was to provide its facility to a lesbian couple it would

be a patent endorsement of the civil unions law, Raum said.

Homosexual activists long have argued that if gay marriage is legalized nationwide, ministers would not be forced to conduct the ceremonies. Raum, though, said there are many other ways such a law could impact religious freedoms.

"This is one of the dangers that many people warned against—that as these (laws) that are set up for same-sex relationships grow, those who oppose them are going to be subject to ridicule and prosecutions," he said.

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, founded in 1869, has owned the property since the 1870s. A statement on its website says its purpose is "to provide opportunities for spiritual birth, growth and renewal in a Christian seaside setting."

Groups fight pro-homosexuality curriculum

Rockville, Md. (BP)—Pro-family groups are appealing a decision by the Maryland State Board of Education that allows Montgomery County schools to teach middle and high school students that homosexuality, bisexuality and transvestitism are normal "innate" sexual variations and that anyone who opposes such conduct is "homophobic."

The Michigan-based Thomas More Law Center is assisting Citizens for a Responsible Curriculum, Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays, and the Family Leader Network in their administrative appeal to the Montgomery County Circuit Court based on four main objections to the "Respect for Differences in Human Sexuality" curriculum.

"This curriculum is full of factual inaccuracies and runs counter to sound educational policy," said Edward White, trial counsel with Thomas More. "It should not be taught in the public school."

In response to the appeal, the circuit court could overturn the board's decision, stay the application of the sexuality curriculum while the

appeal is pending, or affirm the board's decision and see it appealed to the Maryland Court of Appeals, the law center said.

Thomas More representatives have called the curriculum "outrageously hedonistic," "life-threatening" and "the result of pressure by homosexual advocacy groups." The state board approved the curriculum in June, which also includes a DVD on how to use a condom. Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays (PFOX) asked that the school system include ex-gay perspectives in the curriculum, but that request was denied.

During the spring semester this year, PFOX distributed information to Montgomery County students in the form of flyers that offered an alternative to the homosexual agenda, but the group was met with blatant viewpoint discrimination in a school system that touts tolerance, PFOX says.

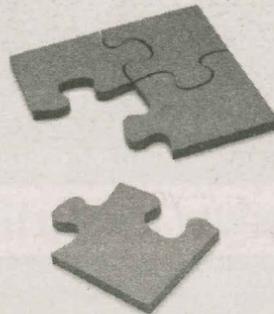
The state board of education approved the curriculum because, it said, "teaching tolerance of diversity is a civic value" with a secular purpose.

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For brochure, information and letter from Pastor Myers with his phone number, call 7 days a week:

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KENTUCKYNOTES



A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
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Supplement to Western Recorder

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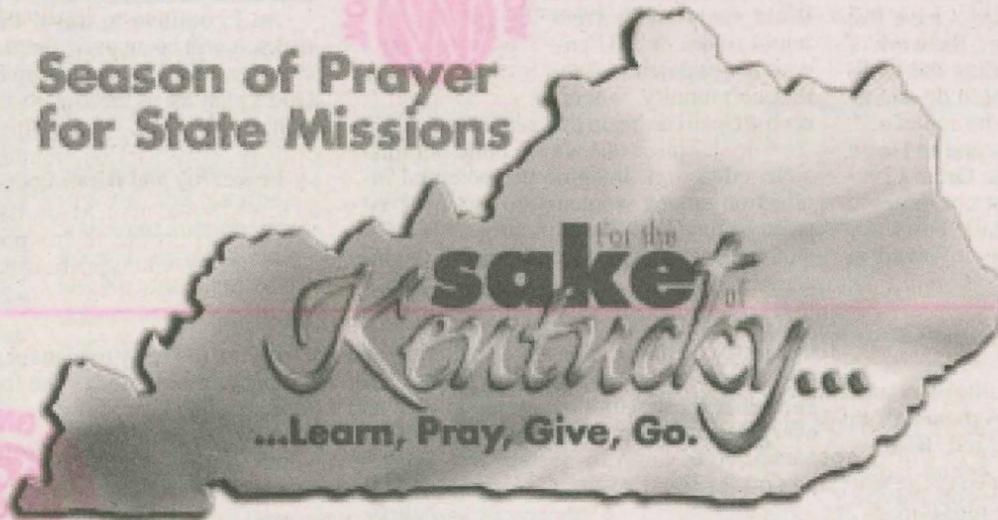
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For the Sake of Kentucky!

Fall 2007

**Season of Prayer
for State Missions**



Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2007
Offering Goal: \$1,000,000

Contact Kentucky WMU for the 2007 state missions DVD, teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes, and promotional ideas. 502-489-3534 or toll-free: 866-489-3534. Materials are also posted on our Web site: www.kywmu.org

Join in a special time of prayer on Tuesday, September 11
7:30 p.m. EDT / 6:30 p.m. CDT
as we pray "With One Voice"
for spiritual awakening in Kentucky.
Check the KBC Web site for a location near you.
www.kybaptist.org/onevoice

**With
One
Voice**
September 11, 2007
A Time for Prayer

A Personal Word

At World Missions Unlimited I taught a conference called "Missions on the Go" and shared Bill Barker's "Top Ten Items in Planning Your Mission Trip." At the end of the ten items, Bill says "Start the process all over again." Even as we are celebrating the largest Eliza Broadus Offering ever given for the 2006-07 offering year, it is time to start again in reaching our million dollar goal for 2007-08.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

The 2007 Season of Prayer theme is *For the Sake of Kentucky...Learn, Pray, Give, Go.* The theme reflects a challenge to each of us to learn, pray, give and go for the sake of the lost in our state. I am excited about several new things with the 2007 materials. First, in addition to the state missions packet mailed to WMU directors/contacts, an additional copy of the DVD was mailed to pastors in mid-July. For the first time on any KBC-produced video, the DVD has subtitles available to help everyone understand the speakers. Also, this year the DVD includes four short promotional segments designed to be used each Sunday in September. We hope that your church will use one each week in addition to the longer Mission Study video and the bonus video about camp. Teaching plans for all ages are found in the 2007 state missions packet along with promotional ideas, a children's sermon, sermon outline for pastors, and much more.

In 2005 and 2006, I was privileged to travel with Dr. Bill Mackey and others from the KBC staff on the Pray the Perimeter and Pray the Interior prayer tours. This year every Kentucky Baptist is invited to join in prayer "With One Voice" on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 EDT/6:30 CST. Prayer meetings are being hosted by associations across our state in honor of the 300th anniversary of Baptist associations in America.

The "With One Voice" prayer emphasis occurs during the suggested week to observe the Season of Prayer for State Missions. What might happen if we take this call to prayer seriously, and thousands of Kentucky Baptists lift our voices in prayer for spiritual awakening and renewal in our state? What might happen if there is a concert of prayer for the lost and dechurched? What changes would take place in families and in our schools if we prayed earnestly? *For the Sake of Kentucky, let's find out!*

Please join in prayer throughout the month for state missions. All of the 2007 state missions materials are available from Kentucky WMU and are also posted on our Web site (www.kywmu.org). Use the 2007 state missions prayer guide. Watch the DVD. And give to the Eliza Broadus Offering. As our state convention president, Dr. Darren Gaddis, says on the DVD, "Our goal is a million dollars. Let's do it For the Sake of Kentucky!"

P.S.: Please take note of the ad for a new book from New Hope (WMU) called *Wonderlust*. This book is "a spiritual travelogue for the adventurous soul." It has been ordered by a number of secular booksellers (Barnes & Noble, Borders, Books-A-Million, and Amazon) who, by their republication orders, are acknowledging the potential of an unknown author and an unknown publisher in the religion area. We ask that you pray for the launch of this book and, on September 3, visit one of these booksellers and buy the book for yourself or for a friend. Then on the weeks of September 10 and 17, post a comment about the book on Amazon.com or your favorite book Web site. This is a wonderful opportunity for WMU to be recognized in a new way. Let's buy the book and make history for WMU.



Churchwide



If you did not attend training in July, you may need some updates on what is new with WMU. For those of you who attended training, you can brush up with this reminder of the structural changes.

The changes are outlined in the *How to Involve Your Church in Missions: Includes a Guide for WMU and Missions Leaders*. If you do not have this guide, make sure you get one as soon as possible, along with the current Year Book.

Here are two of the changes:

Rather than 5 strategic principles, there are 6 areas of mission focus:

- Pray for missions
- Engage in mission action and witnessing
- Learn about missions
- Support missions
- Develop spiritually towards a missions lifestyle
- Participate in the work of the church and the denomination

WMU leadership team.

If you have a small church, you may only need a WMU director or missions leader (this is a new title).

The fall issue of *Missions Leader*, the fall WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit for churches and the WMU Web site feature a chart indicating the changes, including an new emphasis on Families on Mission and MyMissionFullfilled as well as the churchwide approach to missions education.

This fall, grow missions and missions education in your church. Plan a retreat or attend a retreat that will use the emphasis book *Directionally Challenged* (by former Kentucky pastor Dr. Travis Collins). In September, work with your pastor and staff to coordinate the Eliza Broadus State Missions and Offering emphasis in your church. Set challenge goals to meet the needs of the ministries in Kentucky. Include a MissionsLINK project. World Hunger Sunday is October 14. Have a hunger dinner. Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is Monday, November 5. Get your church involved in praying for our Baptist sisters around the world. Start early on your International Missions emphasis for December. Your *Missions Leader* magazine will have more information and suggestions of things to do.

Thank you for your passion and commitment to serving Him and growing the Kingdom through WMU. Blessing this New Year!

—Wanda Walker

Adults

An adult involved in missions education is becoming a rarity in some churches across our country. I have been traveling throughout our state and hearing the heart of women (and men) regarding missions education. Notice I said *missions education*, not missions. There is an overriding concern that adults have lost the desire to learn about missions, the work of our missionaries and understanding the biblical basis of missions. They want to do and be involved in missions. That is to be applauded, however, it is important to understand and learn about missions. Just what is the Great Commission all about? And we must not forget to pray for our missionaries on a daily basis. We can have a resurgence of adults involved in



missions education. It is important that we must be willing to never give up and consistently pray for God's leadership.

On September 1, *mymissionfulfilled.com* was launched. This new Web site offers young women a connection to other mission-hearted believers, online Bible study and current world issues. WMU encourages women to join this community, where each woman can begin to transform her world for Christ. This is one way to build our missions education. Imagine the potential interaction among women who are involved through this Web-based approach to missions education. This could be the begin-

ning of something BIG!

The fall retreats are upon us and registration is still open. If you have not made your reservation, please contact our office. We will have inspirational and practical workshops, music and fellowship. This will be a great time to just let go and let God take us *Beyond the Door*.

As I continue to travel through Kentucky, it will be an exciting time as we encourage and lift up one another about God's plan for us through missions education.

Peace, Joy and Blessings!

—Wanda Walker



Youth



Wow! What an exciting summer. More than 225 Acteens from Kentucky attended Blume. More than 100 young ladies also attended Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest and Acteens Splash at Jonathan Creek.

The 2007-08 Acteens Advisory Panel was selected in June. They met in Louisville the last weekend in August to plan for Exalt 2008 at First Baptist, Shelbyville, April 18-19. This year's panel includes: Dalice Ballou, Corbin; Brandie Hagerman, Hartford; Savannah Hines, Sonora; Julie Parish, Murray; Chrissy Prather, Harrodsburg; and April Smith, Corbin.

"With One Voice" is a time of simultaneous prayer throughout Kentucky. Encourage your youth to take an active role in this event Tuesday, September 11. The fervent prayers of young people are an example to those who are older. Allow your youth the opportunity to see what happens when believers across the state pray to God with one voice.

The prayer emphasis takes place during the week of prayer for state missions. Utilize the youth lesson on literacy to help your youth understand

the needs of those who are not literate and what can be done to meet those needs. They encounter those with literacy needs each and every day at school. Studying the needs will enable your youth to be sensitive to those around them.



Chelsea Ballou from Central Baptist, Corbin served as a national Acteens Panelist at Blume.



It's not too early to plan for the international mission study. The focus is on Moldova this year and there is a lesson for youth.

—LaRaine Dail



A group from Squiresville Baptist Church poses in downtown Kansas City

Far Left: Felicia Wilder of Hillsdale Baptist Church in Louisville donated her hair to Locks of Love. Left: Felicia shows off her new "do" afterward.

Preschool and Children

For MISSION FRIENDS Leaders —



Welcome to a new year in Mission Friends! With a fresh new *Start*, the teaching guide for Mission Friends teachers, you can make Mission Friends a fun time for preschoolers as you teach them about Jesus and His mission.

September is the time you will want to involve preschoolers in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. The study material for preschoolers focuses on literacy missions in Kentucky and is available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

Plan now to introduce preschoolers to missions in Moldova through the International Missions 2007 Preschool Teaching Guide. The unit contains activities and stories and can be taught during a churchwide study in December or during any regular class for preschoolers.

For GIRLS IN ACTION and CHILDREN IN ACTION Leaders —



Lights, Camera, ACTION! During the 2007-8 church year, members of GA and CiA will imagine they are traveling around the world, filming a documentary as they learn how missionaries put their faith in action on the mission field. Be a prepared leader by:

• Reading the new guide called *How to Involve Children in Mission: Includes Guides for Girls in Action and Children in Action*.

• Using the 2007-08 WMU Year Book to help you know, month by month, what is in store for Girls in Action or Children in Action.

• Becoming familiar with the relevant, redesigned and ready-to-use curriculum. (*GA Leader* for GA leaders and *Children in Action Leader* for Children in Action leaders.)

• Involving all children in your church in the 2007 State Missions Emphasis in September and the International Missions Emphasis in December.

• Discovering more information about Girls in Action at www.gapassport.com or Children in Action at www.wmucia.com.

For GAs —

Imagine bright-colored streamers, booths and attractions that feature missions and Girls in Action. This is what you will see at the NEW event called "GA JAM" on November 10, 2007.

- All GAs in grades 1-6 are invited.
- Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville, Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Cost - \$10.00 per person. Lunch will be provided.
- Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.
- Registration deadline is Nov. 2.

For CiA Agents —

Members of Children in Action are invited to the Children in Action Missions Day Camp on Saturday, September 22, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Cedar Crest (located on the grounds of Cedarmore). Children in Action is WMU's coed organization for boys and girls in grades 1-6. Children will meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, participate in a ministry project, play games and lots more. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration deadline is September 14. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.



President's Perspective

I feel like I could be a character in Dr. Seuss's book *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* Serving as your president has given me some great opportunities the past few months. Hopefully, I represented you well.

In April, the International Mission Board invited all state WMU presidents and their spouses to spend several days at the International Learning Center in Richmond. We were treated royally. It was a neat experience staying on the campus where our missionaries learn to be missionaries. We toured the IMB offices and one day went on a Lottie Moon tour. We visited where Lottie grew up, churches she attended



Pat Reaves
Kentucky WMU
president

and her gravesite. I also had a chance to visit some with Dee Peterson (Gilliland) on this trip. Dee was the Executive Director of Kentucky WMU and is now WMU president in the Dakotas. She asked that the ladies in Kentucky pray for her and WMU in the Dakotas. Serving there is a very hard work. I assured her we would. If you want to send Dee some encouraging words, here is her address: 1115 Franklin Street, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57701-4451.

The annual meeting for national WMU was in San Antonio in June. The meetings were filled with missionaries, great reports, and time to be with others who love missions. If you see someone wearing a purple ribbon, ask about it. They will tell you their secret – for a price! I also spent a day at GA camp. I met my adopted staffer, Kasey Fehler. Thanks to Stacy and all the camp staff for a job well done!

My last place to go was Kansas City, Missouri. What a wonderful time to spend time with over 3,000 young women celebrating missions. I want to thank my grandgirls Faith and Caleigh, their leader Kim, and my daughter Laura for letting me tag along. I also want to thank all the Acteens leaders around the state, for getting the girls to "Blume." I know that wasn't an easy task. You would have been proud seeing all the girls from Kentucky. Chelsea Ballou, a Kentucky Acteen, did a great job as a national Acteens panelist. Her grandmother, mother and sisters were all there too. Thanks, LaRaine, I appreciate you!

In July, Brenda Price celebrated 25 years with Kentucky WMU. Brenda has become a great friend and mentor over the years. Thank you, Brenda, for loving preschoolers and children and encouraging all of us who work along with you.

Hope you made it to World Missions Unlimited. If not, watch for training in your association for WMU leaders. Get prepared to make your organizations the very best as we begin a new year.

"Walk worthy." While you are walking why not prayerwalk your community school?

Working together,
Pat

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund March 1 - May 31, 2007

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the third quarter of the 2006-07 fiscal year. Thank you to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. At the 2007 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting we launched the 1000² Campaign to enlist 1000 WMU donors (individuals or groups) who will give \$1,000 between 2007-2010. Please note the pledge gifts in our report each quarter, which may also be given in honor or memory of someone.

In Honor of:

Sue Meuth and Audrey Shults
Rita Dixon
June Rice
Edwina Fields

Laverne Sublette

Dolores Gilmore
Dolores Gilmore
Dolores Gilmore
Dolores Gilmore
Dolores Gilmore
Dolores Gilmore
Wakefield Women on Mission of St. Matthews Baptist Church
Christa Hatfield

In Memory Of:

Brenda Harris
Helen Hamilton
Neva Givens Oakley

Raymond Sams

Annic Tracy

Donor:

Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Gilmore – toward pledge
Beth Wyatt
Cheryl Hatfield
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Cox – toward pledge
Linda H. Alexander – toward pledge
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Decker
Mr. and Mrs. Danny R. Kiser
Jessica S. Childers
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Walker
Dianna B. Rowe
Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Byers
Mr. and Mrs. J. Dudley Reaves

Cheryl Hatfield – toward pledge

Donor:

Marcia L. Ballard
Bell County Association WMU
Georgetown Baptist Church WMU
Georgetown Baptist Church WMU
Crescent Hill Baptist Church Women on Mission

In Memory Of:

Joyce Thompson
Jane Kent
Mr. John Covington

Donor:

Contemporary Baptist Women, Morganfield
Mrs. Frankie Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Horace T. Hambrick

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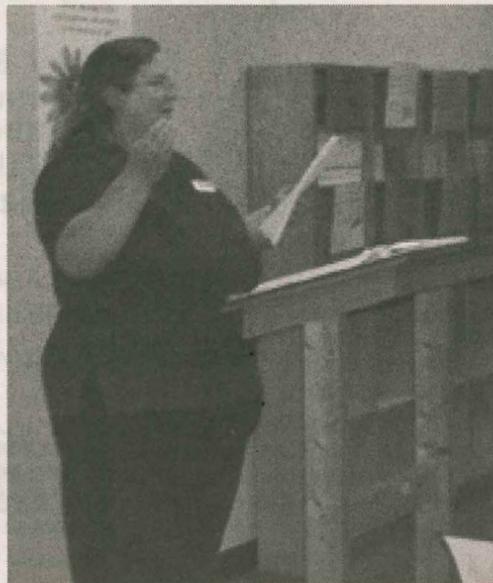


World Missions Unlimited

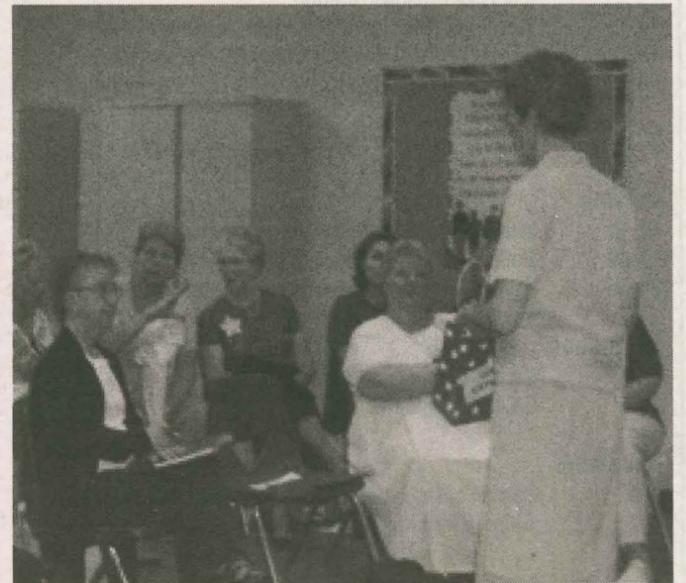
In July, over 200 people participated in World Missions Unlimited at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington. A variety of special interest and leadership training workshops were offered to prepare church WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders for the year ahead in missions education and involvement.

Featured speakers included Sandra Williams, Director of Church and Community Ministries with Elkhorn Association; Cheryl Hatfield, missions volunteer to Korea; and Marcia Ballard and Twyla Sheffield, WMU leaders in Boones Creek Association.

A variety of supplies were collected during the event and given to meet the needs of the homeless in Elkhorn Association.



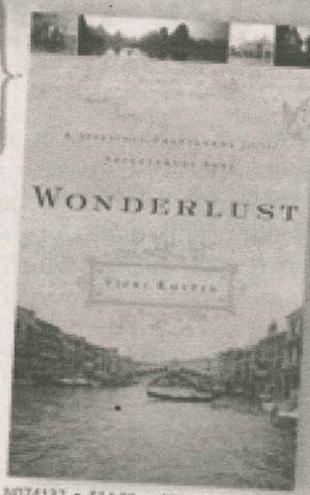
Marcia Ballard leads a class on Acteens.



Brenda Price answers a question on Children in Action.

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Adventures in Camping

This summer, campers at Cedar Crest took an Asian Adventure to discover the culture and missions work in Asian countries. Campers were privileged to meet and learn from missionaries in China, Africa, Indonesia and Paraguay. Campers also learned to do missions through projects like making flashcards for foreign English students. Acteen campers took afternoon mission trips to nearby Frankfort. Campers participated in swimming, recreation, Bible study, horseback riding, the climbing tower and much more!

In addition to weeklong camps, mothers and daughters came from across the state to grow together during our Mother/Daughter Overnights. Our express camp for girls and boys and their chaperones was another big success!

Meanwhile at Jonathan Creek, nearly 400 participated in the Overnights at the Creek. Everyone learned to "Live out Loud" at the



Mother/ Daughter Overnight, GA Overnight and at Acteens Splash.

Make plans now to attend the 2008 "Mission Adventure" at Cedar Crest where you can explore God's mission for you!



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
Monday, November 5, 2007
Join with women around the world as we pray together.
For more information:
www.kywmu.org

Beyond the Door

"...pray for us...that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..."
Colossians 4:3a

2007 WMU Fall Retreats:
September 14-15 - Jonathan Creek
October 12-13 - Cedarmore

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Calendar

September

- 8 Super Saturday, FBC, Paducah
Super Saturday, FBC, Somerset
- 9-16 Season of Prayer for State Missions & Eliza Broadus Offering
- 14-15 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Jonathan Creek
- 15 Super Saturday, Severns Valley BC, Elizabethtown
- 19-22 North American Baptist Women's Union Celebration, Arlington, VA
- 22 Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Cedar Crest

October

- 12-13 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Cedarmore
- 17-20 National WMU Fall Event, Little Rock, AR
- 26-28 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Cedarmore

November

- 5 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- 10 GA JAM, Bethlehem BC, Louisville

December

- 2-9 Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Empowering Believers in Missions

**Kentucky Baptist Convention
Annual Meeting
November 13-14, 2007
Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown**

Join us for a great missions emphasis!
Visit the WMU display and hear our report.
Fellowship with Kentucky Baptists.



Small Ky. church experiences big revival

Bivocational pastor depends on prayer for ministry success

By David Winfrey
Kentucky Baptist Convention

DeMossville—A Kentucky Baptist church that was down to four members two years ago has experienced revival thanks to both prayer and outreach efforts, its pastor said.

DeMossville Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky was about to close its doors for good before the turnaround. Instead, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has recognized DeMossville Baptist Church for having the highest per-capita baptism rate of any KBC-related congregation.

"God's moving in great and mighty ways," said Bill Evans, the bivocational pastor who arrived at the Pendleton County church in 2005.

Back then, only two couples attended the church regularly. One of them, a relative of Evans' wife, asked Evans if he knew someone

willing to preach.

"I just knew that God had called me down there," Evans recalled. He offered to preach a few Sundays and said "we'll see what happens."

With support from his home church, Piner Baptist, people started showing up.

"After about three months, they asked me to be their pastor and I accepted it," he added.

Along the way, the church became active in outreach ministries and has since baptized 43 people. More than 80 people have become members.

Evans said he emphasizes prayer and evangelistic preaching.

"I just preach Christ and Him crucified," he said. "I spend a lot of time praying and I spend a lot of time studying."

On Sunday mornings, while other members are in Sunday school, Evans prayerwalks through the little community of DeMossville, asking God to reveal Himself to local residents.

He credits a booklet on prayer for changing the way he prays. These days, he focuses on remov-

ing spiritual blinders from people so they can hear the message of Jesus clearly.

"Instead of trying to talk God into saving people, I spend more time praying against the powers and principalities that darken the eyes of man to hinder him from seeing the truth," he said.

Deacon Wilton Combs, a member for more than 40 years, said the church has become more vibrant under Evans' leadership.

"There's a difference in the way people worship," Combs said. "I'd have to call us 'dead Baptists' before, now we're 'live Baptists.'"

One change has been the music, which now features keyboards, guitars, drums and solos by Evans, who used to sing in a rock band called "Straightjacket" before becoming a Christian.

A sign on the pulpit reads "Prayer changes things," and Evans will take up to 10 minutes of a worship service for prayer, Combs noted.

"I think he is for real," declared Combs, one of the four members at the church when Evans arrived. "And I'm hard to fool."

While exciting things are happening in the church, Evans likes to talk about the ministries going on outside the church walls.

Members hope soon to revive a ministry at a local flea market, where they worked with other churches to hand out balloons to children and share the message of Jesus' love with hundreds of residents.

All of this has brought a new vision to the congregation, but Evans stresses prayer for any successes outside or inside the church.

"The more time I spend in prayer, the more powerful the preaching is."

"I think a lot of churches (and I don't mean to be offensive) pray with puny prayers. We need to pray with power," he added. "We let the devil run over us when we need to be running over him."



REACHING SOULS Masden Griffiths (left) and Kayla Estes (right) work with Kelli Henderson (center), Greensburg Elementary's Family Resource Center clerk, to prepare shoes that will be given to students in need. The shoes were collected through the girls' "Sole to Soul" ministry. (KBC photo)

Less fortunate students get help from girls' shoe ministry

Continued from page 1

other elementary schools in the county.

The girls have received organizational help from their mothers—Kelli Estes, a member of Greensburg Baptist Church, and Heather Griffiths, who attends Greensburg United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Estes initially thought her daughter wanted to send shoes overseas. However, she discovered the No. 1 need at Green County schools' resource centers was shoes.

"We said we need them here instead of sending them overseas," Mrs. Estes said.

Though "amazed" by the two youngsters wanting to help the needy, Mrs. Estes said she sees it as part of the same spiritual stirring she has noticed working with her church's youth group the past two years.

"Kids are living in such devastation that when they get something that gives them hope, they embrace it," Mrs. Estes said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we're on the edge of a 'Great Awakening,' which we need."

Mrs. Estes noted more than half a dozen churches and a number of individuals have donated shoes to the interdenominational effort, with publicity spread by word of mouth and stories in two area newspapers.

There is no goal for how many pairs the group hopes to collect, Mrs. Estes said. They may donate any surplus to other ministries.

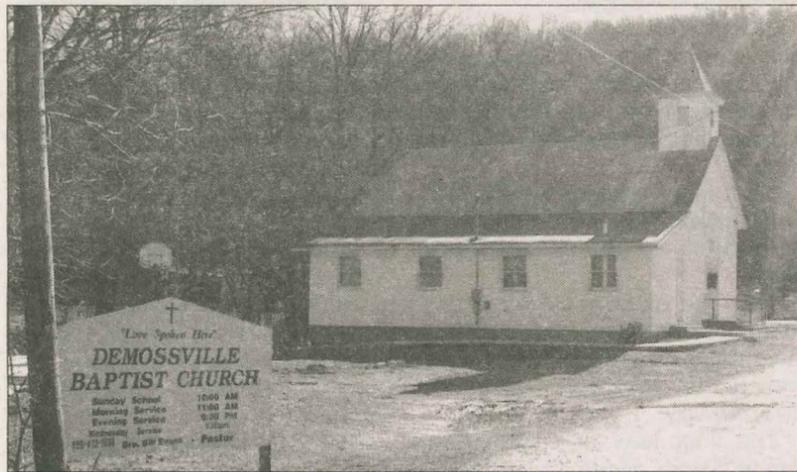
While the Kentucky Baptist Convention hasn't made a grant to "Sole to Soul," Eric Allen, the KBC's director of mission service and ministries, said this is the kind of initiative it is seeking to promote through Kentucky Baptists Connect.

Through its "The Church Reaching Out" strategy, the KBC provides grants that can be used to print materials or obtain supplies for church-based ministries.

Allen said the state convention has awarded about 20 grants over the past year, including one in the spring that helped set up a mentoring ministry at Greensburg Baptist.

Mrs. Griffiths is pleased with her daughter's involvement in Sole to Soul.

"I love it and I think it's crucial," Mrs. Griffiths said. "Our job as parents is to teach children the world is not all about them. If we don't teach them to help other people, we'll be in sad shape."



SMALL BUT POWERFUL DeMossville Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky was recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention for having the highest per-capita baptism rate of any KBC-related congregation. Led by bivocational pastor Bill Evans, the church has baptized 43 people in the past two years. (Photo by David Winfrey)

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- Kentucky Baptist missionaries
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News anchor recounts cancer journey in new book, DVD

By Carrie McWhorter
Alabama Baptist

Birmingham, Ala. (BP)—Since being diagnosed with breast cancer in early 2001, news anchor Brenda Ladun has put a public face on the disease by bringing personal experience and cutting-edge research to her viewers.



Brenda Ladun

Now she is sharing more of her journey in an upcoming book and DVD, "Behind the Scenes of Breast Cancer: A News Anchor Tells Her Story of Body and Soul Recovery."

From the beginning, Ladun was open about her illness and how faith helped her deal with her diagnosis and treatment. In 2002, the 20-year veteran of news reporting and anchoring wrote "Getting Better, Not Bitter: A Spiritual Prescription for Breast Cancer," which detailed the challenges of living with breast can-

cer and examined how each step of the journey strengthened her faith in God.

Now as a survivor who has been cancer-free for five years, Ladun wants to give her readers the benefit of what she has learned about recovery.

"I had this great eye-opening experience with the Lord getting me through this tough time, and this book is about how the Lord carries us through and continues to grow us," Ladun said.

In *Behind the Scenes of Breast Cancer*, set for release in September, Ladun shares not only her personal experiences but also stories from others dealing with seemingly insurmountable health obstacles.

Ladun said the stories were encouraging to her, and she hopes that she can encourage others by sharing them with a broader audience.

"At one time or another, we're all going to have to walk through that fire, but if we hold on to the Lord's

hand, we won't get burned," Ladun said.

The physical aspects of recovery are the major theme of the DVD that accompanies the book. Ladun interviewed several experts for the DVD who work closely with breast cancer patients.

Ladun said the advice and information from these experts teach women that they can be even better after surgery than they were before.

"I was blessed to have very good, godly doctors who spent time explaining things to me," she said. "I also sought information as a reporter and found advice that really helped."

For example, one post-surgery condition Ladun focuses on in the DVD is lymphedema, a swelling of the arm that sometimes happens after surgery to remove lymph nodes. Without proper care and exercise, lymphedema can cause serious infection and loss of motion in the arm.

Ladun said she felt led to address this condition after meeting a woman at a speaking engagement who was stricken with it.

"She was never given the information about how to get therapy, so she just didn't know what to do," Ladun said. "I felt the Lord was saying, 'You've got all this great information; now share it with others.'"

Other topics covered in the DVD include eating well, improving posture, dealing with stress and prayer-walking, which helped Ladun return to her daily routine as a working wife and mother to three boys.

Most importantly, she wants readers to know they are not alone or without hope in facing their struggles, whatever they may be.

"When human beings tell us we can't do something, we tend to believe them. But then there's the Lord with this infinite power," Ladun said. "Trusting Him in the big things, but also with the little things, would give us a lot more peace."

New Chapman book seeks to improve marital communication

Nashville (BP)—"I do." Two simple words spoken between a husband and wife at the beginning of what is hoped to be a marriage of intimacy.

But with the United States facing its highest divorce rate in history, many couples have changed "I do" to "I don't anymore."

Best-selling author Gary Chapman offers help to couples struggling with intimacy in his new book, "Now You're Speaking My Language," an updated paperback version of his earlier book, "Covenant Marriage."

Eighty-six percent of divorced couples, Chapman said, cite "deficient communication" as the reason for failed marriages. Chapman outlines unhealthy patterns of marriage and offers tips on how to restore healthy communication between spouses.

"Communication and intimacy are two of the most important aspects of developing a growing marriage," Chapman writes. "Good communication is the road to intimacy. Poor communication leads couples down dead-end streets and through numerous detours."

All communication is not equal in value, Chapman writes. He adds that "some levels of communication foster greater intimacy than others," and he lists five levels of communication.

The first level is "hallway talk," defined as nice polite talk used throughout the day.

Chapman refers to the second level of communication as "reporter talk" which involves only the facts.

"You tell each other what you have seen and heard, when and where it took place, but you're shar-

ing nothing of your opinions about the events," he writes.

"Intellectual talk" is the third level of communication, which goes beyond the sharing of factual information to the sharing of opinions, interpretations or judgments of those facts.

Level four, "emotional talk," is a deeper level of communication with the sharing of feelings and emotions.

"We risk much more when we communicate on this level," Chapman writes, "but we also have the potential for entering a higher level of intimacy."

The final level of communication is "loving, genuine truth talk." According to Chapman, this level allows couples to speak the truth in love, "being honest but not condemning, being open but not de-

manding."

Chapman admits that many couples experience little communication on this level, but admonishes that a growing number of couples do find a deep sense of oneness and intimacy in their marriages after experiencing this level of communication with the help of God.

"What is required is an attitude of acceptance," Chapman writes. "We want to create an atmosphere in which both of us feel safe—safe to share thoughts and feelings honestly and to know that our spouse will seek to understand, even if they do not agree with us."

He adds, "We come to genuinely believe that our spouse desires our best interest. If we request help, they will seek to help but will not force us to agree with their thoughts and feelings."

Group scraps 'Left Behind' video games for U.S. troops

Washington (RNS)—An evangelical entertainment group has abandoned plans to send a controversial video game in care packages to U.S. troops in Iraq.

As a member of the Pentagon's "America Supports You" program, Dallas-based Operation Straight Up planned to include copies of the apocalyptic video game "Left Behind: Eternal Forces" in care packages for the troops.

But those packages have been scrapped, according to a Pentagon public affairs officer who spoke on background because the Defense Department did not want to comment publicly about the decision.

Operation Straight Up did not respond to repeated requests for comment, and its telephone numbers have been removed from the contact page on the group's Web site.

The video game is based on the "Left Behind" novels, the runaway best-sellers by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins that depict the biblical Apocalypse. The books have sold millions of copies and the authors report it has won converts to Christianity.

"Eternal Forces," an offshoot of the books and related movies, may be the franchise's most controversial product. The game purports to teach Christian values while allowing players to kill in the name of either Christianity or the Antichrist.

Although no reason was given for the decision to halt delivery of the care packages, U.S. customs restrictions prohibit mailing to Iraq bulk quantities of religious materials that run contrary to the tenets of the Islamic faith.



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Sponsored by the Men's Ministry of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, TN

The joy of adoption

Orphans deserve opportunity to discover eternal hope

A lot has changed for me this year, not only with our camps, but personally with our family.

My wife, Tera, has just returned from Ethiopia. The reason for this trip was to bring home our new son, Yonas. We are still awaiting an official bone scan to determine his age, but for now we believe he is 5 years old. With this new addition, we have children who are ages 13, 11, 9, 8 and 5.

From my perspective, that's a pretty good balance in ages.

We began the process of an Ethiopian adoption in March so it actually has been very quick. Yonas is healthy and smiles continually. The adjustments he is going through are too numerous to mention all of them, but I will give just a few examples. Until two weeks ago, he had never climbed stairs, watched TV, used electricity or eaten any foods that you and I would consider common. I know at times he must feel overwhelmed, but in spite of all the changes, he is doing very well.

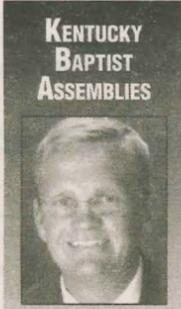
I do think about how we will be in heaven one day. What will be

different and totally new there? I would guess just about everything. However, we will not have any feelings of being overwhelmed for it will be our eternal home.

This summer as I spent time each week at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, many adults approached me about adoption. I would be asked: How do you know for sure God is leading your family to adopt? Throughout the process with Maritess and Yonas, I would have doubts about how we can make this work, how college will work for our five kids, and several others concerns. But the reality is that even if we adopt just two children, we are providing a loving home in which our kids will hear the gospel. Two realities that every orphan needs are basic life needs being met and eternal spiritual truths being taught.

For those who may be considering adoption, you will never have all the answers on the front end, but you will experience blessings beyond words as you forever change the life of someone who currently is living without any hope.

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



David Melber

On the road to recovery

Sunrise program helps give teen second chance in life

Jessica is a 17-year-old who was court ordered to attend Sunrise Children's Services' Youth Support Center due to charges of truancy and running away. She tested positive for methamphetamine at her court date and agreed to go to a residential treatment center. She returned to the Youth Support Center having been clean of all drugs for four months.

Jessica's life has been fraught with family, drug and alcohol abuse. Her mother died of an overdose when Jessica was 12 years old and her father is still in jail for using and trafficking illegal substances. Her two brothers are also addicted to drugs and live with their grandfather. Her aunt and uncle, who are her legal guardians, have supported Jessica.

Now clean of drugs, Jessica recently gave a talk to the youth in our program about her life on drugs and how they controlled her. She told them about the "friends" she thought would be there for her and how they wanted nothing to do with her once they found out that she did not intend to go back to her old life on drugs. She told

the kids how difficult it was to face the fact that she was alone on her path except for one friend who continues to support her journey of a drug-free life.

Jessica is very open about how difficult it is to stay drug-free and has turned to the Youth Support Center staff for support. She is doing well now and wants to work as a drug and alcohol counselor after college, which she plans to attend next year after she completes her GED.

I am not sure if Jessica is singing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" yet, but she is alive, healthy and moving forward with her life. Without our intervention, Jessica could be dead or so physically or mentally damaged she could never choose Christ. She now has a second chance in life. Pray with us that she finds a way to have a normal home and the way to her eternal home too.

For more information about the Youth Support Center, visit our Web site at www.sunrise.org.

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org



Bill Smithwick

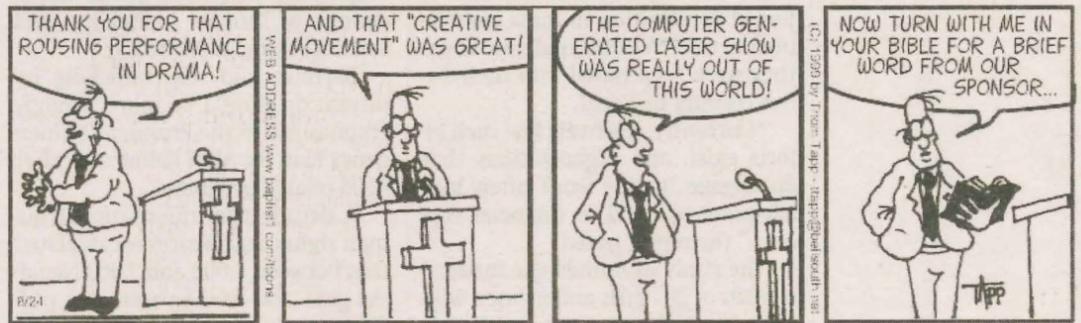
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 What the Israelites did in Egypt
- 8 Preposition
- 9 "For the kingdom of heaven is ___ hand" (Matthew 3:2)
- 10 Rural Electrification Administration, abbr.
- 12 Simile preposition
- 13 "And thou shalt make a hanging ... wrought with ___" (Exodus 26:36)
- 17 "And his raiment became ... ex-ceeding white ... so as no ___ ... can white them" (Mark 9:3)
- 18 Inspector General, abbr.
- 20 "Saying (to Philip), ___, we would see Jesus" (John 12:21)
- 22 Each, abbr.
- 23 These people built a house for David (2 Samuel 5:11)
- 28 Railroad, abbr.
- 29 "They ... bought with (the money) the ___ field, to bury strangers in" (Matthew 27:7)
- 30 South Dakota, abbr.
- 31 Institute, abbr.
- 34 "Esau, who is ___" (Genesis 36:1)
- 36 People with the same profession as Simon (Acts 9:43)
- 39 "He that heareth the word, and ___ with joy receiveth it" (Matthew 13:20)
- 40 "Though they be ___ like crimson" (Isaiah 1:18)

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39				40						41	
42			43	44				45	46	47	
	48	49						50			
	51				52						

- 41 Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
- 42 Common Era, abbr.
- 43 Stitching a picture on cloth
- 48 "It is a ___ thing that the king requireth" (Daniel 2:11)
- 50 "He stood by the ___ of Gennesaret" (Luke 5:1)
- 51 Streets, abbr.
- 52 Persons who fill seams or joints so they will not leak
- 21 Internal Revenue Service, abbr.
- 24 Revolutions per second, abbr.
- 25 "We are the clay, and thou our ___; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isaiah 64:8)
- 26 And, Lat.
- 27 A person between 13 and 19
- 32 Measurement at sea, abbr.
- 33 "___ can you see?" (2 words)

Down

- 1 People who work with brass
- 2 Impersonal pronoun
- 3 People who make candies, cake, etc. for sale
- 4 A vegetable which looks similar to spinach
- 5 Repetitive
- 6 An earner
- 7 "And Pharaoh was wroth against ... the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the ___" (Genesis 40:2)
- 11 More, suffix
- 14 Good; well; true, prefix
- 15 Elevated railroad
- 16 550, Romans num.
- 19 People who grow flowers and vegetables
- 35 "Why ___ the heathen rage?" (Psalm 2:1)
- 37 "Why make ye this ___, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- 38 More scarce
- 39 Alternating current, abbr.
- 40 Rubidium, chem. symbol
- 44 "Jesus ... findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow ___" (John 1:43)
- 45 Not well
- 46 A relay type of transportation of men or horses in India
- 47 ___ out: barely making a living
- 49 Preposition showing location or time

Last week's solution

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Study: Sex trafficking spurs HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia

Chicago (BP)—Intervention to release sex-trafficked girls and women from forced prostitution may be an important strategy in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, according to a study released this month by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Researchers called for strengthened efforts to prevent sex trafficking and to protect trafficking survivors after they found that victims of forced prostitution in India contributed to the HIV/AIDS epidemic when they were repatriated into their native country of Nepal.

"Currently, relatively few such efforts exist, and organizations that do engage in this work often lack adequate political or financial support," the report noted.

The study examined the medical records of 287 girls and women who were rescued and repatriated after being sex-trafficked from Nepal to India between 1997 and 2005, and 38 percent of them tested positive for HIV. About 14 percent of the girls were trafficked before they were 15, and nearly 61 percent of that age group was infected with HIV, researchers found.

Most victims were transported by people they knew on promises of domestic jobs or offers of marriage. Others were drugged and kidnapped. More than half of the girls and women were trafficked to Mumbai, the most populous city in India.

Jeffrey Barrows, a medical consultant on health and human trafficking for the Christian Medical Association, said the link between sex-traf-

ficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS is significant.

"Very few published medical studies to date have addressed this link, so this study is a real breakthrough that we hope will stimulate concrete action in our government and the public health community," Barrows said. "This study should help U.S. and international government officials better recognize and emphasize the public health implications of human trafficking, and sex trafficking in particular."

Barrows said sex trafficking intervention should be more strongly emphasized in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and other AIDS-related programs.

A decade ago, international human rights organizations calculated that between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepalese girls and women were sex trafficked to India each year, and the study's authors predicted that number has risen significantly because of recent civil conflict in Nepal.

India has about 2.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, ranking third in the world behind South Africa and Nigeria. The U.S. State Department estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked worldwide each year, and 80 percent are women and girls.

Researchers found that individuals trafficked at 14 years or younger may be at greater risk for HIV infection, and girls trafficked before age 15 were more likely to be detained in brothels for one year or longer compared with those trafficked as adults.

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With open arms and diligent prayer

Welcoming the world requires accepting new OBI students right where they are

By Michael Spencer, OBI assistant to the president

Recently I was interviewing a student and he hadn't signed our general statement of rules. I told him that he needed to do so and gave him the two-page sheet. In moments, he was laughing.

"What are you laughing about?" I asked.

"This part about witchcraft. That's funny."

Now, without quoting the passage—it is on our application pages on the school's Web site—the student was responding to our rule that says any practice that is fundamentally at odds with the Christian faith is not allowed on campus. Among the practices listed are various forms of witchcraft.

Note, please, that the word "practice" is different from the word "belief." We accept students from all types of cultures and faith backgrounds but we

do not approve every kind of religious practice. For example, if a student is a Muslim, he has the right to live his faith within our rules. But in accordance with our identity as a Christian school, we restrict the manner in which he practices his faith while on campus.

God made these young people in His image and Christ died for them, so we offer them the opportunity to be part of our Christian school community. This comes with the understanding that we must restrict the promotion and practice of non-Christian faiths. We also inform all students that they are expected to attend chapel, weekend worship and Bible classes, and to participate respectfully.

The prospective student found it funny that a Baptist boarding school in southeastern Kentucky

would talk about witchcraft. Unfortunately, this is no laughing matter. The world—politically, geographically, spiritually—comes to our door. I've seen dedicated Muslims enroll their children. That's a miracle.

Today I talked to a Muslim student who is hearing the gospel daily. I've counseled students whose parents were believers in Wicca, Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age, Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Many international students come from cultures where the gospel largely has been lost or perverted. Other students are from nominally Christian backgrounds that lost any spiritual reality years ago.

Our own country and culture is a mission field, and a Baptist boarding school in southeastern Kentucky is on the front line of communicating the Christian worldview to students who are in spiritual darkness, lost and under

the power of spiritual deception.

This is one reason we ask you to pray for us. OBI isn't like your average church youth group or college ministry. Spiritual diversity puts us in the midst of spiritual warfare. We need, as Paul did, the prayers of fellow believers that God will surround us with His power and make His Word come alive in our words. We want to treasure, savor and offer Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who has defeated every power and authority and invites every person to come into His Kingdom.

Your prayers, visits, gifts, support and good words are essential as we stand in the crossroads of a missions field and spiritual battlefield.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

A birthday gift to remember

Wife's gift of a Bible helps husband discover new life

Most of you reading this have received birthday gifts over the years. Some of those gifts we remember and—let's be honest now—some of them we don't. For student Chris Mellon, he always will remember one birthday gift from his wife.

"I was saved in my adult years," Chris said. "After we were married, my wife, Joy, got me to go to church every now and then. I mentioned to her that everyone else was carrying a Bible and that I really looked out of place. My wife bought me a Bible for my birthday and I knew I couldn't just let it sit there and not read it.

So I began to read the Bible and God began to convict me about my sin. I attended a revival at Mt. Herman Baptist Church in Taylorsville, N.C. and gave my life to Jesus Christ."

Chris surrendered to God's call to ministry nine months later and later enrolled at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in Hendersonville, N.C. After graduating from Fruitland in June 2005 with an associate's degree, Chris followed God's call to Clear Creek in January 2006 to complete work toward a bachelor's degree in ministry.

Clear Creek has an agreement

with Fruitland that allows graduates to transfer their associate's degree hours toward a bachelor's degree as a third-year student. Most students can finish their work toward a bachelor's degree in two years.

Chris said he and Joy visited Clear Creek upon an invitation from Director of Admissions Billy Howell.

"We like the small campus atmosphere here that has a lot of similarities to the campus at Fruitland. We feel at home here," Chris added.

That gift of a Bible from his wife also has led Chris to rediscover a gift that he had not used in quite a while.

"I used to be a lead singer in a band in Texas," he said. "When I came to Clear Creek, music professor Bill McGibney asked me to try out for the Clear Creek singers and the Clear Creek ensemble. ... I have rediscovered that gift and I enjoy being able to use it while I am here."

I'm sure Chris always will remember Joy's gift that led to the start of a new life for him.

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

CLEAR CREEK
CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

Experience freedom

Extreme youth event brings thousands to Lincoln County for three nights of action

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Stanford—With a hurricane of punk rock, extreme sports and death-defying stunts, Freedom Experience blew through Lincoln County Aug. 20-22. In its wake was a flood of decisions for Christ and a movement like the area has never seen.

"I think God is at work in Lincoln County," said Jefferson Calico, the organizer of the event and pastor of thechurch@cedarcreek in Stanford. "I think He's doing something new. The churches have rallied around this event like I've not seen before."

The three-day Freedom Experience drew an estimated 6,100 people to Lincoln County High School. Of those individuals, organizers said more than 300 decisions were made for Christ, including 200 first-time professions of faith.

Headlined by Christian illusionist Brock Gill, Freedom Experience featured a slew of high-energy performers including the Outcast BMX riders and professional skateboarder Tim Byrne, as well as bands Eleventyseven and Group 1 Crew.

"There is something for the entire family," said Kim Callender, director of ministry events for Freedom Experience.

The highlight of the Stanford stopover was the mind-bending Gill who astonished the crowd with his daring illusions including the Blind Ride, the Water Coffin and the Bullet Catch, in which Gill caught a bullet, shot from a gun at point-blank range, with his teeth.

"The stuff that Brock is doing, you can only see in Vegas," Callender pointed out. "How many of these kids actually have a chance to go to Vegas and if they do, they can't get in."

But at the heart of all the excitement was the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

"I take chances up here on stage," Gill told the crowd, still sporting a bullet-proof vest used for the Bullet

Catch. "But one thing I will not take a chance with is my salvation."

Gill's words resonated with a teenager whom Calico said he counseled during the first night of Freedom Experience.

"He heard Brock give the message of freedom from slavery, from bondage," Calico recalled. "He knew exactly what Brock was talking about."

Calico also noted that events such as Freedom Experience are an effective way to reach people, including that teenager, who do not have a church home.

"He would have never come to a church," Calico said. "This gets some church people and unchurched people on common ground."

Joe Ball, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth strategist for the youth ministry and Sunday school department, agreed.

"I think you've got to speak the language of the culture," Ball said. "This gets them right where they live."

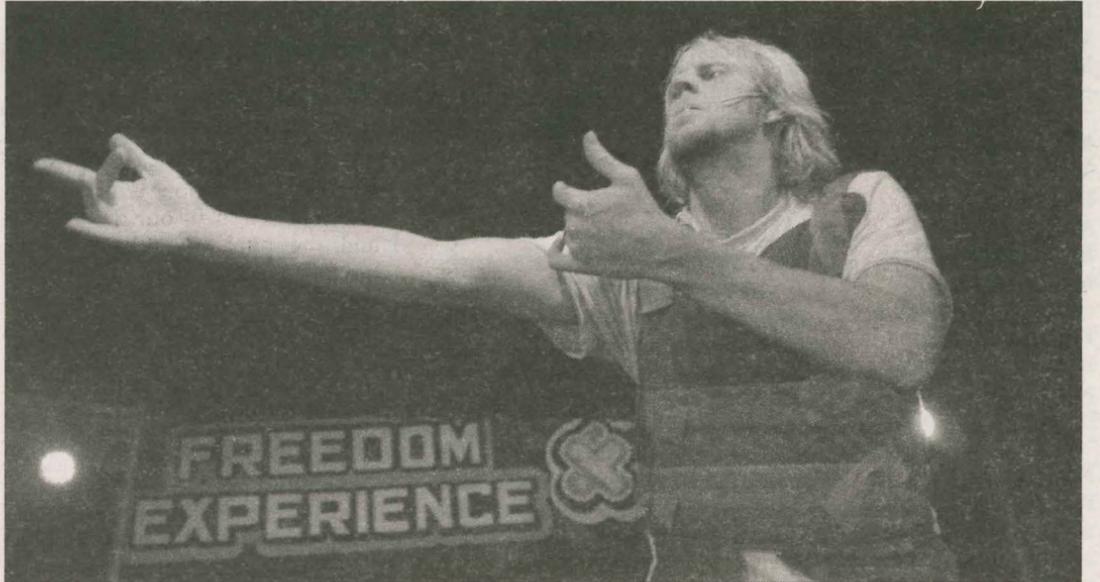
Knowing how to speak that language, Lucas Hastay put together his team of Outcast BMX riders just a few months ago before joining Freedom Experience. The high-flying daredevils won over the crowd at Lincoln County High School.

"I just hope they see our desire and passion to use what we do to glorify God," Hastay said.

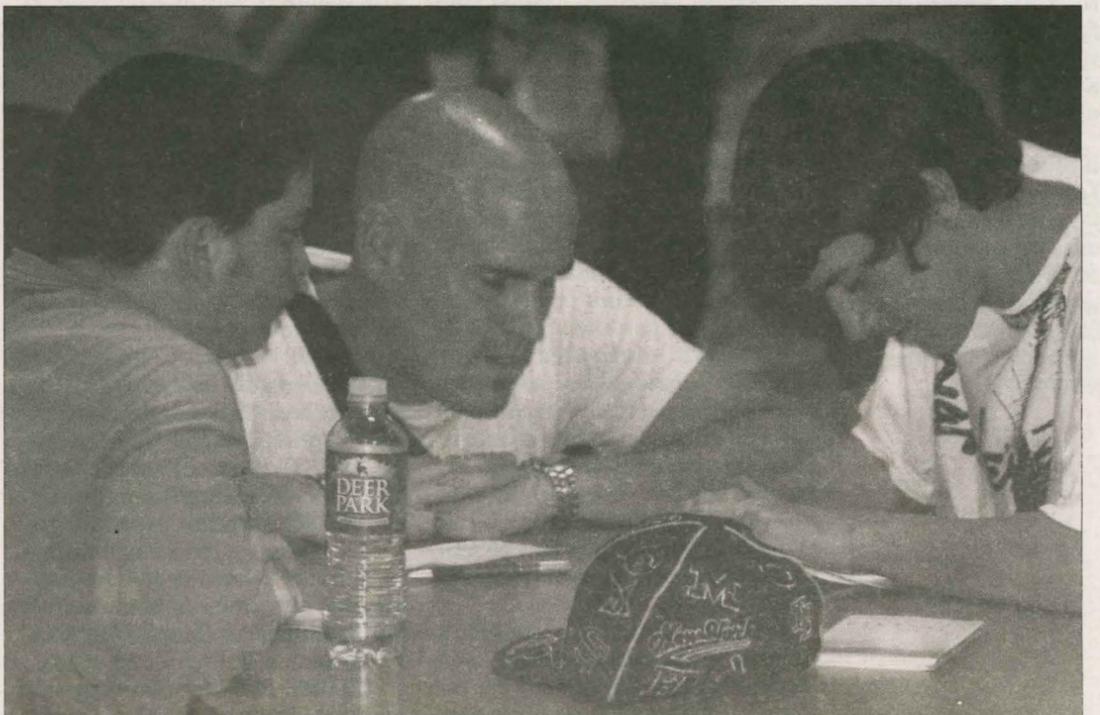
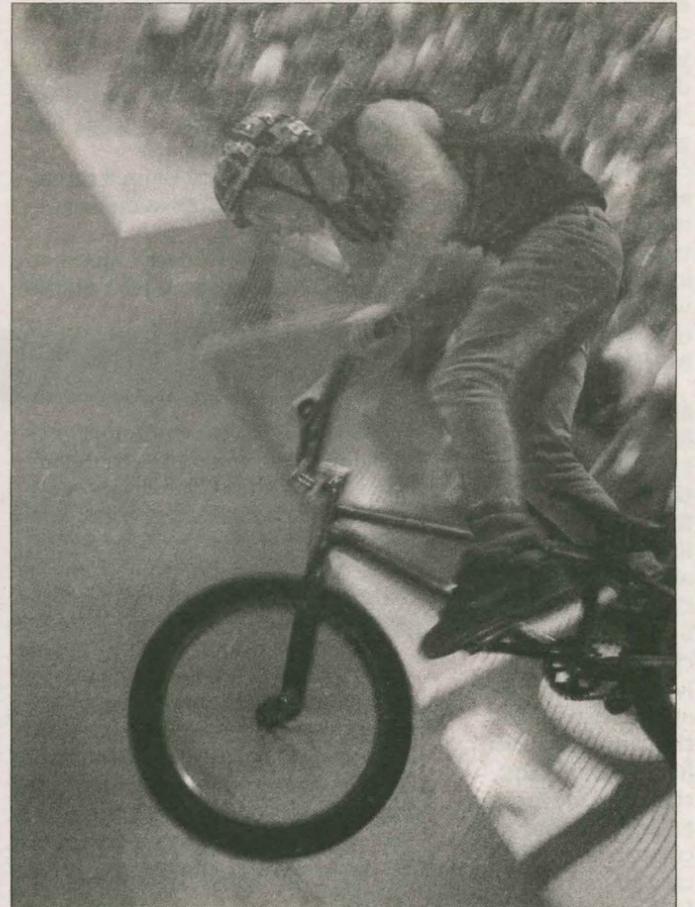
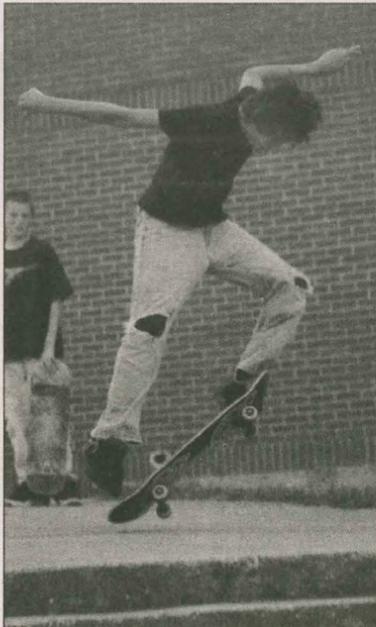
In its fifth year of touring the country, Freedom Experience seeks to create a high-energy experience as a way of evangelizing students. The tour also encourages heavy involvement from the community in order to hype the three-day events.

"The goal of Freedom Experience is to impact communities with a positive message that ultimately reflects Christ," Callender said.

Calico noted that there are two follow-up events planned in the coming months and that all those who filled out decision cards will be contacted.



EXTREME ACTION ■ Above: Christian illusionist Brock Gill gestures to the crowd after performing a stunt at Freedom Experience in which he catches a bullet with his teeth. ■ Right: Ethan DeHart, a rider for the Outcast BMX team, takes to the air inside the Lincoln County High School gym. ■ Below: Brandon Bussell practices his skateboard tricks in front of the school. (Photos by Drew Nichter)



EXTREME EVANGELISM ■ Above: Jason Kilby, youth minister at Stanford Baptist Church, counsels two students who accepted Christ at Freedom Experience. More than 300 individuals indicated they made a decision during the three-day event. ■ Left top: The crowd pushes to the front of the stage to get a better view. ■ Left bottom: Hip-hop artists Group 1 Crew rock out with members of Eleventyseven during their set at Lincoln County High School.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

Restorative Justice Ministry of Christian County Baptist Association in Hopkinsville. Linda Moore works with county jail chaplains Kurt and Joyce Zander to touch the hearts and lives of inmates by providing Bibles, "Survival Kits for New Christians," reading glasses and undergarments. These actions combined with Bible study and discipleship result in changed lives through personal professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for the Zanders and Moore as they coordinate the ministry and work with the inmates. Pray that inmates who come to know Christ as Savior won't be drawn back into their old lifestyles upon release.

Mission Service Corps Missionary Barbara Greenfield of Princeton. Greenfield is the founder of Bright Life Farms, a group home and working farm that serves the needs of developmentally challenged adults. Residents live and work on the farm under the care of Christian house parents and staff. Pray for the staff to have patience and compassion as they care for and minister to the needs of the residents. Pray also for finances, resources and volunteers to complete a third home that is under construction.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Wickland Church will host a week of servant evangelism and community outreach Sept. 9-15, followed by revival services Sept. 16-19 at 7 p.m. **Gibson Largent** will coordinate the outreach ministry and serve as evangelist.

■ **CADIZ**—South Union Church will hold revival services Sept. 10-14, 7 p.m. with **Rodney Wallace**, pastor of Calvary Church in Princeton, as evangelist.

■ **EKRON**—Buck Grove Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary during September. Guest speakers include **James Merritt**, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.; **Bill Lunceford**, **Ray Batemon**, **Joe Timmons**, **James Hyde** and **Donald Withers**, Sept. 15, 1 p.m.; and **Floyd Price**, Sept. 16.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church recently called **Julie Clark** as child development center director. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge Church ordained **Doug Boden** and **Greg Workman** as deacons Aug. 26. **Garland Dale Carey** is pastor.

■ **FOUNTAIN RUN**—First Church recently called **Brian Thomas** as minister of youth.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Pioneer Church ordained **Dale Cinnamon**, **John Gumm**

Spotlight on ...

Mount Eden



Elmo Casey, a retired farmer and the oldest member of Mount Moriah Church, celebrated his 100th birthday Aug. 27. Casey, who has lived in Mount Eden and Leesburg, Fla., since his retirement in 1969, now lives with his son, **James Casey**, in Williamsburg.

and **Bryant Merchant** as deacons Aug. 19. **Andrew Dyer** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—**Terry Freeman**, pastor of Grace Church, has announced his retirement effective Sept. 9.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church's **Lynn Camp Hollow Boys** gospel group will be concert Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m., and will debut their new CD, "Home Across the River."

Shively Church will celebrate its 75th Homecoming Sept. 7-9 with speakers including **Bruce Hodge** Sept. 7, **Gary Hollingsworth** Sept. 8 and Pas-



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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

tor **Bruce Truman** Sept. 9. For more information, call (502) 367-9155

South Jefferson Church will celebrate its 85th Homecoming Sept. 9, 10:40 a.m. Former pastor **Greg Burton** will be the guest speaker and **Tim Galyon**, minister of music at St. Matthews Church, will be the worship leader. Other activities include

a fellowship meal and a 2 p.m. gospel quartet concert. For more information, call (502) 937-2404.

■ **TOMPKINSVILLE**—First Church recently called **Ricky Gerald** as student outreach minister. The church will celebrate its 160th anniversary with Homecoming Sept. 14-16. **Tom Stokes** 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.

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

FOR SALE: Christian, patriotic and striped neckties: \$15 value—your cost \$6. Humor book: "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine," \$6. Dake compact Bibles: \$28. (606) 285-3051.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Southern Baptist church. Prefer seminary graduate or some seminary training. Must have a shepherd's heart, strong leadership skills and be a team worker. Must also have a passion for the Lord's work and the church and be devoted to outreach. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Cecilia Baptist Church, PO Box 1526, Elizabethtown, KY 42702.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for Morgantown First Baptist Church. Motivated, Christ-centered individual to work with adult and youth choirs. Traditional and contemporary styles of music. Seminary students welcome. Send resumé to Bro. Greg Wallace at mtownfbc@logantele.com, or call (270) 526-4711. Resumés may be sent to PO Box 444, Morgantown, KY 42261.

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister (preschool-6th grade). Send resumé by Sept. 30 to: First Baptist Church, Hodgenville, c/o Katie Sandidge, 730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or call Sandidge, (270) 766-8970, or Dawn Conner, (270) 234-3977.

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

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for a dynamic church in a growing community. Average SS and worship attendance: approximately 150. Total package: \$28,000/year. If interested, please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, West Broadway BC, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220-3419.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor to lead a mission-minded congregation (average worship attendance over 100). Smithsboro BC is in a rural area of southeast Kentucky near Hazard. Inquirers should send resumés and sermon tape or video to: Pastor Search Committee, Smithsboro Baptist Church, PO Box 279, Vicco, KY 41773.

SEEKING: Part-time music director for a conservative Baptist church in a growing area. Must be able to work with adult choir (30 members). Send resumé to Hedgeville Baptist Church, 4700 Lancaster Road, Danville, KY 40422, Attn: Music Director Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for a conservative Baptist church in a growing area. Send resumé to Hedgeville Baptist Church, 4700 Lancaster Road, Danville, KY 40422, Attn: Youth Minister Search Committee.

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 resumés to: First Baptist Church, 730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or e-mail to sally@fbchodgenville.org.

SEEKING: Candidates for director of missions for Ozark Prairie Baptist Association in Lockwood, Mo. Send resumés to DOM Search Committee, Drawer S, Lockwood, MO 65682.

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: 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 resumés 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 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 resumés to drewprince@gmail.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 resumés to: John Bloomer, Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220.

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.

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 resumés, along with tapes, to Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091, Attn: Mike Webster.

TRAVEL: Mission and church travel—including air charters. Guaranteed lowest complete individual and group rate packages. (866) 213-0578 or www.IchthusTravel.com.

WANTED: A church bus or van—low mileage, good condition. Contact John Collett, (859) 428-9396; or Lisa Lewis, (502) 347-0064.

Place of darkness

New Orleans' French Quarter is challenging mission field for Vieux Carre Baptist

By Stacey Billger
Louisiana Baptist Convention

New Orleans (BP)—The subtle or blatant presence of idolatry and debauchery abounds in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Yet, a beacon of hope is nestled snugly just off Bourbon Street—Vieux Carre Baptist Church.

"The difference between the French Quarter and suburban areas is the concentration of darkness," noted Greg Hand, the church's pastor. His wife, Wren, added, "There is a very real spiritual oppression that is present here."

Walk past 711 Dauphine St. on a Sunday morning and you'll hear music that is in stark contrast to what you see and hear on the rest of the street. With the doors of the church wide open, the Hands and the congregation sing praises to the Lord.

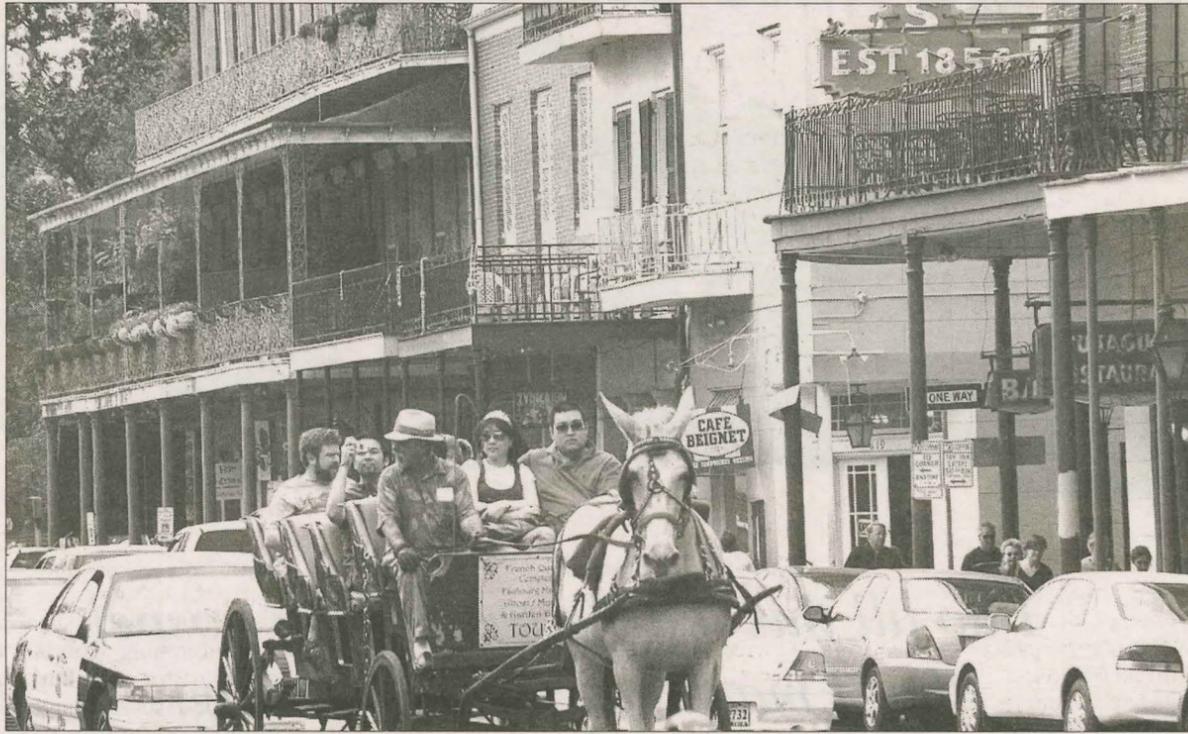
Coffee and a friendly handshake greet anyone who comes through the doorway—some stumble into a seat, while others greet their friends and fellow church members.

This Sunday, a tourist couple saw the church sign while walking down Bourbon Street and joined in.

Vieux Carre's location makes for a diverse congregation. The demographics of the French Quarter range from the wealthy businessperson to the homeless. On a Sunday morning Hand typically preaches to a congregation that may include a seminary professor, public school teacher, retiree, social worker, students and street performers.

"The congregation was not like anything I've seen before. Some faithful members do not have a place to lay their head," said Chase Abner, director of Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Southern Illinois University. Abner led a team of colleagues to assist Vieux Carre in reaching the French Quarter through prayerwalking and street evangelism last March.

Vieux Carre gave Abner "a new



FAMOUS QUARTER A horse-drawn carriage with tourists makes its way down Decatur Street in New Orleans' French Quarter. Many of the people ministered to through Vieux Carre Baptist Church work in the Quarter's restaurants, bars and as carriage drivers. (BP photos by Stacey Billger)

glance into church planting in a unique corner of America. It's exciting to see a church in that context doing what Christ commanded, sharing the gospel."

Abner had visited New Orleans before, but he said he was shocked by what he experienced early Sunday morning in the French Quarter.

"It was a really sad, sad sight, walking down the street at 9 a.m. and seeing a bar still open," he recounted. "People were drinking, the music was cranked up and folks were slumped over the bar."

"In urban ministry," Hand said, "you have an opportunity to impact a lot of people in a lot of different ways. When it's warfare, you have to have a heart to battle and to always be ready to see the positive in the people no matter what lifestyle they

are living. ... Every day, I walk by hundreds of people who need the good news. ... This is good fertile soil."

Whether it's the tourist visiting the city or the person walking out of a gay bar, the Hands seek to convey a message of love as they walk around the city. One person who was the recipient of "sowing seeds of love is now here, set free," Hand said.

Kendall Magee of Pineville, La., participated in an outreach in the French Quarter last February. Handing out gospel tracts and witnessing to people on the street, he led five people to faith in Christ. All were residents who worked in the French Quarter's restaurants or drove the horse-drawn carriages popular with tourists.

"The sense we got," Magee said, "is the people who live and work



HOME MISSIONARIES

Greg Hand, pastor of Vieux Carre Baptist Church, and his wife, Wren, enjoy the sights of New Orleans' French Quarter from the second floor of the church, which houses mission teams who help extend the church's witness in the community.

there, God is really working in them. They are ready to receive the gospel." That openness has prompted Vieux Carre to expand its outreach to the employees of bars, clubs and hotels. Two women at the church, for example, take gift baskets in the afternoon to female dancers in the clubs. They go early, before any of the night's activities begin.

They visit with, talk to and pray for the women in need. Some dancers are fleeing domestic violence; others are trying to support their families. Regardless, Wren Hand said, it's a reminder that "nobody is beyond His love ... His reach."

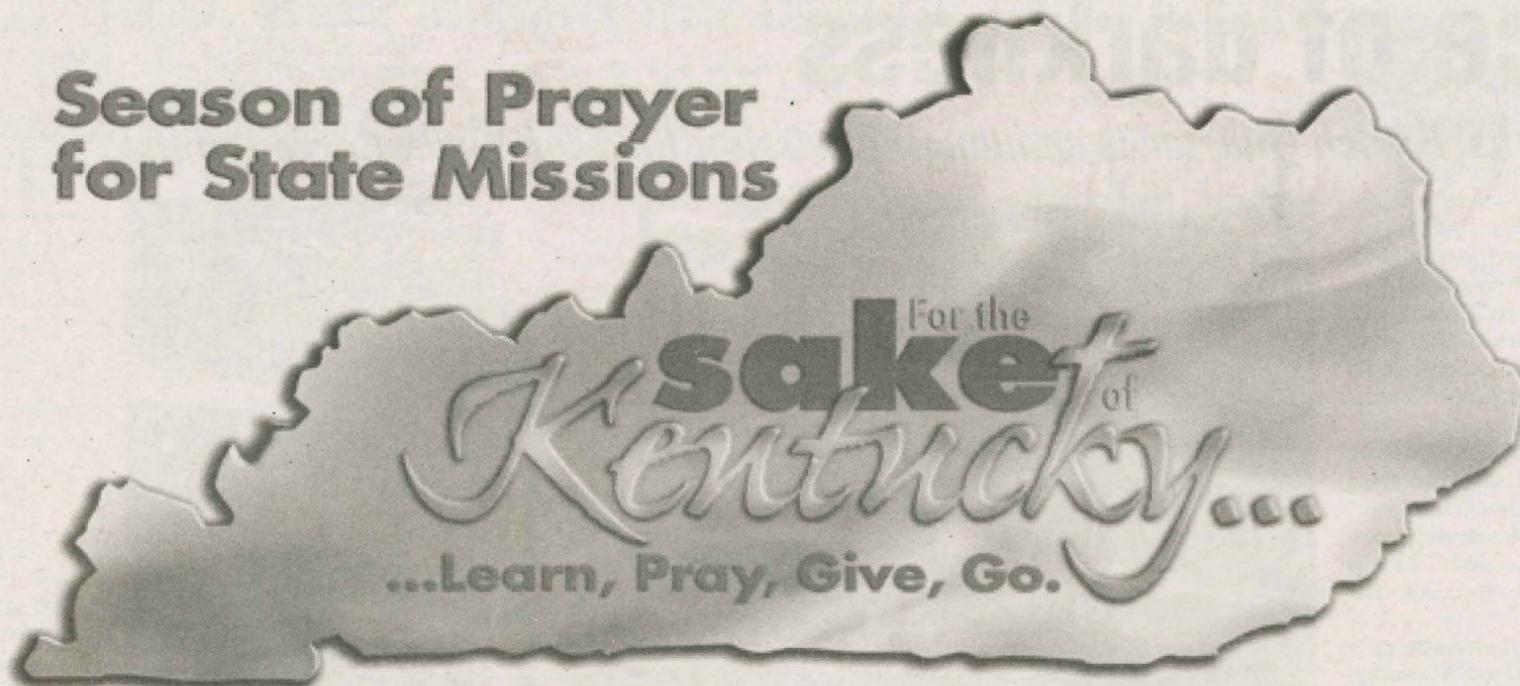
A lighter ministry opportunity comes two Sundays before Mardi Gras. The "Barkus" parade passes by the church, providing a unique opportunity for connecting with the community. As the participants pass with their dressed-up pets, "we have coffee and dog treats as an outreach," Mrs. Hand said.

"We need a lot of prayer cover," she added. Every Monday morning a prayer gathering is held at the church for its outreach to the community, and Hand sends out an e-mail newsletter with prayer requests for the congregation, with a goal of enlisting 100-plus prayer partners.



MUSIC MAKERS Street performers in front of the Cafe Du Monde add to the distinctive flair of New Orleans' French Quarter. Vieux Carre Baptist Church opens its doors during worship services so anyone who passes by can enter.

**Season of Prayer
for State Missions**



*I do all this for the sake of the gospel,
that I may share in its blessings.*

I Corinthians 9:23 (NIV)

2007 Season of Prayer

for State Missions

Suggested week: September 9-16

Eliza Broadus Offering

Offering Goal: \$1,000,000

