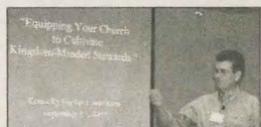


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MTV study finds  
family makes teens the  
happiest. Page 6.**Poll: '08 candidates  
may not be helped  
by religious loyalty****Washington (ABP)**—A new survey of voters' attitudes toward presidential candidates shows that being perceived as highly religious may not help the 2008 hopefuls very much.

The study, released earlier this month by two bipartisan public-interest groups, also suggests that many issues most important to conservative religious voters aren't as important to the wider electorate.

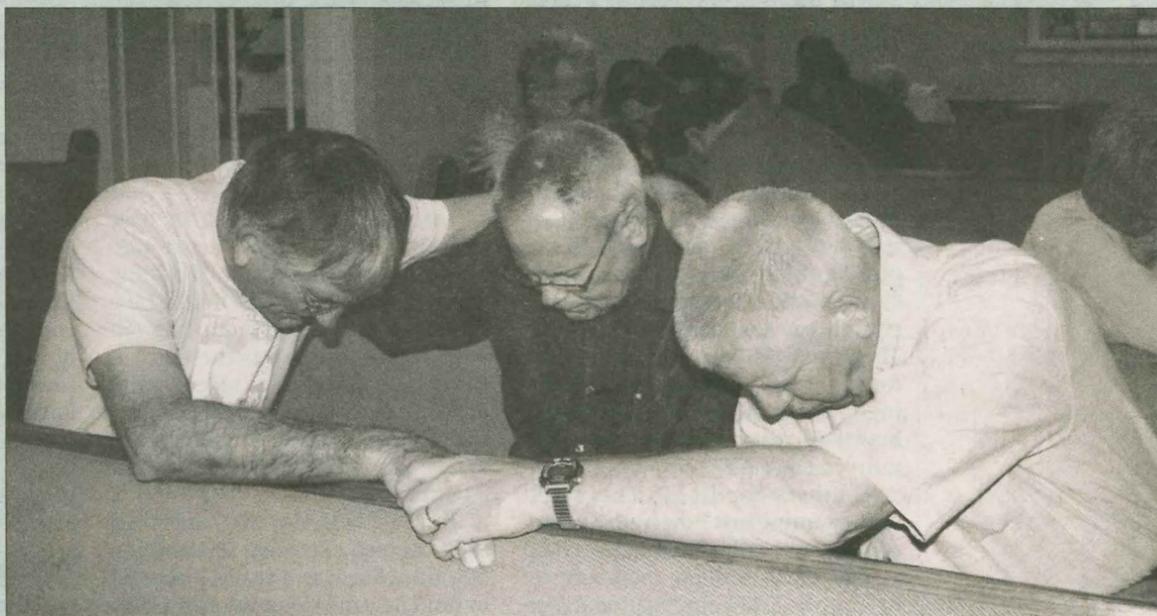
"So far religion is not proving to be a clear-cut positive in the 2008 presidential campaign," the report announcing the survey results noted.

"The candidates viewed by voters as the least religious among the leading contenders are the current front-runners for the Democratic and Republican nominations—Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani, respectively," the report continued. "On the other hand, the candidate seen as far and away the most religious—Mitt Romney—is handicapped by this perception because of voter concerns about Mormonism."

The idea of a Mormon president was least popular among white evangelical Republicans who attend church weekly. Of that group, 41 percent said they would be less likely to vote for a Mormon.

The survey, sponsored by the Pew Forum on Religion &amp; Public Life and the Pew Research Center for the People &amp; the Press, found that only 16 percent of respondents viewed Clinton as "very religious." However, she outpaced Giuliani.

According to the report, the issues most important to voters remain foreign policy and economics rather than social issues many conservative Christian leaders have emphasized.

**'With One Voice'****PRAYER MEETINGS** Thousands of Kentucky Baptists joined hands and hearts in prayer during simultaneous "With One Voice" prayer gatherings Sept. 11 in 70 associations throughout the state. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)**Simultaneous prayer gatherings urge spiritual renewal****By Trennis Henderson**  
Editor**New Castle**—Listening to the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 and singing together "Sweet Hour of Prayer," more than 40 pastors and laypeople from churches across Henry County Baptist Association gathered at First Baptist Church of New Castle for a time of focused prayer the evening of Sept. 11.

But the small crowd of believers wasn't alone. Thousands of fellow Kentucky Baptists bowed in prayer during simultaneous prayer gatherings in 70 associations throughout the commonwealth.

"This is our portion of what is happening all over the state of Ken-

tucky at this very hour," noted Jerry Anderson, Henry County Association's outgoing moderator.

Citing the goals of "seeking the face of our Lord and asking God to pour out His blessings on us and to send revival," Anderson added, "It is our prayer that God is going to be honored."

Likely the largest joint prayer effort in Kentucky Baptist history, "With One Voice" was a statewide follow-up to the previous two years' "Pray the Perimeter" and "Pray the Interior" prayer tours. The gatherings also marked the 300th anniversary of the founding of the first Baptist association in America.

Initial reports indicate that sev-

eral of the prayer services attracted more than 100 participants each. Leaders in each gathering encouraged Kentucky Baptists to pray for spiritual awakening and revival as well as praying for the salvation of non-Christians. Each of the services also included a prayer time for pastors, church staff members and directors of missions.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey helped lead the prayer service for Little Bethel Baptist Association at Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville.

"In the corporate prayer time, I sensed a burden for revival in their  
□ See *Simultaneous prayer ...* Page 3**Journey strives to build 'community of faith' in Boone County****By Drew Nichter**  
News Director**Florence**—Traffic is usually hectic at the intersection of U.S. Highway 42 and Hopeful Church Road in Florence at 5 o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon. Commuters heading home from work wait impatiently at the red light. But on this day, they notice an unexpected surprise at the gas station on the corner.

With nearly every station in the area selling gas for more than \$3 a gallon, the Blue Pantry sign reads \$2.79. Drivers dart in to the parking lot left and right. Some motorists drive by twice before pulling in to fill up.

Waiting for them at each gas pump are members of Journey, one of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's High Impact churches. Each driver is greeted with a cheerful "hello" and asked if they would like to have their gas pumped and their

**OUT AND ABOUT** Journey Pastor Mike Osborne is sending his congregation out into the community to reach the unchurched in Boone County. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

windshield washed. It is the full-service treatment the way it used to be.

Without fail, each driver asks, "Why are you doing this?"

The answer: "It's just a simple way of showing God's love," responds Mike Osborne as he hands a "Connection Card" to a woman waiting in her car.

It is all part of Journey's Fuel Buy Down outreach, the second such

event for the northern Kentucky church. As Osborne explained, Journey partnered with a local gas station to pay for 30 cents of each gallon of gas sold during a two-hour period. During that stretch, church members give motorists the royal treatment at the pumps as a way of reaching out to the community.

Charlene Burlew was driving by with her husband and son and stopped for the discounted gas. The three of them stood outside chatting with Journey members, while their car was being filled up. "This is great," she raved. "I give it two thumbs up."

Community outreach has been the Boone County church's signature since its launch one year ago. Journey has been aggressive with what Osborne calls Link activities, which stem from the group's mission statement, "To love God, love people and link them together," Os-

borne noted.

He called the first Fuel Buy Down event in June "amazing," with extensive live coverage from three Cincinnati television stations. While Osborne considered the exposure "unbelievable," he said the main reason was not just to get Journey's name out there.

"Our primary reason for doing it was to show God's love to those people and to start reaching out and forming a link with them," he explained.

Journey is "really involved in servant evangelism," said Rick Robbins, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association.

Robbins recalled Easter Sunday when a teenage girl came to his home, handed him a potted plant, said "God bless you" and went on her way. "I looked at the card and it was from Journey," he noted.

□ See *Commitment to serve ...* Page 8

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Sept. 19.

## IMB leaders envision 3,000 more overseas missionaries

**“If you are paying more for your utility bill than you are giving to reach a lost world for Christ, how does that make you a missions-minded church?”**

Gordon Fort, IMB vice president of overseas operations

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

Ridgecrest, N.C. (BP)—Many Southern Baptist churches that pride themselves on being “missions-minded” might have a hard time convincing an impartial observer, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board leader told trustees Sept. 12 at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

The meeting was part of a three-day gathering that included a national reunion for about 1,000 emeritus missionaries at Ridgecrest and the appointment of 48 overseas workers at Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden near Asheville.

“As I travel, I hear a lot about how ‘missions-minded’ Southern Baptists are,” said Gordon Fort, IMB vice president of overseas operations. “I often ask, ‘How much does your church pay for utilities each year?’ Then I ask, ‘If you are paying more for your utility bill than you are giving to reach a lost world for Christ, how does that make you a missions-minded church?’”

Southern Baptist churches ought to re-examine just how high a priority missions really is when they claim a total of 16 million members yet have only 5,234 international personnel currently under appointment, Fort said.

### Available missionary force

“Southern Baptists are great to talk about tithing,” he told trustees. “I want to ask whether a church shouldn’t tithe its membership to reach a lost world?” Even if just 1 percent of 10 million active Southern Baptists were to enter the mission force, “we would have 100,000 missionaries. Instead, we have 5,000.”



**DEDICATION** International Mission Board trustees and staff pray for the newly elected leader of Southern Baptist work in East Asia and his wife during the board's Sept. 12 meeting at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. The new leader's name was withheld from publication for security reasons. (IMB photo by Bill Bangham)

Fort noted that IMB leaders have a vision “for 3,000 more active missionaries on the field. ... Adding 3,000 new missionaries might be a difficult task if we were starting out with no resources, but the truth is that those 3,000 new missionaries are already sitting in our churches, and the finances to support them are already in our pockets. It’s not a hard task.”

During their May 2007 meeting, IMB trustees allocated \$5.2 million beyond what was already budgeted to fund new missionaries using 2006 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts to enable sending an additional 200 new missionaries to the field in 2007-08.

The new generation of Southern Baptist overseas missionaries is learning that the responsiveness of groups is directly related to their access to the gospel, IMB President Jerry Rankin said.

“Harvest, or responsiveness, is always linked to access,” Rankin said. “There is no harvest where there is no proclamation.”

“One of our workers in northern Africa—reflecting on the responsiveness they were finding in the Muslim world—told me, ‘We have discovered that where we sow abundantly, we reap abundantly; where we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly,’” Rankin said. “The only reason we haven’t had a more abundant harvest in the Muslim world is that we haven’t found the ways to sow more abundantly.”

### “Whatever it takes” attitude

“These are critical times. Global events are providing unprecedented opportunities to penetrate the lostness of the last frontiers of Great Commission fulfillment,” Rankin declared. “We must adopt the ‘whatever it takes’ attitude of the Apostle Paul, who was willing to risk imprisonment, beating, stoning and a deprived lifestyle that ‘they who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand.’”

The trustee board unanimously elected a new regional leader for the

board’s East Asia region. The new leader, whose name was withheld from publication for security reasons, was the unanimous choice of trustee and administration committees at every stage of the selection process, Fort recounted. This new regional leader has served overseas since 1994 and succeeds Bill Fudge, who retired this past summer after a 34-year missionary career.

In other matters, trustees:

- Were informed by IMB treasurer David Steverson that despite turmoil in the stock market, the board’s investments fared well in July and August, breaking even in two portfolios while many investors lost money.

- Heard a report that during the previous two months \$940,847.58 from the Southern Baptist World Hunger and Relief Fund had been allocated to 27 community development projects and 23 disaster relief efforts worldwide.

- Allocated the remainder of the 2006 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. A total of \$3.7 million was divided as follows: \$1.5 million for initiatives to reach unengaged, unreached people groups; \$600,000 for strategic evangelism initiatives; \$900,000 for field training in church planting movement methodology; \$400,000 for field expenses for student missionaries; and \$300,000 for Bible funds.

The emeritus missionary reunion celebrated the Year of the Emeriti, an event held every five years. This year’s gathering drew about 1,000 retired missionaries representing a collective 26,000 years of service. Sixty new retiring workers joined the emeritus ranks during a recognition service Sept. 11 in Ridgecrest’s Spilman Auditorium.

## Rainer: Biblical fidelity guides LifeWay

By Russ Rankin  
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, told trustees Sept. 10 that beyond the achievements LifeWay is experiencing, it is the organization’s commitment to ministry that brings him the greatest joy.

Rainer, addressing trustees during their semiannual meeting, outlined three areas in which LifeWay’s ministry commitment can be seen: biblical fidelity, relevance in ministry and evangelism.

Biblical inerrancy is the stance of the Southern Baptist Convention “to which we are accountable,” Rainer said. “We must claim without hesitation the mantle of biblical fidelity and depth. LifeWay cannot waver. We stand firm on the Word of God and it is our belief that if we get people deeper into the Word of God, we will see lives transformed.”

Highlighting LifeWay’s Sunday school resources, Rainer said, “Biblical fidelity continues to be a theme as our Sunday school literature gets better each year. I have received more and more positive feedback from people about how Sunday School is meeting their needs.”

The new line of scholarly resources from B&H Academic “has made tremendous strides in its early months and has swept the academic world,” he added.

Out of LifeWay’s commitment to a strong biblical foundation comes an ability to offer relevant resources for ministry, Rainer said, pointing to LifeWay Research, which “has surpassed all expectations” in its first year of ministry.

Rainer said LifeWay also has become “one of the leaders in relevancy in women’s ministry and children’s ministry, particularly with vacation Bible school and the launch of Worship Kid-Style, a new children’s worship ministry.”

Emphasizing the importance of churches participating in VBS, Rainer pointed out that “vacation Bible school continues to be the No. 1 evangelistic ministry in our churches.”

Rainer also affirmed the ministry impact made by LifeWay Christian Stores as managers, assistant managers and employees across the chain of 140 stores “see themselves as ministers. We hear more stories of how people’s lives have been touched by these employees who are leading people to Christ and ministering to them in a time of need. Every time a new store is planted, it is not an expansion of the chain, but a new ministry opportunity.”

Rainer said all across LifeWay there is “a passion for evangelism exhibited by LifeWay employees.” He highlighted “The Invitation CD,” sold at cost through LifeWay Christian Stores. “Essentially a tract on CD, our stores have determined that this is a ministry essential,” he said, adding that LifeWay Stores employees are equipped and ready for opportunities to share the gospel with customers.

As LifeWay continues to look for ways to improve its ministry effectiveness, Rainer concluded, “We’re going to be an organization that puts ministry first. We’re going to stand strong on the fidelity of Scripture. And we’re not going to shy away from the exclusive claims of Jesus Christ.”

## Former Baptist missionary dies in car-train collision in N. Carolina

Black Mountain, N.C. (BP)—Dorothy Pettit, a former Southern Baptist international missionary, was killed Sept. 10 in Black Mountain, N.C., when a train at a railroad crossing struck the car she was driving.

Pettit, 86, of El Paso, Texas, and her husband, Max, were attending a reunion for emeritus missionaries at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center near Black Mountain when the accident occurred.

Pettit and her first husband, the late Marlin Hicks, were appointed as missionaries in 1950 and served in the International Mission Board’s

western South America region until his death in 1957. She transferred to the Middle America and Caribbean region and began serving at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso in 1958. Her missionary service continued until 1968.

She married Max Pettit, a former Southern Baptist missionary to East Asia, in 1968. The two of them worked at the publishing house until their retirement in 1985.

About 1,000 emeritus missionaries gathered at Ridgecrest to attend the reunion, which is held every five years.

## Windermere wins delay in legal battle

Jefferson City, Mo. (ABP)—Windermere Baptist Conference Center will not face a trial this year in its continuing legal battle with the Missouri Baptist Convention, based to a judge’s ruling last week.

The decision is a victory for the center, but attorneys for the MBC labeled it a “delaying tactic.”

At a Sept. 10 hearing, Cole County Circuit Court Judge Richard Callahan granted Windermere’s request to reschedule the trial, which had been set to begin Oct. 12. Attorneys for the center praised the judge’s ruling as an opportunity to present

additional information to the court.

It would have been the first jury trial in the ongoing litigation between the convention and five formerly affiliated institutions. In 2002, MBC filed a lawsuit to regain control of Windermere, the Baptist Home retirement system, Word & Way newspaper, the Missouri Baptist Foundation and Missouri Baptist University.

The convention’s suit seeks to have the institutions’ charter changes to self-perpetuating boards declared illegal. Callahan rescheduled the Windermere trial for Feb. 4-8, 2008.

## Late giving surge helps set CP giving record for 2006-07

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Louisville—A late surge in Cooperative Program receipts from Kentucky Baptist churches pushed the state convention's 2006-07 CP funds to a record level as the fiscal year closed Aug. 31.

Congregations across the state gave a total of \$23,530,304 through the Cooperative Program, an increase of \$143,107 (0.6 percent) over the previous year's record total of \$23,387,197.

While the final total fell \$31,696 (-0.1 percent) below the KBC's budget goal of \$23,562,000, that deficit was much smaller than earlier projections of a \$300,000 to \$400,000 budget goal shortfall.

"It was certainly a final day surge," noted Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC's business services team. He said the \$376,419 received on Aug. 31 "was much larger than a normal last day of the month."

Kentucky Baptists also set two other major giving records, contributing more than \$4.2 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and almost \$1 million to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

"I want to think Kentucky Baptists for giving the largest Eliza Broadus Offering ever," said Joy Bolton, Kentucky Woman's Mission Union executive director. "Every dollar of the goal is budgeted for mis-

sions work in the state."

Affirming the record CP gifts, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said, "I'm sure that all of our Cooperative Program causes were greatly encouraged by the response of church leadership and churches in stepping up to make sure that the funds came in to meet the need."

While pleased with the final total, Mackey acknowledged that lower giving trends during much of the budget year meant "all of the mission causes had to make adjustments to allow for a shortfall in funding."

"It's particularly gratifying to see us finish so close to budget," he added. "I think it's an indication that Kentucky Baptists are committed to missions and evangelism in Kentucky and around the world. They have a heart for fulfilling the Great Commission."

Among other offerings during the year:

- The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering total of \$4,262,408 was an increase of \$313,478 (7.9 percent) over the previous year's record of \$3,948,930.

- The Eliza Broadus Offering total of \$992,696 was \$127,527 (14.7 percent) above the previous year's total of \$865,169. It also was almost \$100,000 higher than the previous record of \$897,648 set in 2003-04.

- The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions



totaled \$1,838,190, falling short of the previous year's offering by \$72,666 (-3.8 percent).

- Restricted Kentucky Only gifts designated specifically for Kentucky Baptist-related ministries declined for the fourth straight year. The designated gifts totaled \$419,235, a de-

cline of \$13,243 (-3.1 percent) from the previous year's total and a drop of more than \$83,000 from its record high of more than \$500,000 in 2002-03.

Ashby noted that the combined shortfall in CP gifts and RKO funds produced an overall budget shortage of \$75,940 for the fiscal year. He added, however, that Mission Board staff members held expenses under total revenue.

"Our spending limitations were put on half-way through the year," he added. "Our folks did a really good job of watching their budgets."

The 2007-08 CP budget goal of \$24 million will require an increase of almost \$470,000 (2 percent) over the past year's contributions.

Looking ahead, Mackey noted, "I think it's positive for Kentucky Baptists in general to know the churches are still strong and together in utilizing the Cooperative Program in funding ministries."

He said the past year's record giving level "gives us something to build on for the future as we pursue Kentucky Baptists Connect and its goals. It gives us some momentum for the future."

"As with any year, it's important for the people to support their churches strongly and on a consistent basis so they can help fund mission causes in Kentucky and around the world through the Cooperative Program channel."

## Foundation initiative highlights planned giving

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Louisville—Financial experts estimate that at least \$41 trillion will be transferred from one generation to the next by the middle of the 21st century.

As charities seek to capitalize on the largest transfer of wealth in U.S. history, what role will local churches play in helping members practice the stewardship of planned giving?

That was among the issues addressed last week in the seminar, "Equipping Your Church to Cultivate Kingdom-Minded Stewards," hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Seminar leader Greg Ring, co-founder of PhilanthroCorp in Colorado Springs, Colo., said his organization seeks to "harness resources that would have otherwise been lost necessarily and redeploy those dollars to impact eternity."

The foundation and PhilanthroCorp recently entered a partnership to provide resources to help Kentucky Baptist churches encourage planned giving among their members.

"I believe there are members in your churches now and in the future who would make a planned gift for the benefit of their church if they were informed and encouraged by the pastor and other church leaders to do that," noted Barry Allen, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Citing "this most opportune time in the history of charitable giving," Allen said the foundation's goal is "to provide you a simple, innovative, cost-effective and proven tool to cultivate Kingdom-minded stewards in



PhilanthroCorp co-founder Greg Ring

your church."

"We really see this as a real spiritual journey that we're on of helping people in the stewardship of their assets," Ring told participants.

While most non-profit organizations' fund-raising efforts focus primarily on cash donations, "cash makes up about 9 percent of your typical member's net worth," Ring emphasized. By contrast, more than 90 percent of most people's assets include such resources as home equity, life insurance death benefits and retirement accounts.

Three primary financial goals for many people focus on tax issues, family issues and "the need to make an impact," Ring noted, adding that "planned giving becomes a way for people to steward not just the 9 percent, but everything."

PhilanthroCorp's partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation involves providing three levels of Web-based resources. The basic level, at a cost of \$250 per month,

includes interactive Web pages "designed to educate your donors about planned giving opportunities from a biblical worldview." It also includes an interactive estate plan organizer, downloadable marketing materials and donor tele-seminars.

The second level, at a cost of \$1,000 per month, adds enhanced Web pages and up to four charitable estate plans per year. The top level, with the cost based on services offered, includes an annual marketing plan, charitable planning assistance for all donors and annual client training sessions.

As part of the new program, the foundation is offering one-year grants of \$250 per month to each of the first 10 Kentucky Baptist congregations that apply and qualify for the service.

Citing the foundation's limited resources to develop its own comprehensive Web-based planned giving program, Allen affirmed the potential impact of partnering with PhilanthroCorp.

"We don't have to reinvent the wheel," Allen said in an interview after the seminar. "We've spent the last eight months in dialogue with PhilanthroCorp and in tweaking their service for it to be applicable in the local church."

Noting that many people "just don't think about their church" as a planned giving recipient, Allen said, "This is a way to help church members with their stewardship and the natural outgrowth is the church will be one of the beneficiaries."

For more information about planned giving resources, contact the foundation at (502) 489-3533 or toll-free at (866) 489-3533.

## Simultaneous prayer events focus on spiritual awakening

Continued from page 1

churches and a heavy burden for the unsaved and a desire for God to use them not only as a living witness but as a verbal witness of their faith in Christ," he said.

Larry Baker, director of the KBC's new work/associational missions department, helped coordinate the statewide prayer emphasis. Leading the prayer service at Henry County Association, he invited participants to divide into groups of three or four and urged prayer for "renewal of our local congregations" as well as prayer for friends and neighbors "who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior."

"Probably the greatest need we have in Henry County and Kentucky and around the world is that we get back to our roots of prayer," Baker added.

Reflecting on the prayer service, Anderson, pastor of Pleasureville Baptist Church, said, "Tonight is probably one of the more shining moments in our association. To see this many of our people from different walks of life come together for a time of prayer was exciting for us."

"It strengthens us to know that at the same time we're petitioning our Lord, we have brothers and sisters all over the state doing the exact same thing."

Several associations also hosted prayerwalks during the day as part of "One With Voice."

Betty Rucker, Woman's Missionary Union director for Henry County Association, said participants "started in the edge of town and prayed for people by name, especially the lost." She said several homebound members also prayed for people on their streets.

"The Scripture says our prayers are a sweet aroma to God's nostrils," Rucker added. "I think He wants us to be changed after this. If there is going to be a change, it has to start with us individually."

Mackey noted that when he first became executive director, a pastor challenged him to help the KBC become known as a convention of prayer.

"Prayer is at the heart of our spiritual foundations," he emphasized. "If God doesn't move among us, we're very limited in what we can do."

Affirming that "we may be on the way to becoming a convention of prayer," Mackey added, "My hope and prayer would be that our churches would become known as houses of prayer."

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

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## Thugs dominate Caesar's realm, not God's

By **Erich Bridges**

Richmond, Va. (BP)—If you're disgusted and disillusioned by U.S. politics, I suggest you count your blessings.

There may not be any new Jeffersons or Washingtons on the horizon, but we've got it better than most. Many places in the world resemble the playgrounds where kids learn the law of the human jungle: Bullies rule.

Sure, schoolyard tough guys occasionally get what they dish out. But that's usually the exception, not the norm. On the global stage, the same age-old story plays out. From neighborhood godfathers to national dictators, thugs thrive.

As Chairman Mao observed, power—the power most people understand, at any rate—“comes from the barrel of a gun.”

The age of the 20th-century “mega thugs” (Mao, Stalin, Hitler) who subjugated vast portions of humanity may have passed, but plenty of wannabes imitate them on a smaller scale.

Examples:

■ Strongmen and spies have reasserted control over some former communist states after an all-too-brief spring of freedom.

■ The nine nations of central Africa, home to nearly 100 million people, are rich in natural resources and should constitute one of the globe's most prosperous areas by now, observes mission strategist Justin Long. Instead, they are “devastated by coups, wars, repressive governments and mismanagement, (and have) become the second-poorest region in the world.”

■ To maintain total control over their crumbling societies and economies, several dictators in Asia and Africa appear quite willing to allow significant percentages of their populations to starve.

■ Some of the world's most dangerous and unstable regimes possess nuclear weapons, and others are working hard to acquire them.

Terrorists likely will obtain nukes within 10 years, predicts Forecasting International, an agency that tracks possible future scenarios. Smaller-scale terrorist attacks will increase and terrorist groups will multiply.

Al Qaeda-inspired franchises and spinoffs might come to political power in “any of perhaps a dozen countries” in the Arab world, South Asia or the “stans” of formerly Soviet Central Asia, warns Forecasting International President Marvin Cetron.

True, some thugs have been brought to justice in recent years, including Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. The five-year-old International Criminal Court is pursuing some of the worst African despots and mass murderers. Liberian warlord Charles Taylor is on trial for crimes against humanity.

“These are uncomfortable times for tyrants, past and present,” suggests *The Economist* magazine. “They used to be able to escape justice through brutality at home, or if that failed, fleeing abroad. Now justice's arms are looking longer and more muscular.”

But long-term prospects aren't encouraging when the supposedly civilized world can't define what tyranny is. Six years after the Sept. 11 attacks, the United Nations General Assembly “lacks the moral clarity to even agree on a definition of terrorism,” wrote human rights expert Joseph Loconte in *Christianity Today*. “Of the 53 member states of the (former U.N.) Human Rights Commission, at least 25 percent were considered ‘not free’ by leading human-rights organizations.”

The U.N. finally abolished the Human Rights Commission last year and replaced it with the new Human Rights Council. But that body, Loconte reported, “appears to have the same hug-a-thug mentality.”

As much as international idealists and proponents of democracy want to believe otherwise, freedom

does not easily bloom in the hard soil of human corruption. Some oppressed peoples even welcome the enforced stability of tyranny as an alternative to widespread chaos.

“The end of the Cold War promised to heal the rift between democracy and dictatorship. More nations would be welcomed into the community of free peoples,” recalls New York Times columnist David Brooks. However, “the fall of communism hasn't created a global community of democracies. It turns out the Russians don't want to be like us. The Arabs don't want help from infidels. The Iraqis' democratic moment has turned into sectarian chaos. The Palestinians have turned theirs into a civil war.”

In such a world, should Christians hunker down and hope for better days? By no means!

Caesars of various sorts may dominate the political realm; Jesus acknowledged as much (Luke 20:25). But they don't control human souls. They might slow the spread of the gospel, but they can't stop it. In many cases, they unwittingly hasten the church's expansion by attempting to control or crush it. Christianity's first great age of growth occurred amid the brutal persecutions—and later the collapse—of the Roman Empire. Most modern mission advances have come through storms of resistance.

The only force that effectively silences the gospel is the reluctance of believers to share it. A follower of Christ recently attempted to tell a man about Jesus in a country long closed to missions. The man immediately stopped him, saying, “Don't talk to me about these things. I was in a Christian country for several years and nobody spoke to me of this when I was there. Why should I listen to you now?”

What a tragic indictment. Remember it the next time you have the opportunity to tell someone from an oppressed land about the Lord.

*Erich Bridges is senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board*

## COMMENTARY

## Kentucky Baptists give generously

The Lord continues to work through Kentucky Baptists in amazing ways for which I am so grateful. After lagging well behind budget and last year's totals for most of the year, Cooperative Program receipts ended up setting a new record as the convention's fiscal year ended on Aug. 31.

Kentucky Baptists gave a total of \$23,530,304 to support missions and ministries through CP—more than ever before and just barely (0.1 percent) under budget. The total was achieved through record giving in August that literally came down to record receipts on the last day of the year (\$376,419 received on Aug. 31).

It is gratifying to witness the way Kentucky Baptist churches and their leaders have responded to meet mission needs. I cannot begin to express the gratitude and encouragement that I have in my soul. It is rewarding to see how God has given Kentucky Baptists a heart of compassion for missions in Kentucky and around the world.

I pray that this commitment will continue into the new fiscal year. The new budget as adopted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention is \$24 million, which is a \$438,000 increase (1.8 percent) over last year's budget.

Kentucky Baptists also set a new record in giving to support missions through the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions (\$992,694). We are so grateful to Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Joy Bolton and the WMU staff for their excellent

promotion of the offering each year. The leadership of the past two KBC presidents and involvement of the Mission Board has also made an impact. It is exciting to see Kentucky Baptists recognizing the tremendous mission needs in Kentucky and responding with generous financial support and involvement.

The funds given are important because they translate directly into lives being changed. For example, Red River Baptist Association, which receives state missions support, has

leveraged partnerships with other associations to start nine new churches, including a High Impact church start.

Recently, I had the privilege of participating in Shively Baptist Church's 75th homecoming celebration. Pastor Bruce Truman has continued to lead the church to be strong in CP missions support, giving 10 percent of undesignated receipts (\$113,146) to support missions through CP in 2006-07.

It is pastors like Bruce Truman and churches like Shively Baptist that enable Kentucky Baptists to make an impact for missions. Hundreds of pastors like Harold Sexton and smaller membership churches like Bethel Baptist Church in Pine Knot who have significantly increased CP giving this past year are also crucial.

It is a tremendous encouragement to KBC and Southern Baptist Convention ministries and to your KBC Mission Board staff when Kentucky Baptists demonstrate such great support. For me, it is an incredible privilege to serve our Lord by serving Kentucky Baptists!

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## GIVING

## Seek to avoid 10 biggest estate planning mistakes

By **Laurie Valentine**

The 10 biggest estate planning mistakes many people make include:

**1. Not executing a will.** If you don't make a will, Kentucky law will govern how your probate assets pass at your death. Your assets may not pass to those

you wish to benefit and unnecessary death taxes may have to be paid.

**2. Wanting just a “simple will.”** Some people leave their spouse everything regardless of the estate's size because the spouse pays no estate taxes. That may only delay the tax until your spouse dies.

**3. Putting everything into joint tenancy.** While that avoids probate, joint ownership between spouses has the same danger as a simple will. And, if you own property jointly with others, such as children, “your” property may become subject to the claims of the child's creditors.

**4. Thinking that avoiding probate will avoid taxes.** It doesn't always. There are advantages to avoiding probate, but saving taxes isn't generally one of them.

**5. Leaving property to one child to “work things out.”** If you leave your assets to one child, he or she is not obligated to give it to other members of your family. It might even cost them in gift taxes to redistribute your assets to those you want to receive them.

**6. Letting your children “take care of” your grandchildren.** In larger estates, it may cost less for you to leave property to grandchildren directly rather than letting your children do it through their own estates.

**7. Failing to consider how your affairs will be handled if you become incapacitated as the result of a stroke, accident or illness.** If you don't plan, a costly guardianship may be required to give someone authority to handle your affairs.

**8. Not using trusts to help beneficiaries handle their inherited wealth.** You can ease beneficiaries into the management of inherited wealth with the use of testamentary trusts.

**9. Not planning for taxes that may be due at your death.** Federal estate taxes are due nine months after death. Children may be forced to sell important family assets at reduced prices if you do not have a proper plan in place.

**10. Procrastination.** The government will love you for this.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation*



## Today's busy families need to slow down, focus on God

**Q: In the midst of today's hectic schedules, are families losing the ability to focus on what truly matters?**

The family has been subjected to several major changes in recent years. Right at the top of the list is the incredible way in which the pace of family life has accelerated to almost warp speed. Dr. Edward Hallowell calls us "crazy busy," and says the implications for children and families are enormous. "Our state of constant activity is sapping us of creativity, human unity, mental well-being and the ability to focus on what truly matters," he noted.

We are losing the ability to sit still, to think, to engage in meaningful conversation and to focus our attention beyond the 20-minute window of TV programming. There is restlessness in our souls as we struggle to be content. "Been there, done that, got the T-shirt" has become our mantra, and the mantra of our children.

Writing in Newsweek, Ronald Dahl, a professor of psychiatry and pediatrics, stated, "What creates exhilaration is not going fast, but going faster. Accelerating from 0 to 60 mph in a few seconds slams the body backward with powerful sensations, but going 60 for hours on the interstate causes so little feeling of speed that we fight to stay awake. Thrills have less to do with speed than changes in speed." This is today's American family.

In the midst of all our busyness and activity, we may also be losing our ability to be still and know that God is God, to connect with God spirit to Spirit, to see the invisible and hear the inaudible, to slow down enough to see God at work in our world and to allow Him to be at work in our lives.—David Garrard

**Q: I have just discovered that my spouse has had an affair. My first impulse is to scream "get out!" However, I realize I want to restore our relationship. How should I begin?**

When Jesus gave the "exception clause" as recorded in the gospel of Matthew, the culture of that day assumed that adultery ended a marriage. Christians are to live by a different expectation. As Christians, we are agents of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20), so that whenever possible, reconciliation should be our first goal.

Today, more marriage educators and therapists are encouraging reconciliation, recognizing that few marriages end specifically because of an affair.

Therapist Penny Tuppy offers this "to do" list:

- Confront your spouse with what you know, derived from phone records, credit card bills or other evidence.
- Talk honestly about how your spouse's unfaithfulness makes you feel.
- Express your love and desire to continue the marriage.
- Tell of your willingness to try whatever is necessary to be the spouse he or she desires.
- Insist on a reasonable degree of accountability for time away from home and expenditures.
- Ask that your spouse's contact with the other person end.
- For now, shift from a mode of expressing all your emotions to an emphasis on rational, logical questions.

Affair repair is extremely tough work. Reconciliation is always a miracle. But God is in the miracle-working business. Although it might not even be possible in a particular case, for Christ followers it ought to at least be on the agenda to give reconciliation a chance.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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



## What's new and newsworthy in KBC life?

What are some of the most significant developments in Kentucky Baptist life these days? You don't have to look any further than pages 1 and 3 of this week's Western Recorder to find a variety of answers.

**Cooperative Program giving.** After lagging behind budget and behind the previous year's giving total for behind the year, Kentucky Baptists' Cooperative Program contributions recorded a significant surge in the final month—and day—of the fiscal year to post a record total of more than \$23.5 million. The 2006-07 CP gifts topped the previous year's record by more than \$140,000 and fell short of the \$23,562,000 budget goal by less than \$32,000. Kentucky Baptist congregations also set records for giving to the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

"It is especially gratifying that Kentucky Baptists have continued to make support of missions a priority although there are compelling local priorities as well," noted Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey. "It gives us something to build on for the future as we pursue Kentucky Baptists Connect and its goals."

Kentucky Baptists are to be commended for their sacrificial giving on behalf of state, national and international ministry and mission efforts. With a challenging \$24 million CP goal for 2007-08, it is vital for local churches and individuals to continue to make CP giving a major ministry priority.

**"With One Voice" simultaneous prayer gatherings.** Kentucky Baptists' growing commitment to prayer for spiritual renewal and awakening is becoming a hallmark of Baptist life throughout the commonwealth. The KBC's Sept. 11 "With One Voice" prayer emphasis involved thousands of Baptist pastors and laypeople gathering for simultaneous prayer in 70 associations across the state. The prayer focus comes on the heels of the previous two years' "Pray the Perimeter" and "Pray the Interior" prayer tours.

Reflecting the biblical call in Romans 15:6 for believers to glorify God "with one voice," the prayer services offered a vivid reminder of the importance of Christian brothers and sisters setting aside differ-

ences and coming together in unity for the sake of God's Kingdom.

**Kentucky Baptists' High Impact Church initiative.**

A key part of the state convention's five-year Kentucky Baptists Connect strategy is providing a total of \$2.5 million to help 25 High Impact churches organize, grow and minister in key locations throughout the state.

News Director Drew Nichter is midway through a multi-part series highlighting each of the High Impact congregations already ministering in Kentucky. Already profiling churches in Ashland, Lexington, Louisville, Mount Sterling and Stanford, this week's installment focuses on Journey in the Union/Florence area. Future articles will spotlight churches from Murray to Paint-

ville and several points in between. Among the goals of the series are to detail how Kentucky Baptists' High Impact funds are being used, chronicle what innovative ministry efforts are under way and share creative ideas other congregations can learn and adapt along the way.

"We're all on a journey," emphasized Journey Pastor Mike Osborne. "We're just showing God's love in a simple way."

**The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's planned giving partnership with PhilanthroCorp.** The foundation hosted a 90-minute seminar at the Baptist Building last week to unveil a planned giving initiative in cooperation with PhilanthroCorp of Colorado Springs, Colo. The focus of the event was to preview Web-based resources for churches to help members become "Kingdom-minded stewards."

According to KBF President Barry Allen, "If 10 percent of Kentucky Baptist churches had five members a year make a planned gift that averaged in current value just \$100,000, that's 126 million a year. In 10 years, that's \$1.3 billion." As Kentucky Baptist churches plan and prepare for future ministry, those are numbers worth carefully considering to help finance the spread of the gospel at home and around the world.

One additional note from the editor: Remember that you and your fellow church members can learn a lot from reading the Western Recorder each week. But don't take my word for it. Read this issue and see for yourself.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Calculating the SBC president's pay

By Frank Page

**Taylors, S.C.** (BP)—Recently, Jack Wilkerson, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's vice president for business and finance, sent me his well-worded reply to a request for information from a dear brother in our convention.

This brother was seeking information on the salary of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as others.

When I read the request as well as the reply, my first response was to chuckle. It seems, across our nation, there are many people who believe that the SBC president is a salaried position or at least a position with a large stipend attached to it.

The reality is, as Wilkerson informed this dear brother, that the president of the SBC serves without salary compensation. He does receive travel reimbursement for actual expenses, but no salary from the Executive Committee or the Southern Baptist Convention.

However, I want to focus on the real benefit that comes to the pres-

ident of the Southern Baptist Convention. Here are four:

**1.** He becomes the recipient of hundreds of thousands of people who pray for him daily. I cannot express to you what this benefit has meant to me. It has enabled me to move far beyond my own abilities and minister and lead in ways that only God could enable. While I have been less than perfect and have made many mistakes, God has enabled me to move far beyond my own limited abilities.

**2.** He is the recipient of building relationships with some of the most precious people in the world. I have seen across our nation people who want to be serious in their following of the Great Commission of our Lord. They are sweet-spirited, evangelistic, giving people. It gives me hope when I see the number of young laypeople as well as pastors who join with median age and older adults who are truly and deeply concerned about our convention. This fringe benefit is one that I will never forget. It has enabled me to build relationships with some won-

derful people.

**3.** He sees churches get excited about missions and evangelism. Yes, people are tired of the fussing and fighting of many leaders, but overall, churches are anxious to learn how to move forward so that they might be transformed to become the mission-supporting and -sending agencies that God intended them to be. I have been greatly encouraged across the land to see churches that will not be caught up in that which distracts and are seriously committed to a Kingdom agenda and vision. This is a fringe benefit that I will never forget.

**4.** He travels across the nation and shares Christ with many people. I have seen the hunger of a lost continent and world who are crying out for authentic Christianity. To be able to travel, to witness across this land—more than I ever have done in my life—has encouraged me to realize that people are very open to the good news of Christ.

The SBC president receives no salary, but the fringe benefits are out of this world.

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

## MTV study: Family makes teens happiest

**"It frankly surprises me that MTV allowed the results to be posted because it really contradicts everything that network is about."**

Bill Maier, vice president of Focus on the Family

New York (BP)—Straight from MTV comes a report that concludes today's youth are happiest when they are with their family and most of them hope to marry and have children of their own someday.

The study, commissioned by MTV and the Associated Press, found that nearly three-quarters of people between the ages of 13 and 24 said their relationship with their parents makes them happy. They also said having sex and using drugs does not really make them happy and spirituality is important to them.

Richard Ross, professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said the study results are positive because great relationships with parents lead to stronger spiritual impact in the lives of youth.

"I like to picture relationships as a pipe connecting the hearts of parents and children," Ross said. "When the pipe is strong, then spiritual impact flows easily from parent to child. But when the pipe is weak or even absent, even Christian parents have limited spiritual impact on their teenagers."

Bill Maier, vice president and psychologist in residence at Focus on the Family, said one remarkable part of the study is that the results "fly in the face" of the corrupted cultural values MTV promotes.

"MTV would say that kids just want pleasure and material goods,

and they're not interested in marriage or commitment and they reject their parents' values," Maier noted. "This poll shows just the opposite."

"It frankly surprises me that MTV allowed the results to be posted because it really contradicts everything that network is about," he added.

Nearly half of the 1,280 students surveyed mentioned one of their parents when they were asked to name their heroes. More than 10 percent mentioned God as their hero, the study noted.

Forty-four percent of youth said religion and spirituality are either a very important or the single most important thing in their lives, and those for whom religion and spirituality play a bigger role in life tend to be happier, MTV said.

Ross pointed out that research such as the MTV study is leading youth leaders to make fundamental changes in how they approach their work.

"Rather than always separating teenagers from their parents, the forward-thinking ones are designing engaging ways to bring the generations together," he said. "Youth leaders who train parents how to build great family relationships and how to spiritually lead in the home have the greatest opportunity to see teenagers transformed."

MTV called the study "part of the

network's ongoing commitment to maintaining an unparalleled understanding of the youth audience."

Among other findings from the study:

■ While some might expect money to be the object of desire for most teens, it didn't even come up in the vast majority of the interviews.

■ "Almost no respondents mentioned anything financial or material as a source of happiness when asked an unaided question about what makes them happy," MTV noted.

■ Nearly two-thirds of the respondents said cell phones, the Internet and other technologies make people happier. Rather than a source of stress, the youth said they would be more stressed without technology.

■ Today's youth have their share of stress, though. The study said a lot of young people feel stress, particularly those from the middle class, and females more than males.

■ Those who use alcohol are slightly less happy than those who don't drink, and those who don't use drugs are happier than those who do, the study said.

■ For 13- to 17-year-olds especially, being sexually active leads to less happiness.

■ Despite a frequent cultural portrayal of marriage as outdated, 92 percent of the youth surveyed said they either definitely or probably want to get married someday.

## IRS clears Dobson of wrongdoing in endorsement case

Washington (RNS)—The Internal Revenue Service has cleared Focus on the Family Chairman James Dobson after an investigation into charges he had violated IRS rules by practicing prohibited politicking.

"Our examination revealed that Dr. Dobson's reported remarks did not occur in publications of Focus on the Family, did not occur at functions of Focus on the Family, and did not involve Dr. Dobson suggesting that he was speaking as a representative of Focus on the Family," the IRS said.

The agency spent almost a year auditing Dobson's ministries after receiving a 99-page request in November of 2005 from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, which accused Dobson of endorsing Republican candidates and requested the revocation of Focus on the Family's tax-exempt status.

The IRS sent letters reaffirming the continuing tax-exempt status of both Focus on the Family and Focus on the Family Action, its political arm that has greater latitude to be involved in lobbying activities.

**Unity**

**IN ACTION**

Atlanta, Georgia  
January 30-February 1, 2008

Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant,  
a history-making milestone for  
Baptists in North America.

Spread the gospel. Promote peace with justice. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Care for the sick and marginalized. Welcome the strangers among us. Set at liberty those who are oppressed.

These biblical mandates are shared by Baptists of all North American geographies, races, cultures and theologies. Members from all these groups will gather in Atlanta Jan. 30-Feb. 1 and explore ways to accomplish — together — the goals that Jesus inspired in Luke 4:18-19. The New Baptist Covenant Celebration will be a history-making event. Register for it today, and experience the power of unity at work.

### PLENARY SPEAKERS:

- Charles Adams
- Tony Campolo
- Jimmy Carter
- Bill Clinton
- Al Gore
- Lindsey Graham
- Chuck Grassley
- Joel Gregory
- Bill Moyers
- Julie Pennington-Russell
- William Shaw
- Marian Wright Edelman

Plus 16 special interest sessions.

For program information, registration form or details about housing and transportation, visit our website [www.newbaptistcovenant.org](http://www.newbaptistcovenant.org) Or call (678) 547-6455.

*Celebration*  
OF A  
**NEW BAPTIST  
COVENANT**

### Don't forget special IRA opportunity

#### Limited option can enhance qualified charitable giving

Last year Congress approved a window of opportunity to make direct contributions from both traditional and Roth IRAs to qualified charitable organizations. The charitable IRA rollover provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 provide a significant yet limited opportunity to utilize this important source for charitable giving purposes.

It's significant because (1) for many, IRA accounts have become their largest asset, but until now, the tax laws discouraged charitable gifts using IRA assets during life; (2) it allows certain individuals to donate up to \$100,000 per year of funds accrued in IRA accounts without including them in their taxable gross income, and the gift counts toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution; and (3) it is simpler than taking a distribution, giving the money and then claiming a deduction.

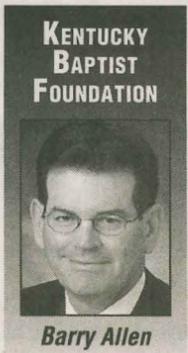
It's limited because (1) you must be at least age 70 and a half; (2) you had only two years to give from your IRA, 2006 and 2007; and (3) your IRA custodian/trustee must transfer the assets directly to the qualified charitable organization.

Transfers to donor advised funds, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, supporting organizations, private foundations or other giving vehicles do not qualify.

If you are age 70 and a half, already taking a required minimum distribution, but do not need the additional income, this could be that window of opportunity to make a significant tax-advantaged gift to your church and other favorite charitable organizations. If you desire to give in 2007 more than the deductibility ceiling of 50 percent of your adjusted gross income, this is an opportunity to fulfill that desire. Perhaps you have desired to make a significant gift during your lifetime, but did not want to use after-tax assets. Now is your opportunity as well. Couples can give up to \$200,000 in 2007.

You can transfer IRA assets to the KBF to establish or add to a permanent endowment fund that perpetually supports your charitable interests. Call Laurie Valentine to discover how the new IRA charitable rollover can work for you.

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



Barry Allen

### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp

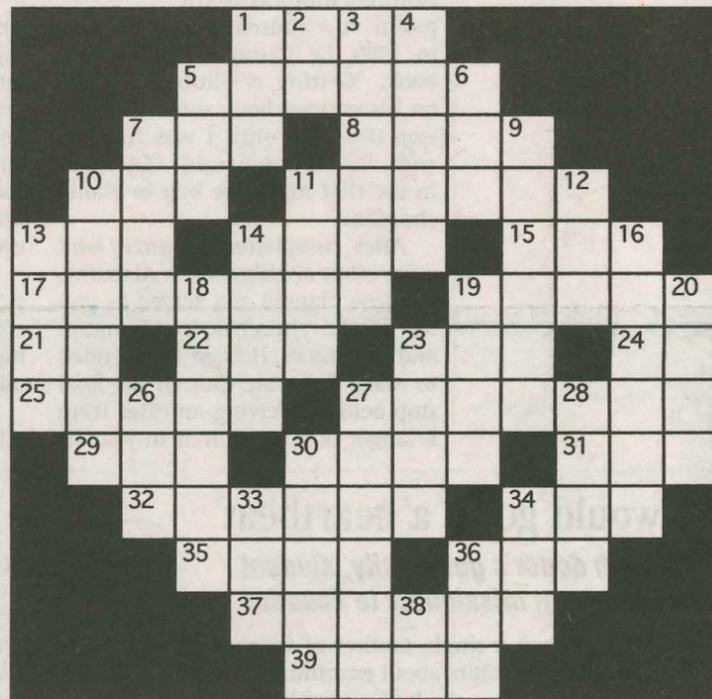


### Bible Crosswords

By Janet W. Adkins

#### Across

- 1 "The children of the \_\_\_\_ were gathered together" (Judges 6:33)
- 5 "Why \_\_\_\_ ye not the breaches of the house?" (2 Kings 12:7)
- 7 "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I \_\_\_\_ mine own inheritance" (Ruth 4:6)
- 8 A son of Helem (1 Chronicles 7:35)
- 10 "How \_\_\_\_ I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?" (Esther 8:6)
- 11 Moves covertly
- 13 Etruscan god
- 14 "And they straightway left their \_\_\_\_, and followed him" (Matthew 4:20)
- 15 A Babylonian chief god
- 17 "\_\_\_\_, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession" (Acts 5:1)
- 19 "And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, \_\_\_\_ and kids" (2 Chronicles 35:7)
- 21 Doctor's degree
- 22 "Go to the \_\_\_\_, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 23 Capuchin monkey
- 24 Artificial language
- 25 "Even upon his forefront, did he put the golden \_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 8:9)
- 27 Political representative
- 29 "Of \_\_\_\_, the family of the Erites" (Numbers 26:16)
- 30 "Have they not \_\_\_\_?" (Judges 5:30)
- 31 "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 2:16)
- 32 A vessel in which substances are pounded
- 34 "He shall not search whether it be good or \_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 27:33)

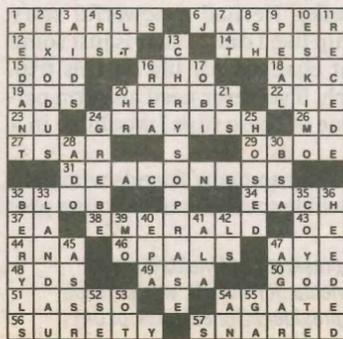


- 35 "And the priest may bring her \_\_\_\_ and set her before the Lord" (Numbers 5:16)
- 36 Swiss river
- 37 "Bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my \_\_\_\_ of promise" (Numbers 14:34)
- 39 Revise, prepare for publication

#### Down

- 1 Poetic "ever"
- 2 News agency, abbr.
- 3 "Gather my \_\_\_\_ together unto me" (Psalm 50:5)
- 4 "What have I done ... that thou hast smitten me these three \_\_\_\_?" (Numbers 22:28)
- 5 "And he \_\_\_\_ before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him" (Luke 19:4)
- 6 Genetic material
- 7 "Call me not Naomi, call me \_\_\_\_" (Ruth 1:20)
- 9 Modern Achai in Greece
- 10 "Her \_\_\_\_ goeth not out by night" (Proverbs 31:18)
- 11 "Nor sitteth in the \_\_\_\_ of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1)
- 12 "Arphaxad, which was the son of \_\_\_\_, which was the son of Noe" (Luke 3:36)
- 13 "Thy word is a \_\_\_\_ unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105)
- 14 "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the \_\_\_\_?" (Luke 17:17)
- 16 "Till ye have scattered them \_\_\_\_" (Ezekiel 34:21)
- 18 "And \_\_\_\_ was destroyed of nation, and city of city" (2 Chronicles 15:6)
- 19 "Behold, the people of the \_\_\_\_ now are many" (Exodus 5:5)
- 20 "Certain lewd fellows of the baser \_\_\_\_" (Acts 17:5)
- 23 "And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the \_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 9:19)
- 26 "With a strong hand, and with a stretched out \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 136:12)
- 27 "He \_\_\_\_ not their soul from death" (Psalm 78:50)
- 28 "The wild beast shall \_\_\_\_ them" (Hosea 13:8)
- 30 "They look and \_\_\_\_ upon me" (Psalm 22:17)
- 33 Confederate soldier Johnny \_\_\_\_
- 34 \_\_\_\_, humbug!
- 36 Play division
- 38 "And Joshua sent men from Jericho to \_\_\_\_" (Joshua 7:2)

#### Last week's solution



# No shopping cart needed.

September-October is time for Sunrise Children's Services' Food Round-Up! Simply buy gift cards to Kroger, Walmart or other grocery stores and turn them in at participating churches or mail them to Sunrise. Your contribution of cards or cash, rather than cans, helps Sunrise provide fresh, nutritious meals to the more than 300 children in our care every day of the year.

(800) 456-1386

## Commitment to serve, link with community drives Journey

### JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

**Location:**  
Union/Florence

**Pastor:**  
Mike Osborne

**Launch Date:**  
Sept. 17, 2006

**Sponsoring Church:**  
Erlanger Baptist Church

*Continued from page 1*

It was Robbins' intention to start several new churches in Boone County, which is consistently listed each year as one of Kentucky's fastest-growing counties. He pointed out that 46 percent of the people who live in the county were born outside of the state. "Many of them don't have a Baptist or even a Bible-belt relationship," he added. "So they are relating more to some of the non-traditional churches."

And Osborne, 45, was just the guy for planting such a church. He previously started and led two other churches—The Church at Andover in Lexington and Riverside Church in Cincinnati.

Osborne credited an "entrepreneurial spirit" and "hard-wiring" for his desire to plant churches. "I think God made me to be this way," he said.

A chance encounter with a textbook helped Osborne discover his mission. As a young assistant pastor at a church in Linden, Ala., in 1989, he found Elmer Townes' book, "Getting a Church Started" on his pastor's book shelf. "I didn't stop (reading) until I was finished with it," Osborne said. "God put in me that night the bug to plant" churches.

After completing seminary and a few stops at churches in Alabama, Osborne planted and served as pastor of the churches in Lexington and Cincinnati. He said he intended to make Riverside Church his final stop before receiving an offer from Erlanger Baptist Church to join its

pastoral staff. Osborne turned down the offer, but as he put it, "God just really bugged me for the next few weeks."

So after 15 years as a church planter, Osborne joined the Erlanger staff. He said that even though "God really confirmed" the move, "within three months, I was just restless as could be."

He soon found out that Robbins and Northern Kentucky Association were looking to plant a church in the area. Osborne contacted Larry Baker, KBC's director of new work and associational missions, about the High Impact program. With a wealth of church planting experience, Osborne became an obvious choice to lead a new church.

With the High Impact opportunity before him, Osborne went to Dan Francis, Erlanger Baptist's senior pastor at the time, to share his vision and "slip out quietly," according to Osborne. Francis refused to let him do so; instead pledging Erlanger's support for the new work and becoming Journey's sponsoring church. Osborne left Erlanger Baptist in June of 2006 and the launch team held its first meeting that same evening.

While still in its infancy, Osborne struggled with what to call the new congregation. After a lot of prayer, he said the name Journey just stood out to him.

The name "connotes that we're all on a journey and everybody's liv-



**SIMPLE SERVICE** ■ Above: Bill Shatto washes a driver's windshield. ■ Right: BP employee Lisa Mulberry changes the roadside marquee to reflect the 30-cent discount. (Photos by Drew Nichter)



ing a lifetime journey," Osborne noted. "Everybody can connect with that."

The end result was Journey: A Community of Faith. But there is something missing from the name—the word "church."

"We purposely stayed away from it and I've gotten a little bit of flack for that," Osborne said.

"A lot of people today say that they're turned off by ... organized religion or they've been hurt by a church," he added. "We just wanted to come out with a fresh kind of feel. Why hang baggage on something you're trying to do that you want to be successful and new?"

Osborne said he also believes leaving the word "Baptist" out of the name is key to reaching an area of Kentucky that he called "quite different" from the rest of the state.

"One of the influences here is a very strong Catholic influence," Osborne pointed out. "To me, that makes it all the more positive to leave 'Baptist' out of the name. We're not ashamed of who we are.

When people ask, we tell them who we are.

"But why let seven letters keep people away from Christ?"

And Journey's members have done their best not to let anything keep them from sharing the love of Christ with their community. While there is nothing new about servant evangelism, Osborne is taking the concept up a notch in northern Kentucky.

From more traditional outreach events such as collecting food for the hungry, to the less conventional idea of handing out skateboard wax to teenagers at the local skate park, Journey is determined to maintain a presence outside the church walls.

As for the Fuel Buy Down, the church bought 4,400 gallons of gas for Boone County drivers at two different stations to the tune of \$1,350. Osborne said he considered that a complete success, but not because of the amount of fuel sold. As Journey's pastor declared over and over, "We're just showing God's love in a simple way."

## 'I would go in a heartbeat'

### Through donor's generosity, student is short-term missionary to Ecuador

Five years ago a single mother of four came into my office to inquire about enrolling her children. I already knew she had a very limited income and would need scholarships for all four children.

Before coming to Oneida, the eldest child—I've referred to him as "Mark" in previous columns—had considerable difficulty at school; basically, he was failing all his classes. A family member encouraged Mark's mom to enroll her children at OBI.

I have shared with you some of the improvements Mark has made in the four years he has been at Oneida. He just began his fifth, and senior, year.

We are blessed to have many friends who make our work possible by providing the resources to make scholarships available to deserving students. One of our very special friends also makes it possible for two of our students to make a week-long mission trip to different parts of the world with all expenses paid. It is the opportunity of a lifetime for many students who would otherwise never make such a trip. Mark was one of two boys chosen this year to make a summer mission trip to Ecuador.

I am sure Mark had no idea what to expect, and coming from an impoverished background, he likely thought that he was about as poor as they come. I am going to share part of a letter he wrote to this special sponsor about his trip. Among other things, Mark realized that there are many people much worse off economically than he.

"I am writing to thank you for giving me the wonderful opportunity to go to Ecuador last month," he began. "I would also like to tell you

some of the great experiences I had while I was there. I had a wonderful time with the kids. We went to a refugee area where a lot of poor kids were. Almost instantly one of the little girls there came to me and grabbed my hand and was pulling me to see her house. The moment I walked in I wanted to cry. I was hit so hard when I saw her bamboo house and dirt floors.

"When we went back outside we got in a circle and sang songs and played games. It made me so happy to see the children smile and have fun with us. After that, my schoolmate and I acted out David and Goliath for them. They were so into the story and they listened so well.

"When the day came to an end we said our good-byes. I wanted to stay with them so badly but I couldn't, so we left that night with one of my best memories I will ever have. ... A few days later we went to see the school we were helping to build. It was bad because there

were holes in the floor, and overall it was not very sturdy at all. The kids there sang for us and gave us gifts they had made for us. I met some awesome people there and made many friends, including some of the staff. One was Tony who came from Nebraska. He had a powerful story and kind of grew up like I did. ... That is just some of the things that changed my life on this trip. Thank you so much. If you ever need an extra person for another one of these trips I would go in a heartbeat."

We are thankful for so many friends who help us and make it possible to reach out to young people in need.

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



W.F. Underwood

## The center of God's will

### Student tells of the peace that comes from being there

Everyone is different and unique, so every student's story at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is different and wonderfully unique. One of my great pleasures is getting to know the students and hearing how God is at work in each life.

Tiffany Edmisson recently shared some of her journey. She is from Breckinridge County and attended two liberal arts schools prior to coming to Clear Creek.

"I love it here," Edmisson said. "I like the mountains, and I just love learning about God and the Bible and learning how to apply that knowledge."

She heard about Clear Creek from three friends who are brothers and current Clear Creek students.

Their enthusiasm for the college was contagious but Tiffany said when she prayed about enrolling, she received no clear answer from God. She decided to wait until fall before starting classes, then she said she heard a clear challenge from God.

As she brushed her hair in front of a mirror, she said she felt God asking her: "What would you look like if you weren't afraid?"

Tiffany accepted this as a call to

faith and action, so she called Director of Admissions Billy Howell.

"Is there any way I could change my application and begin this semester?" she asked.

Howell told her that could be arranged, but there was a twist. Orientation started the next day.

"You really need to be here today," Howell advised.

Tiffany called her mother at work. "Mom, I'm going to Clear Creek."

"Okay," her mom replied.

"No," Edmisson said. "I mean today!"

Tiffany loves music and enjoys working with people. "Whatever avenue God steers me in, I'll go," she said. That deter-

mination recently took her to Alaska on a mission trip.

Tiffany said she woke up one morning not a Clear Creek student and went to bed that night in her dorm room.

She went to bed in the center of God's will. That's a good place to be, and Clear Creek is a good place to experience it.

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



Donnie Fox

## Seeing double



University of the Cumberlands has 10 sets of twins beginning their freshman year this fall. Front row (from left): Kyle and Clint Creekmore from Williamsburg; Eric and Erin Wenstrand from Elizabethtown; Lindsay and Jonathan Boulter from Jefferson City, Tenn. Middle row (from left): Whitney and Courtney Delk from Jamestown, Tenn.; Lucas and Alex Frye from Clinton, Tenn.; Sarah and Rachel Specht from Alexandria. Back row (from left): John and Drew Hill from Carlisle, Ohio; Jason and Josh Hallock from Corbin; Casey and Courtney Hamm from London; Chad and Quentin Young from Williamsburg. While this fall boasts the highest registration numbers since 1992 for the university, the 20 individuals make up more than 4 percent of the freshman class. (Photo courtesy of University of the Cumberlands)

## Convocation marks 5 years for Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Lexington—Baptist Seminary of Kentucky celebrated its fifth anniversary Sept. 8 with a convocation at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington where the seminary began in 2002.

Georgia pastor Emmanuel McCall, vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and immediate past moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, was the keynote speaker. Delivering a message titled "Come and Dine," McCall stressed the importance of providing the theological resources needed for ministerial students in the region.

At a luncheon preceding the convocation, the seminary recognized its founding trustees and its organizing group, the Committee for BSK.

Now located on the campus of Lexington Theological Seminary, BSK began its sixth year in August with more than 50 students enrolled.

Seminary President Greg Earwood spoke during the convocation on the topic of "Pioneers in Faith:

Walking Together."

"On Oct. 30, 1995, a group of pioneering laity and ministers gathered in Frankfort, Ky., to seek a new direction for Baptists committed to the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local church, the separation of church and state, the formative principles of our Baptist heritage," Earwood said. "In 2002, the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky was established with the goal of emphasizing our Baptist principles as an alternative to religious indoctrination."

After describing a financial campaign called "Come Walk with Us," Earwood announced that 39 donors had pledged more than \$775,000, including more than \$500,00 that already had been received.

"By walking together we can continue to fulfill the dream of those pioneers who envisioned BSK," Earwood declared. "By walking together we can prepare women and men called by God for Christian ministry in this region."

## Seminar encourages couples to strengthen their marriages

Fort Mitchell—Couples seeking biblical encouragement and insights for nurturing healthy marriage relationships can attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention's "Celebrate Oneness" seminar, Sept. 29 at Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

"Celebrate Oneness" is designed to help couples understand how to learn from mistakes, grow together in ministry, communicate more effectively and share their faith as partners. Couples also will have an opportunity to renew their marriage vows.

Sponsored by the KBC's leadership development team, the event will run from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., and will include fellowship, worship and workshop sessions.

Participants will choose from four workshop sessions to attend. Options include "Lessons Learned Along the Way," "Partners in Minis-

try," "Husband and Wife: Partners in Christ," and "Communication: Honey, Can You Hear Me?"

Four Kentucky couples will lead the sessions: Trennis and Pam Henderson of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood; Benny and Kimmy Stofer of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green; Lee and Rachel Webb of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville; and Steve and Marlene Kinman of Sherman Baptist Church in Dry Ridge.

Childcare will be provided at no extra cost for children birth through fifth grade. To arrange childcare, call Fort Mitchell Baptist Church at (859) 331-2160.

The cost to register for the event is \$35 per couple and includes lunch. For more information or to register, visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org) or call (502) 489-3580 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3580.

## Workshops equip newcomers to creative ministries

Louisville—Churches interested in beginning or strengthening a creative ministry outreach can take advantage of training at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries 101 Workshops.

Designed for beginners but adaptable for more advanced learners, the workshops will be held Oct. 27 at Union Baptist Church in Union, and Nov. 3 at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro. Both events will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"These practical workshops are for churches who do very little or nothing at all in the area of creative ministries," said Tom Smoot, the KBC's creative ministries coordinator. "We want to help churches understand how to put together a team and how to teach that team."

Creative Ministries 101 offers workshops similar to those featured at the statewide festivals held each year in March. Participants can choose three sessions to attend from more than 25 creative arts workshops.

Registration is \$10 per person before Oct. 12 and \$15 per person after that date. Discounted group pricing is available for groups of six or more.

To register or for more information, visit [www.kybaptist.org/cm101](http://www.kybaptist.org/cm101) or call (502) 489-3574 or toll-free in Kentucky (866) 489-3574.

## KBC offers training for those interested in church planting

Louisville—Those involved or interested in beginning new churches can benefit from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Basic Training for Church Planters event next month.

Sponsored by the KBC and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, the training will be held Oct. 4-6 at the Baptist Building in Louisville.

Participants will gain basic skills and explore strategic issues of the church planting process. Individuals also will learn how to customize a church planting prospectus designed to fit their needs.

Featured speakers will include Larry Baker, the KBC's new work and associational missions director; and Alan Witham, church development strategist for the KBC. Discussion topics will include vision, mas-

ter plan, leadership development, core groups, administrative issues and mileposts.

The event is open to church planting teams, church planters and their spouses, sponsoring or partnering church leadership, and anyone considering planting a church.

The training sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 4-5, and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 6.

The cost to attend is \$30 per person with a maximum of \$120 per team if registered before Sept. 30. After that date, the cost is \$35 per person with a maximum of \$180 per team.

To register, visit the Web site [www.kybaptist.org/basictraining](http://www.kybaptist.org/basictraining) or call (502) 489-3528 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3528.

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## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for Scott and Joyce Pittman, on-site coordinators for Kentucky Baptists' partnership in Brazil, as they plan mission projects for 2008.

■ Pray for the ministry of Southern Baptist missionaries Earl and Robin Pinkston in Malta. Pray also for their children, including their new baby, Nathan.

■ Pray for missionary kids around the world as they begin a new school year.

■ Pray for the victims of recent wildfires in Greece that have killed more than 60 people and destroyed hundreds of homes.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALLEN**—Allen Church will host a benefit gospel sing for the Haven of Rest ministry Sept. 22, 6 p.m. For more information, call (606) 874-9468.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Burton Memorial Church will host **Brad Waggoner** of LifeWay Christian Resources as guest preacher Sept. 23, 6 p.m., as part of the church's Super Sunday Nights of September services. **Kevin Hash** is pastor.

■ **BRONSTON**—First Church called **Carter Stewart** as pastor effective Sept. 2. Former pastor **Johnnie Helton** retired Aug. 31 and is available for pulpit supply.

■ **BUCKNER**—Buckner Church recently called **Lynn Traylor** as senior pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Liberty Point Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 23 with **Wayne Glass** as featured speaker. For more information, call (270) 522-3958.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardville Church ordained **Doug Nettle** and **Brad Rumer** as deacons Aug. 19. **Stuart Clem** resigned as minister to children.

**Jeff Fuson**, youth pastor at Crestwood Church, resigned to become founding pastor for a new church targeting unreached people in the northwestern part of Oldham County. Worship leader **Mike Arvin** also resigned to work with the new

### Spotlight on ...

#### Paducah



Olivet Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sept. 22-26. For more information, call (270) 442-3267. **Skip Parsons** is pastor.

congregation.

■ **DANVILLE**—First Church recently called **Drew Dukes** as minister of youth and education.

■ **DRAKESBORO**—Ebenezer Church will host a **Matt Wilkins Bible Conference** Sept. 20-22, 7 p.m., and Sept. 23, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with **Matt Wilkins** on Sept. 20-21; **Donnie Wilkins** on Sept. 22 and **Kyle Noffsinger** and **Roger Skipworth** on Sept. 23. For more information, call (270) 476-2555.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—First Church ordained **Kenny Gaines**, **Doug House** and **Donevon Storm** as deacons Aug. 26. **David Hawkins** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—New Cypress Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 23, with the **Still Waters Singers** performing at 10 a.m., and **Jeff Noffsinger** speaking at 11 a.m.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 22 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 22 Punt, Pass & Kick, Campbellsville University.
- 28-29 Focus 2007, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.
- 29 Marriage Celebration, Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

### October

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

- 5-6 Celebrate the Mission, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
- 12-13 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.
- 15 KBC East—Senior Adult Choir Festival, First Baptist Church, London.
- 20 Vacation Bible School Theme Preview, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 22 KBC West—Senior Adult Choir Festival, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.

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

■ **HENDERSON**—Hyland Church will hold revival services Sept. 23-26, 7 p.m., with **Wayne and Tina Hudson**.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will host its 4th annual missions conference Sept. 22. Speakers include **Bill Barker**, **John Divito**, **John Ferguson** and **Hershael York**. For more information, call (859) 263-5466. **Matthew Perry** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—New Salem Church recently called **Dan Cargill** as youth pastor.

Maple Grove Church will celebrate 40 years of child care ministry Sept. 23 with a morning service and potluck lunch honoring current and former students, parents and teachers. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will present a Bible study conference Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m., and Sept. 22, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with guest speaker **Betsy Ringer**, a certified life coach. For more information, call (502) 589-5290.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Pleasant View Church will hold revival services Sept. 24-28, 7 p.m., with **Bobby Reno** as evangelist.

■ **PADUCAH**—Reidland Church will host a Creation Emphasis Series with **Grady McMurty**, a biblical scientific creationist, Sept. 23-25. For more information, call (270) 898-6243. **Larry Lewis** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church honored **Buddy and Mattie Duncan** on their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for Second Baptist Church in Madisonville, Ky. Motivated, Christ-centered individual to work with adult and youth choirs. Traditional and contemporary music styles. Send resumés to: Music Minister Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 633 Bishop St., Madisonville, KY 42431.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for South Fork Baptist Church. Youth minister will work with active youth group (grades 7-12). Please submit resumé to: SFBC Youth Search Committee, 4915 New Jackson Highway, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and administration. Position includes youth ministry and administrative duties. Resumé must include experience and/or education in areas of youth ministry and church administration. Applicant must be active member of a Southern Baptist church for the past three years or more. Please submit resumés to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for First Baptist Church in New Tazewell, Tenn. Masters degree and experience preferred. Please send resumé with sermon tape, CD or DVD to: FBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 248, New Tazewell, TN 37824. Resumés accepted through Oct. 15.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth and children's pastor for First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg. Please submit resumé to search committee at [jcw8855@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcw8855@bellsouth.net), or PO Box 756, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

**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.

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

**SEEKING:** Child development center director for weekday preschool program. Applicant should be an experienced educator and administrator and must exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Send resumés to: Personnel Committee, Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291; or e-mail to [Linda@ferncreekbaptist.org](mailto:Linda@ferncreekbaptist.org). Resumés will be received through Sept. 28. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for High Street Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. Located in south-central Kentucky, 30 miles west of I-75, HSBC is a thriving congregation with a healthy mix of age groups that work well together. We average 200 in two morning services, and have several full- and part-time staff members. Resumés will be received through Oct. 15 and should be sent to: HSBC Pastor Search Committee, 102 Bourne Ave., Somerset, KY 42501. Submissions via e-mail should be addressed to: [HSBC@windstream.net](mailto:HSBC@windstream.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor with skills to lead, mentor and teach God's divine Word for Adairville Baptist Church in Adairville, Ky. ABC is an SBC church in a small, rural, farming community in south-central Kentucky, just north of Nashville, Tenn. We have an average attendance of 150-200 in Sunday morning worship, a tradition of outstanding music and a growing youth program. Our desire is to spread God's Word to our community and around the world. If interested, please submit your resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Adairville Baptist Church, PO Box 36, Adairville, KY 42202; or e-mail to [abc42202@yahoo.com](mailto:abc42202@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Highland Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn. E-mail resumé to [dktatum@charter.net](mailto:dktatum@charter.net); or mail resumé to PSC, 808 West Hickory St., Tullahoma, TN 37388.

**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:** Part-time children's minister for growing conservative congregation, average attendance: 250. Send resumé or call for appointment. Some experience desired. Pleasant Grove BC, Shepherdsville, Ky. (502) 543-7336.

**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:** Student pastor for Florence Baptist Church, located in the fastest growing county in Kentucky. We run 800-plus in worship and are in the process of relocating to 67 acres. Looking for energetic person to build the student ministry of our church. Please send resumés to [peggy.romes@florencechurch.org](mailto:peggy.romes@florencechurch.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister for Ballardville Baptist Church. E-mail resumé to [richardmarcello@medpro.com](mailto:richardmarcello@medpro.com); or mail to 4300 S. Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014. [www.ballardvillebaptistchurch.com](http://www.ballardvillebaptistchurch.com).

## Christian broadcaster rescues Orlando Bible theme park

*Park attendance on the rise after June 'marriage' with TBN*

By Mark Weisenmiller  
Religion News Service

Orlando, Fla. (RNS)—Thanks to help from a California-based Christian broadcasting empire, a Christian theme park in Orlando, Fla., seems to have boosted its popularity.

Ever since Trinity Broadcasting Network acquired the Holy Land Experience in June, attendance figures jumped at least 25 percent, according to Melanie Davies, public relations manager for the park.

"That 25 percent figure is for June and July," she said. "For August, it was 76 percent."

The Holy Land Experience opened in 2001. Now, with TBN frequently mentioning the park during its evening programming, and also with the usual high summertime attendance numbers, the attraction is fighting its way back to become a leading tourist stop in Orlando.

TBN and park officials call the recent deal a "marriage," rather than a business takeover.

"For us, it was a natural synergy. They were looking for more publicity and we (TBN) were looking to acquire land and buildings in the area," explained Paul Crouch Jr., whose parents, Paul and Jan Crouch, founded TBN in 1973.

About a year ago, TBN bought the TV license for Orlando's Channel 52. As part of that transaction, the broadcaster also needed land and buildings to host its TV studios and facilities.

"We heard that they (the Holy Land Experience) needed help. So we entered negotiations (to acquire

the park) about one year ago before we signed on the dotted line, so to speak," he said.

Prior to the merger with TBN, the park had debts of about \$8 million, according to the Orlando Sentinel, and had cut operating hours and staff. Thomas Powell, the park's former president, blamed a poor marketing campaign, rising costs and dwindling ticket sales.

### Ministry or attraction?

Spread over 17 acres in central Florida, the attraction can be described as either a ministry—which is often how the park's employees refer to it—or a Bible-based attraction. There are replicas of ancient buildings mentioned in the Bible, such as a six-story replica of King Herod's Temple. Entertainers wear vintage-era costumes to recreate biblical stories, including a daily crucifixion drama that "blesses everyone who sees it," the park's promotional materials read.

Another highlight is the largest scale model of Jerusalem, as it looked during the time of Jesus Christ, and what is called a "scriptorium," a museum that houses numerous historic copies of the Bible.

In addition to the 17 acres now used by the park, an additional 10 acres nearby are also available for future development. Crouch said the "immediate plan" is to build a state-of-the-art television studio on site that will be used for TBN broadcasts and productions. TBN has already invested in new audio/visual equipment for the park's shows.

Crouch also said the park would expand its hours to open on Sunday afternoons after Sunday morning church services.

When the attraction opened, it drew protests from the Jewish De-



fense League and other Jewish organizations because its founder, Marvin Rosenthal, considered himself a "Hebrew Christian" as well as the "park's inappropriate mixture of Jewish words and motifs with Christian theology," said Shelley Rubin, chairman and CEO of the Jewish Defense League.

"The overriding objection was to the proselytizing done there when it first opened," echoed Rabbi Rick Sherwin of Congregation Beth Am, a Conservative synagogue in nearby Longwood, Fla. "But that proselytizing hasn't worked. We stopped hearing complaints about the park about one year after it opened."

### Network well-received

In fact, Rubin said her group is "actually pleased to hear of TBN's takeover" because the network "seldom airs material meant to explicitly offend the Jewish people, or anyone else for that matter. And TBN's preachers commonly ask their pa-

rishioners to pray for the peace and security of Israel."

Bill Jones, the park's director of biblical studies, said, "In no way are we trying to convert people on some sort of massive scale."

Colby May, the network's communications counsel, said the mission of the Florida park dovetailed with the mission of the network.

"It wasn't so much a business experiment but the ability to spread the gospel," he said. "It's a very 21st-century form of communication." When TBN was in the negotiating stages of acquiring the park, Crouch said he anonymously bought a ticket and wandered around.

"I saw Bible teachings, people praying for each other while in the park, the shows that they produce," he recalled, "and at the end of the day when I was done, I felt that I had gone to church, not a theme park. That's when I knew that it was a special place."

**EPIC BATTLE** Actors portraying a Roman soldier and centurion fight outside a six-story replica of the Jerusalem Temple at the Holy Land Experience in Orlando, Fla. The park, opened in 2001, has seen attendance jump since the California-based Trinity Broadcasting Network bought the park. (RNS photo)

## Board game offers new way to build interfaith understanding

By David Briggs  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

Cleveland (RNS)—According to Islam, do humans carry the sins of their ancestors?

What is more important in Judaism—the self or the community?

What does "70 x 7" refer to in the Bible?

If you answered "no," "the community" and "how often Jesus says we are to forgive each other," you would be ahead in a new board game designed to promote interfaith understanding.

The game, 7th Heaven, tests players' knowledge of Judaism, Islam and Christianity in a way that people from junior high school age and up can enjoy learning about different religious practices, said John Cooper, a mechanical engineer from Lincoln, Neb., who developed the game.

But does the game succeed?

The consensus after a recent contest among four interfaith leaders from Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim traditions was that 7th Heaven is a useful, if limited and occasionally flawed, way to make interfaith learning fun.

"It would be a great discussion starter among already knowledgeable adults," said Donna Wilhelm, board president of InterAct Cleveland, an interfaith group. Playing a



**GAME ON** In 7th Heaven, players earn points by correctly answering questions about Christianity, Islam and Judaism. (RNS photo by Marvin Fong/Cleveland Plain Dealer)

board game can make "dialogue and understanding more simple, more human."

Cooper said he began thinking about the concept a couple of years ago after he met some Iraqi refugees while volunteering at the People's City Mission in Lincoln. Conversations with refugees and others led him to an appreciation of common themes shared by the three faiths.

Yet he also realized that while understanding is a widely held goal, it often ends up a relatively low priority as many religious groups strug-

gle to educate people on their own faith.

His answer: "Well, why don't I make a game out of it?"

Cooper said he consulted Jewish, Christian and Muslim theologians to come up with questions and answers. He said every effort was made "to be fair to each religion, offering answers according to that religion's beliefs."

Testing out the game recently were Wilhelm; Julia Shearson, executive director of the Cleveland chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations; Marty Plax, retired executive director of the Cleveland chapter of the American Jewish Committee; and Larry Larson, associate pastor of the Church of the Covenant in Cleveland.

They had a good time, often using the questions and answers as a springboard for more nuanced explorations of their faiths. There also was a lot of humor around the table as players appreciated one another's company.

"It's a very enjoyable game, and I think it can bring people together," Shearson said afterward. "It's a good ... introduction."

Plax said anything that can depoliticize interfaith relations is a step forward. But Plax, Shearson and the others also raised some concerns af-

ter going through about one-third of the 300 questions.

Some of the questions were poorly worded or simplified so much into a true-false, yes-no format that the answers were inadequate or potentially misleading, some players noted. Larson said he would like to see the game expanded to include other faiths such as Buddhism and Hinduism.

The players also said that some questions may be too tough for younger players, and advised youth-group leaders considering the game to have a knowledgeable adult present to provide background and perspective, and promote discussion.

Still, overall, making interfaith learning fun is a good idea, participants said. Teens and adults will come away from the game knowing more about their own faith, as well as the faiths of others.

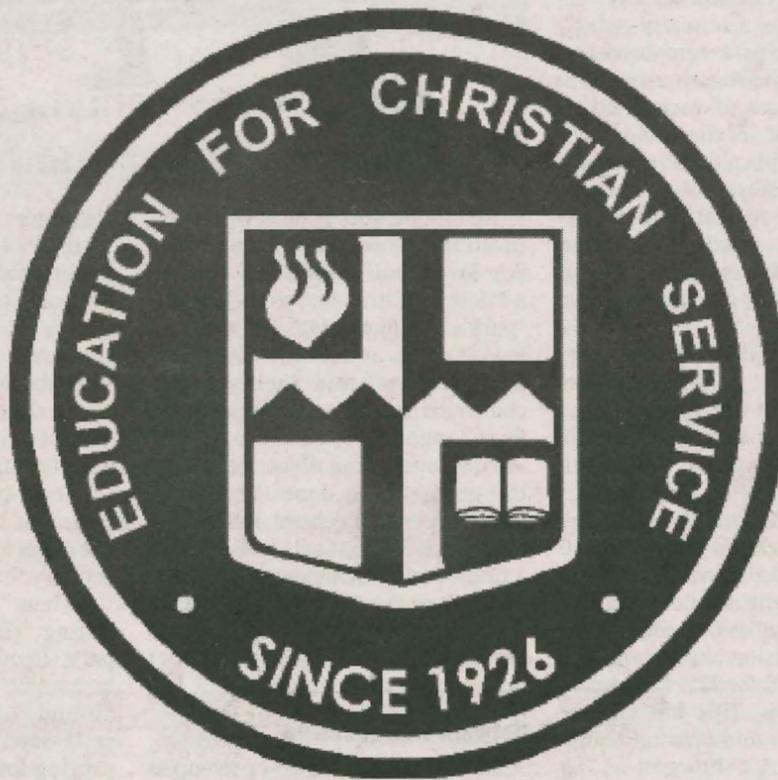
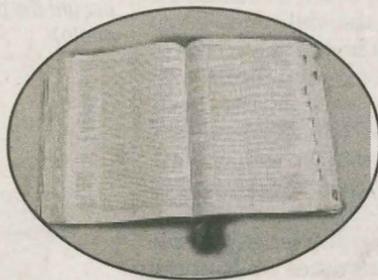
Larson said he also could see 7th Heaven as a follow-up possibility for youth groups visiting mosques, synagogues and churches to learn about other faiths.

For Cooper, 7th Heaven has been more than just a game.

Given the conflicts throughout the world, he said, "I sort of felt it was a calling ... to try to provide a vehicle to start some type of peace happening."

# Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

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