



WESTERN RECORDER

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Offensive content increases during TV's 'family hour'

Los Angeles (BP)—Television's so-called "family hour" is not so family friendly.

A new study by the Parents Television Council shows that a program broadcast during the first hour of TV's prime time—often called the family hour—has an average of 12.48 instances of foul language and sexual and violent content. That's an average of one objectionable moment every 3.5 minutes, the study noted.

And it is getting worse. Since 2000-01, the last time a similar study was conducted, sexual content has increased more than 22 percent and violent content more than 52 percent.

Traditionally, the networks have broadcast their less objectionable programs between 8 and 9 p.m. Eastern time, when children are more likely to be watching. In fact, the worst family hour offender last season was a cartoon, Fox's "American Dad," which had an average of 52 objectionable moments per hour.

More than three-fourths (76.4 percent) of all family hour programming had foul language, while 54.8 percent contained sexual content and 46.2 percent had violent content, the study said. Only 10.6 percent of all family hour programming had no objectionable content.

"The entertainment industry is intent on producing programming that appeals to our baser instincts," said Dwayne Hastings, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The networks "are not only preying on our children," Hastings said, "the programming is polluting the minds of adults as well." Networks "want us to lower our standards to the same shallow level they apparently embrace," he added.

Fox was the worst offender, with an average of 20.78 objectionable moments an hour. The CW was the "cleanest" with 9.44 such moments an hour.

Among the study's other findings:

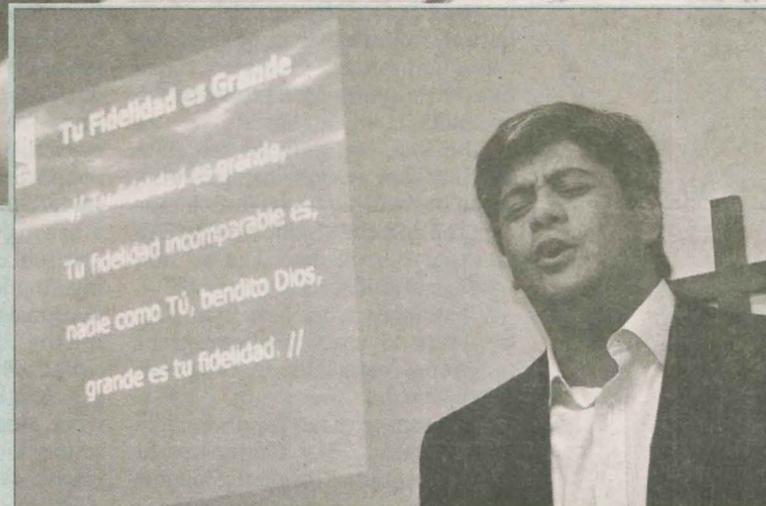
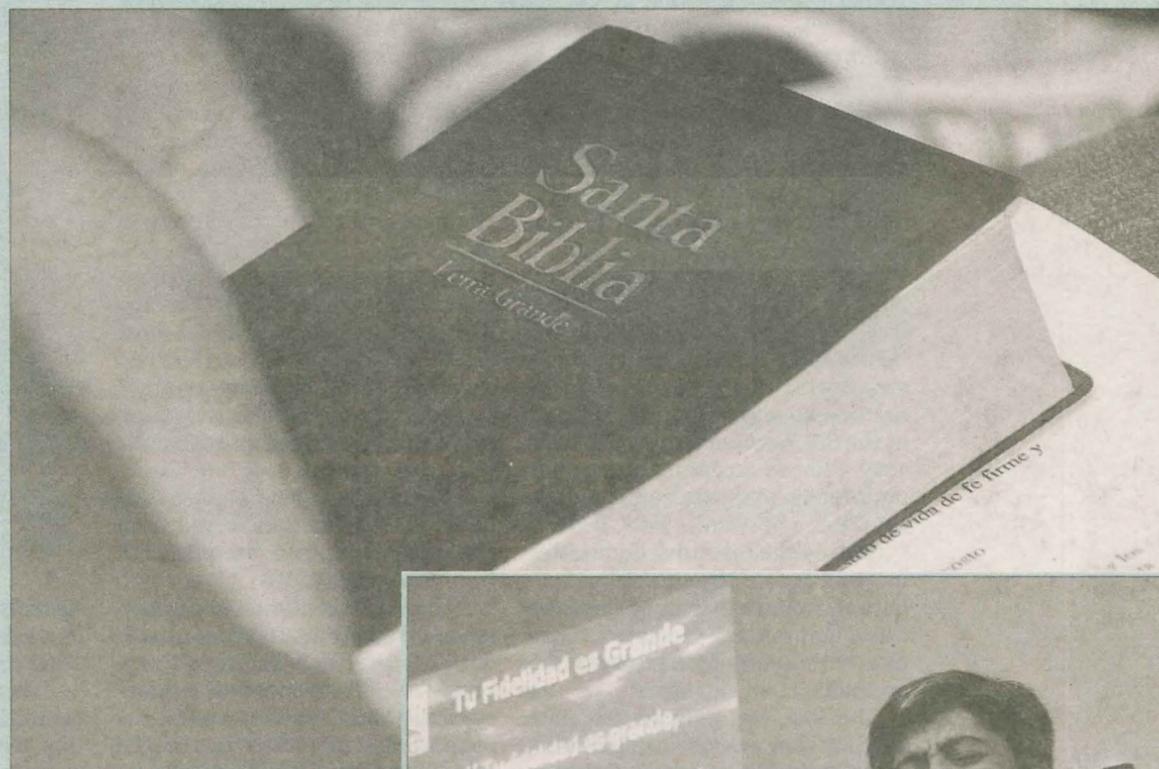
■ NBC's "My Name is Earl" was the worst offender in the foul language category, with 16.33 instances an hour.

■ Fox's "The War at Home"—which has been cancelled—had the highest amount of sexual content with 33 instances per hour.

■ Fox's "24" was the worst offender of violence for a non-animated show with 28 instances per hour, although it had no sexual content and was one of the cleanest in that category.

■ Only four family hour shows had no objectionable content: NBC's "Deal or No Deal," "Grease: You're the One that I Want" and "Identity," and Fox's "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?"

Iglesia de gran impacto



■ Above: The Santa Biblia (Holy Bible) rests in a congregation member's lap during a recent worship service at Cardinal Valley Iglesia. ■ Right: Pastor Claudio Toro leads worshippers in music. The words to the song, "Tu Fidelidad Es Grande," translate to "Your faithfulness is great/Nothing compares to Your faithfulness/No one is like you, blessed God/Great is your faithfulness." (Photos by Drew Nichter)

Church plant grows among Lexington's Hispanic community

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—The city of Lexington has long staked its claim to the title of "Horse Capital of the World." While the moniker has been disputed in recent years, there is no denying that the horse industry has a strong impact on the Bluegrass.

But behind the multi-million horse farms and rich landscape of Keeneland Race Track is a world much less glamorous than the expensive suits and fancy hats found in the grandstand.

The lifeblood of these operations is the thousands of workers—most of whom are Hispanic—who toil for 10 to 12 hours a day, seven days a week to care for the horses. While most of them understand the hardship of their lives and accept it, they struggle financially, socially and, most of all, spiritually.

"The Hispanic people are people who have their heart in their work," said Claudio Toro, pastor of Cardinal Valley Iglesia, a Kentucky Baptist Convention High Impact church plant. "They come to the States to really work and work hard."

Toro estimated that there are thousands of Hispanics working in Lexington's horse industry, many of whom live in poverty conditions working to send money to their families back home.

"It is a very hard life for them, because the environment is not so good," he said.

Toro, 46, and his family got a firsthand look at how difficult life was for Hispanics in 2003. A successful businessman and vice president of a Swiss company in Chile, Toro had earned an MBA degree from Ohio State University through the school's distance learning program. While preparing to travel to Columbus, Ohio, for the commencement ceremony, Toro decided to track down his old friend Carlos De la Barra—who currently serves as the KBC's ethnic associate—in Kentucky.

The two men had attended the same church in the Chilean capital of Santiago—Parque Apoquindo Iglesia Bautista—years earlier. De la Barra had left the country in 1991, following God's call to do mission work in the United States. Toro said when De la Barra left to answer God's call, Toro thought he

was "crazy."

"For many years, I didn't understand Carlos," Toro noted.

Before their trip to the U.S. in 2003, Toro said he and his wife, Maria Eugenia, began to feel a similar calling from God. "We were touched by the Lord to really start doing something different," he recalled.

Not understanding exactly what they were being called to do, the Toros sought advice from De la Barra and his wife. Over three days, Toro shadowed De la Barra—who at the time was working as a church planting missionary for the North American Mission Board—in his daily travels ministering to Hispanics across the state.

"We were able to see how the Hispanic population live in Kentucky and the needs they have," Toro recalled. "They had material needs, but the major need is the Lord."

After three days and a lot of prayer, Toro said the De la Barras "were answering all the questions" they had. After a lot of prayer and discussion, the Toros decided to move to the United States to be-
□ See Pastor leaves behind ... Page 6

Morris Chapman honored for 15 years of SBC leadership

Nashville (BP)—Morris Chapman was honored Sept. 17 for 15 years as president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The reception was held during the Executive Committee's recent meeting in Nashville.

"I never imagined having the privilege of serving in a position like this for Southern Baptists, and I can hardly believe it has been 15 years," Chapman told Baptist Press. "It's not an easy task. It's a responsibility with a lot of challenges, but I have come to one deep conviction and that is, God's hand is upon Southern Baptists.

"I'm grateful for that, and He just helps us along in all we're trying to do and keeps encouraging us and blessing us," Chapman added. "We have a lot for which to be thankful."

Chapman, who served as Southern Baptist Convention president in 1990-92, was among the leaders of the SBC's conservative shift since 1979. Prior to accepting his current position, he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

During the Executive Committee meeting before the reception, William Harrell, chairman of the Executive Committee, presented Chapman with a pair of gifts to mark the occasion.

The first was a Tennessee state flag that flew over the capitol building in Nashville in Chapman's honor Sept. 12 and the second was a Club Car that Harrell described as "the Cadillac of golf carts."

Chapman's wife, Jodi, told Baptist Press 15 years is a significant milestone, especially in Southern Baptist life.

"It's gone very fast, and we really have enjoyed it," Mrs. Chapman said at the reception. "This is the longest

we've ever stayed anywhere. I've really loved every minute of it, and I know my husband has because he is an administrator."

Julian Motley, a former North Carolina pastor, was chairman of the search committee that brought Chapman to the Executive Committee. He said Chapman's accomplishments as SBC president made him the man for the Executive Committee leadership position.

"I thought he would be just an excellent person to move into this position because he had been one of

the best presidents we had had in the Southern Baptist Convention in my opinion," Motley said. "He had initiative in the area of evangelism, global evangelism and missions and so forth. That was some of the motivation that I had. I admired him personally as a Christian statesman."

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, was chairman of the Executive Committee when Chapman was hired in 1992 and then served as an Executive Committee vice president from 1996 to 2004.

"The implementation of the Covenant for a New Century was carried out with precision and greatly improved the effectiveness and efficiency of the SBC," Hankins said of the convention's restructuring in the mid-1990s. "Dr. Chapman also was a driving force in the emphasis on spiritual renewal through Empowering Kingdom Growth and on denominational renewal through revitalizing the Cooperative Program.

"Dr. Chapman has helped Southern Baptists remember that their work rests on the twin pillars of sound biblical theology and cooperative missions," Hankins told BP.



Morris Chapman

Logan named SBC Executive Committee VP

Nashville (BP)—Clark Logan, senior vice president for institutional administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected vice president for business and finance for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, effective Oct. 15.

Logan will succeed Jack Wilkerson, who will retire Oct. 1 after 14 years in the post. Logan was elected by SBC Executive Committee members during the opening session of their Sept. 17-18 meeting in Nashville.

Logan, 40, joined the Southern Seminary staff in 2000 as assistant director of admissions and was named director of development in January 2001.

Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler described Logan as "an outstanding leader and a man of great talent and personal integrity."

Logan worked with State Farm Insurance before entering the ministry in 1998 as youth minis-

ter at Long Ridge Baptist Church in Owenton. He served as assistant pastor of adult ministries at Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville in 2001-02 and was ordained to the ministry at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville in 2005.

He earned a master of divinity degree in evangelism and church growth from the seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth in 2001. He also holds master's and bachelor's degrees in business administration from Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss.

In another personnel action, August Boto was approved by Executive Committee officers to serve as executive vice president.

Boto has been the Executive Committee's vice president for convention policy and general counsel since 1998. He is the former administrative counsel for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association and a 1975 graduate of Baylor University's law school.

"Our denomination would do well to heed his challenge to be 'cooperating conservatives.'"

"There are so many different people in the Southern Baptist Convention, so many different ideas and directions and approaches," Harrell said. "It takes an individual who is able to get the big scope, get the big picture, and knows what to do and how to do it. I think Dr. Chapman has been very adept at doing that, and we're all thankful for his leadership."

Chapman thanked Executive Committee members for the part they've played in allowing him to

reach the 15-year milestone as president.

"I just want to express my deep appreciation to you and all the members of our Executive Committee who have gone before you for your commitment to be faithful to the task to which God has called you during this time," Chapman said. "Those of us who have worked on staff, you have made this an easier job for us because you come to be alert, you come to be informed, you come to make prayerful decisions. I want to thank you for all you're accomplishing and what those like you have accomplished before."

Trustees question Roberts' leadership after Midwestern VP resigns

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Kansas City, Mo. (ABP)—The chief financial officer of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary resigned Sept. 20 in a dispute with President Philip Roberts over a financial analysis that raised questions about Roberts' leadership, the school's trustee chairman said.

David Hodge, vice president of business services since April, confirmed his resignation but declined to talk about the dispute or criticize the seminary.

However, according to trustee chairman Gene Downing and other sources, Roberts placed Hodge on administrative leave Sept. 20 after Hodge declined to give Roberts a copy of the confidential analysis, which Hodge prepared at Downing's request.

Seminary officials released a statement claiming the Associated Baptist Press article about the seminary "needlessly attempts to undermine public confidence in our institution." But the six-paragraph statement failed to mention Downing or Hodge or the reasons for Hodge's resignation.

James Freeman, a Midwestern trustee from Kansas City, told Baptist Press in a follow-up article that Hodge's resignation "follows a series of departures at MBTS by executive level personnel, which continues to concern various trustees."

Roberts and his trustees have been in a behind-the-scenes conflict in recent months over the president's leadership and alleged financial "irregularities." Those issues, and Hodge's resignation, are expected to be addressed by trustees at their mid-October meeting.

Downing, a businessman from Oklahoma City, said he requested the "professional business analysis" from Hodge, who was a banker for 26 years, with the understanding the document was confidential. Downing said he sent the document to the other members of the trustee executive committee.

When Roberts found out about the analysis, he asked Hodge for a copy, Downing said, but the vice president refused. "David Hodge, being the honorable and reputable guy he is, felt that was not ethical," the chairman explained.

"I asked him, as COO, to give me his assessment of where we are at," Downing said of the document he requested from Hodge, who was the seminary's chief operating officer and chief financial officer. "Some of those things may not have been complimentary toward Dr. Roberts. ... I thought it was a good, very professional review."

The analysis included information that had been requested from Roberts "for quite some time" and that Roberts "had

not responded to," Downing added.

He said Hodge's resignation was "very unfortunate because David Hodge is one exceptional guy" who was "just trying to do his job." Asked if Hodge was put on leave because he provided the analysis to trustees or because he didn't give Roberts a copy, Downing said "both."

Roberts did not respond to two telephone requests for comment by ABP or a request for an e-mail interview.

Downing said he is arranging an "exit interview" in a week or two between Hodge and the trustee executive committee, acting on a recently adopted trustee policy to interview any departing vice president.

He insisted Midwestern is not in financial trouble and there are no financial issues. Instead, the dispute with Roberts is over his leadership and his dealings with trustees and staff, Downing said.

Eight years ago, trustees fired Roberts' predecessor, Mark Coppenger, over his treatment of staff. "Expressions of anger admitted to by Dr. Coppenger had irreparably damaged his ability to lead the seminary," said Carl Weiser, trustee chairman in 1999.

Downing, the current chairman, declined to say if the trustees are likely to fire Roberts, except to say "the majority always rules."

Downing said the seminary remains strong despite the dispute over Roberts' leadership.

According to Midwestern's release, the Southern Baptist seminary "is currently experiencing record student and fiscal health." The statement added that "it is the express desire of the seminary and college that this positive development continues unhindered by innuendo and inaccurate information."

Hodge, who declined to discuss the details of his departure, noted, "Obviously something happened or I'd still be sitting at my desk this afternoon." But he said the exchange with Roberts that led to his placement on leave and resignation was confidential.

Hodge, who resigned in February as president of Central Bank and Trust in Wichita, Kan., to go to Midwestern, worked at the seminary only six months. When he was hired, after a quarter century in banking, Roberts called him "an extraordinarily gifted Christian financier."

Hodge repeatedly expressed his confidence in the seminary, adding he had nothing but praise for the students, faculty and staff. He said there were no financial improprieties at the school and that Southern Baptists can have full confidence in the seminary.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

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

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Heavenly service at the restaurant

By Joe McKeever

New Orleans (BP)—Each Monday afternoon, I meet with three or four of our young pastors at a fast-food cafe near my house. We sit there for an hour or more, drinking coffee or soft drinks, and sharing about our lives and ministries.

Recently, I threw out as a conversation starter: "Give us your life verse, the Scripture that explains you." I started with mine, Job 4:4, "Your words have stood men on their feet."

Carl's verse was Acts 18:9-10, Jim's was Colossians 1:28.

Then Mark said, "Philippians 3:10, 'That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.' I just want to know the Lord more and more. It's all about Jesus." He thought for a moment, then said, "And if you want to really know Him, you must be willing to suffer for Him. It's a tough way, but it's worth it."

Mark told the group about some of the suffering in his life. He's been through enough for several humans—including the loss of both parents, difficulties in his church, depression in his personal life.

Someone said, "You never know that Jesus is enough until He's all you have."

Conversational witness

While this discussion was going on, I was the only one who could see the two women employees who were having their late lunch in our little corner of the restaurant. The first one was reading her newspaper while working on her salad, but it would have been impossible for her not to hear what we were saying. The second woman came and went several times. A man sat at a booth not far away, clearly taking in the conversation.

When we first started meeting six months ago, we discussed meeting in a back room at one of their churches. I even thought of invit-

ing them to my home. But everyone agreed the most convenient place was this little restaurant where people come and go all the time, where the coffee is cheap and hot, and where we will not be disturbing anyone by our meeting. I thought at the time, "And who knows—the Lord may decide to use our witness to someone eavesdropping."

Which is what happened today. As the men were discussing how in our suffering God becomes more precious, the woman looked up suddenly and turned our way. I said, "Want to get in on this conversation?" and smiled. The men turned in her direction.

She said, "You were talking about our suffering. My 15-year-old son was killed in a car wreck three months ago and it broke my heart. But I'm so glad to know that just a few weeks earlier, he got saved."

That brought a chorus of sympathy from these young pastors. She went on, "I can tell you're all Christians. I'm a new Christian myself. I go to Victory Life. I've just been saved a short time. And you know what I discovered? It's hard."

Someone said, "You've been floating downstream, and now you're swimming upstream. It is hard."

"But you know what?" she said. "The big thing now is the Lord gives me hope. I never had any hope before. But in the long run, these earthly years are just a blip. A mist. We'll hardly even remember them in eternity. The important thing is to get our family members saved."

Her friend joined her and told of her situation. Two miscarriages and a stillborn delivery.

"I'm Kathleen and she's Deb-

FIRST PERSON

What are you thinking?

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

A convention of prayer?

What would it take for the Kentucky Baptist Convention to be known as a convention of prayer?

Obviously, the KBC executive director would of necessity provide an example of what it means to be a man of prayer. The KBC Mission Board staff, Mission Board members, KBC committee members and convention officers would be known as people of prayer.

Leaders of partnering organizations, such as associations and the KBC's agencies and institutions, would also be known for their relationships to God. Pastors, church leaders and church members would be people of great prayer.

Even so, I think it would take much more for us to be truly known as a convention of prayer. Authentic prayer requires praise to God followed by confession as we realize our need in view of God's righteousness. New obedience would be demonstrated as a response to the indwelling Holy Spirit, unquenched

and ungrieved.

I believe being a convention of prayer will mean dynamic worship privately and in the church gathered. It will mean great fellowship in the church. Through prayer, God will fill our hearts with love for all people and enable us to demonstrate love.

A praying church will experience dynamic Bible study as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God. A praying church will be a great witness in the community and many people will confess their faith.

It was my privilege to participate in the "With One Voice" prayer gathering at Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville on Sept. 11—one of nearly 70 simultaneous prayer gatherings held across Kentucky that night. Director of Missions Bob Morrison opened the session by sharing information about the numbers of spiritually lost people in Hopkins and Webster counties. It was inspiring to witness the concern for the

ra," the first one said. I said, "Could we pray for you?" And we did, filling that back room of the fast-food place with our intercession for heaven's blessing upon these two women who have endured so much.

We were preparing to leave when one said, "We're in the prison system. Assigned to this restaurant."

That got our attention. She named a nearby parish and said they have been in that prison, one for 10 months, the other for the past 2 years.

The power of prayer

"Prayer is all you have," one said. "Your children are out here, you don't know doing what, and you can't do a thing for them but pray. And what you pray is for the Lord to save them. Because if He does that, everything else falls into place."

One said, "I never had time for God. I was raised in the church but went astray. I would walk past my Bible and look at it and know I should stop and read it. But I never took the time. Then I got in big trouble. When they put me in prison, it was a new one with larger cells for just two people. I finally had the time and opportunity to read my Bible, and I did. It took that for God to get through to me."

As we were leaving, one of the pastors was getting names and contact information and giving them his. We said our goodbyes, then I turned back at the door. "The Lord sent me back to give you a hug," I said.

One of those divine appointments that the Father delights in making.

Easily, the high point of that Monday.

Joe McKeever is director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

lost during the small group prayer time.

The host pastor, Jerry Gifford, concluded the evening with a powerful prayer that expressed how God had touched all of us. At the conclusion of the prayer, a group spontaneously broke out in a song of praise.

While driving home that evening, I remembered a challenge that the late church growth consultant Ron Lewis extended to me during my first year in this role. "Seek to lead Kentucky Baptists to become known as a convention of prayer," he said.

The journey to doing so has thus far included such formalized prayer emphases as "100 Days of Prayer," "Pray the Perimeter," "Pray the Interior" and "With One Voice." There have also been weeks of prayer for missions, quarterly prayer meetings, the Haystack prayer and fasting by Baptist Campus Ministry students, several years of prayer conferences and the "On Bended Knee" emphasis for partnership missions.

I pray that God will continue to shape us as a people of prayer!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Church budget preparation needs prayer & planning

By Doug Strader

This is the time of year when many church budget planning committees are hard at work on the budget for the new church year.



I am sure that many budget planning

committees take this task to heart and spend the time necessary to propose a challenging budget for the church's consideration. This column is a reminder to all budget planning committees to take the time and effort to present the budget that would be pleasing to God.

■ The most important aspect of any church budget preparation is the spiritual aspect. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of praying and seeking God's will for your new budget. Call upon your entire church to begin praying for the hand of the Lord to be upon your committee as you prepare the proposed budget.

■ The new budget should be planned around the direction the church is taking to accomplish its vision and purpose for the new year. Every line item should be evaluated in terms of the church's mission and purpose. No item should be left in the new budget because it has always been there unless it is a vital part of the mission of the church.

■ Every staff member, department head and committee chairperson should be given the opportunity to submit a proposed budget for their specific area of the church's work. They should also justify how their budget requests are consistent with the church's mission for the new year.

■ If your church does not have a personnel committee, the budget planning committee needs to take a serious look at the compensation packages of all staff members. Cost of living increases should be included in the new budget even if you feel that there is no money available for increases. Unfortunately, many pastors and other staff members have not received a pay increase for several years.

■ When you complete your proposed budget, you should set aside at least one meeting when you invite the church to a question-and-answer session. When church members feel they have had a part in the process, they will be more likely to support the proposed budget.

■ Ask your pastor to consider preaching at least one sermon on biblical stewardship.

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

Measuring spiritual maturity includes 'big 5' growth areas

Q: I work in a bank and can easily measure the growth or shrinkage of accounts. I often wish that my measuring spiritual growth was that easy. How can my wife and I measure our growth as believers so that our marriage better reflects Christ's love for the church?

The Apostle Paul told Timothy to train for godliness (1 Timothy 4:7). Jesus said in Luke 6:40, "No disciple is above the master, but every disciple when fully trained will be like the master." Let me commend you for your desire to take steps to become more like the Master.

MARRIAGE

This past summer I had the opportunity to take students to Kenya. One of our great thrills was to go on safari and to take photographs of "The Big Five." Being close to the lion, rhino, elephant, leopard and Cape buffalo was a reminder to me that God also has a "Big Five" which we can use to evaluate ourselves and the church:

Lion of Evangelism. Are you boldly sharing your faith on a regular basis?

Leopard of Worship. Are you worshipping regularly in the church as well as in your daily life? Are you offering to God your best and giving Him glory? Is your worship marked by awe and joy?

Elephant of Ministry. In what ways are you giving of your multifaceted talents, gifts and possessions to care for others in the name of Christ?

Rhino of Discipleship. In what spiritual disciplines are you currently grazing so that you will grow deeper in your faith and thus become "dangerous" to the kingdom of darkness?

Cape Buffalo of Fellowship. What other believers are you regularly spending time with so that each of you will help encourage one another as you live life together?—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: My son and his wife have been married about one and a half years. They are experiencing some serious problems. My son has shared that his wife has been acting strangely, including buying clothes because she wanted to go to Hollywood and become an actress. Last week, my son called in a panic because she would not get out of bed and said she wants to die. We are worried she is bipolar because her mother was diagnosed when my daughter-in-law was in middle school. Her parents divorced, and I am afraid how this will affect their marriage and my son's health. How should we respond?

Mental illness is very difficult for families and marriages. Prompt and proper treatment is essential. There are organizations that can provide families accurate information and good support.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is one resource available by calling (800) 950-6264 or visiting www.nami.org. The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance is available at (800) 826-3632 or www.dbsalliance.org. And the National Mental Health Association can be contacted at (800) 969-6642 or www.nmha.org. These organizations have done significant research and strive to help families and individuals get the appropriate treatment.

This will not be an easy time for your family. Be sure you have the support you need. Let trusted family and friends know what is happening so they can pray for you and encourage you. If your son and daughter-in-law are involved in a church family, encourage them to seek support there.

There does not need to be a public announcement about the family struggle, but support is essential. Try to work together so your daughter-in-law can experience the family's love and acceptance through this process. Even though God did not remove the Apostle Paul's thorn, God is faithful to provide ways to manage ongoing struggles. Look for all the ways and all the people God can use to help your daughter-in-law manage this life struggle.—*Valerie Vincent*

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



Casino gambling in Kentucky? Just say no

One of the first editorials I wrote for the Western Recorder was titled "Expanded gambling is a bad bet." Unfortunately, more than eight years later it's still necessary to continue to battle gambling proponents who falsely claim that casino gambling will be good for the commonwealth.

To put it mildly, hogwash!

Kentucky Baptists repeatedly have gone on record over the years opposing expanded gambling. As far back as 1993 (14 years ago), convention messengers adopted an anti-casino resolution affirming "the biblical principles which define gambling as inherently evil and grossly immoral."

For those citizens and political leaders who fail to use morality to influence their views, there also are significant economic and social implications. Numerous studies from other states clearly indicate that social costs quickly outstrip the economic gains touted by gambling advocates.

The sharp increase in the number of compulsive gamblers in states where casinos operate also has been well documented. Recent estimates indicate more than 10 million adults and teens in the U.S. exhibit some form of problem gambling behavior.

According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, two out of three pathological gamblers commit illegal acts to pay gambling debts and one in five attempts suicide. When lower income gamblers squander money they can't afford to lose in a desperate attempt to strike it rich, their families often are deprived of adequate food, clothing and other basic needs. How much negative social fallout is needed before politicians agree that devastating human costs far outweigh any perceived economic gain?

In response to the latest effort to push Kentuckians to tie their economic future to casino revenue, a group of concerned businessmen and ministers is hosting a series of 13 regional "Say No to Expanded Gambling" meetings throughout the state from Ashland to Murray. Former Kentucky Baptist President Charles Barnes, a retired banker from Louisville, is among the events' organizers.

During a recent session hosted by Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Pastor Bill Henard

noted that "I've had two men go to prison because they embezzled money in order to pay their gambling debts. ... Expanded gambling is not what our state needs. It is something that we need to stop."

Jess Correll, the head of First Southern Bancorp, told meeting participants, "When we heard people talking about bringing nine casinos into Kentucky, we started doing the research and seeing that the facts were absolutely against this."

"Unfunded liabilities on the social services side will be phenomenally large, but not just in dollars, it will be in people's lives," he added. "I think it's bad policy for the state to actually say, 'We have an industry

that is illegal today, but if you'll cut us in on a piece of the profit, we'll make it legal tomorrow.'"

Warning that "gambling is welfare for the rich on the backs of the poor," Correll declared, "Don't be fooled. The profits from this seedy activity will make millionaires richer and the poor poorer."

Kent Ostrander, executive director of the Family Foundation of Kentucky, pointed out that Kentucky citizens would have to lose more than \$1.4 billion a year for state coffers to gain proponents' projections of \$500 million annually.

Citing the examples of other states, Ostrander said if casinos are legalized in Kentucky, families will be targeted, businesses will lose, government will be corrupted and "the vulnerable will be destroyed."

"The cost in human terms is endless," he insisted. "The good news is if we want to stop it, we can. The body of Christ can share this information outside these walls and be salt and light and preserve this state."

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey echoed Ostrander's challenge, emphasizing that "we're in a struggle for the very soul of the commonwealth."

"We're grateful that the faith community can come together on an issue like this," he added, "and speak to our people with a united voice."

In the meantime, it's clear that casino advocates intend to keep pushing their agenda to the detriment of Kentucky and its families.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Providing care for the caregiver

By Tamara Quintana

Dallas (BP)—No one likes to be labeled, but I am of the Baby Boomer Generation, born from 1946 to 1964. We are mostly suburban kids who grew up watching "The Mickey Mouse Club," "The Rifleman" and "The Munsters." There are 78 million Baby Boomers and 13 million of them care for aging parents.

While working full-time at GuideStone Financial Resources, there was a four-week period in 1996 when I spent every weeknight and weekend helping my mother care for my father, who was dying from cancer. I wouldn't trade anything for those last four weeks of caring for my father, but it was physically and mentally straining on us.

We did this, though, only for four weeks. There are so many people who care for parents with Alzheimer's, dementia, cancer and other illnesses for much longer periods of time.

How can we care for those who are the caregivers?

In preparation for this article I

talked with one of my best friends who is the primary caregiver for her husband who is in the fourth stage of cancer. The doctors said he wouldn't live longer than March

2006. It is now 2007. I asked her: Looking back at what you have

learned in the last 12 months of taking care of your husband through cancer diagnosis, chemotherapy, radiation, alternative treatments, his inability to eat, a feeding tube, a tracheotomy, hearing loss, endless doctor and hospital visits while also trying to work 40 hours a week to maintain the insurance, what would you tell others about caring for a caregiver?

Here's what she said she learned:

It's OK if the caregiver depends on others. Friends and other family members are always wondering what they can do to help the caregiver. It's OK to let them help. Don't steal a blessing God may have in store for them.

Send cards instead of making phone calls. When it gets to the point that the caregiver is the only

one answering the phone, imagine how many times he or she has to stop and give the same report to so many well-wishers.

Help clean the caregiver's house.

When you are spending all of your time caring for someone it is easy to let the dishes, clothes and dust pile up. Friends and family should either pitch in the money to procure a maid service or do it themselves periodically. A clean house is always appreciated.

Give the caregiver a break. It is easy for caregivers to lose their health because of the stress involved in caring for an ailing person. Sometimes all it takes is for someone to come over and sit with the ailing person long enough for the caregiver to have some respite. This respite could be a massage, pedicure/manicure, lunch/supper with a friend, etc.

If you haven't already experienced this, there's a strong likelihood that you will in your lifetime. Learn to care for one another.

Tamara Quintana is the director of the employee wellness program for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

Pastor leaves behind stable life in Chile for calling in U.S.

CARDINAL VALLEY IGLESIA AT A GLANCE

Location:
Lexington

Pastor:
Claudio Toro

Launch Date:
July 1, 2006

Sponsoring Church:
Immanuel Baptist
Church, Lexington

Continued from page 1

come missionaries to the Hispanic people. It would be another three years before that plan would come to fruition.

In early 2006, De la Barra was trying desperately to drum up support from several Baptist churches to help start a Hispanic ministry in Lexington. "None of the churches" responded to the call, De la Barra said.

While preaching at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington around the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, De la Barra told the congregation that "I have not a dream, but a nightmare" trying to get support for the ministry.

After hearing De la Barra's appeal, he said Immanuel Baptist Church Pastor Craig Loscalzo immediately told the church they needed to help sponsor the ministry. De la Barra said the congregation had an impromptu business meeting and voted to approve the support.

The next move De la Barra made was to call Claudio Toro in Chile.

"I told him, 'You say that you would like to do (Hispanic ministry) and now I have the place and the money. Are you willing?'" De la Barra asked.

In February 2006, Toro, who had already quit his lucrative job of 16 years, uprooted his family and left everything behind to move to Lexington and become pastor of a new High Impact church plant.

Using his background both as an

engineer and as minister of worship at his church in Chile, Toro began to formulate "the best process to plant a church," he said. What developed was a method that began with building relationships and networking.

"Since I was new in town ... the first thing I needed to do was develop a relationship with the Hispanic population," he noted.

Many of those relationships were built in the Cardinal Valley neighborhood of Lexington, which, according to Toro, is home to as many as 15,000 Hispanic residents. The church currently meets in a small business park in the heart of the area.

Toro also serves as a chaplain at Keeneland, which is located less than three miles from the neighborhood.

"Most of the people who live in Cardinal Valley work in Keeneland," Toro said.

While Toro affirmed that his ministry at the race track has been successful, he expressed some frustrations because most Hispanic workers at the track are "in transit," as he put it, and those who do make decisions for Christ usually move on and lose contact.

"How do you really support all those new Christians remotely?" he questioned, adding that the Race Track Chaplaincy of America should

create a database of "people who accept Jesus Christ, in order to support them, not to pursue them."

In seeking other way to develop relationships in the community, Toro examined the local schools. He discovered that Cardinal Valley Elementary School—where 60 percent

of the students are Hispanic—was one of the worst in Lexington. Toro worked with the school's principal to identify those kids who needed the most help and launched an after-school tutoring program with 20 kids. Through the venture, each of the students in the program improved their grades and their behavior.

This week, the church began its second tutoring session—this time with 100 students.

While the program has been successful, Toro said he does not "want to get focused on the social ministries," stating that those ministries "have to be a bridge to spread the gospel."

"We will not reinvent the wheel but we will not do the same type of ministries that everybody is doing," Toro declared. "We will try to look at the real needs ... and if you meet those needs, (it) will really make a big difference in their lives."

Toro said he has been working

hard ever since the church launched on July 1, 2006, to develop the congregation and leaders within it. One obstacle to accomplishing that goal has been a lack of commitment among the Hispanic people.

"This area is really hard to work with and create commitment in the people," Toro noted. "They are not prepared to commit."

"They need to understand, if they are coming to the States, they need to be a part of the States," Toro declared. "If they are coming to the church, they need to be a part of the church. If they accept Jesus, they need to commit to Jesus."

While Cardinal Valley Iglesia boasts only 20 active members, the church is in desperate need of finding a new home. Toro said Sunday evening worship attendance averages between 25 and 30 people, but those who attend do so inconsistently. He pointed out that if they came consistently, there would be no place to seat them all.

De la Barra acknowledged that the church is "going in the right direction," but also recognized its critical need for space.

Whether or not Cardinal Valley Iglesia is able to find a new place to meet, Toro said he wants the church to be one that belongs to God, but also one that the neighborhood sees as its own.

"It is Cardinal Valley's church," Toro declared, "but we are part of God's Kingdom."



Make plans to attend the KBC Annual Meeting now!

Elizabethtown Accommodations (Elizabethtown is on Eastern Time) listed are located near exit #94 off I-65. Rates do not include the current Elizabethtown 10.24% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Most blocked rooms are non-smoking.



**KENTUCKY BAPTISTS
Connect**

**empowering
believers
in missions**

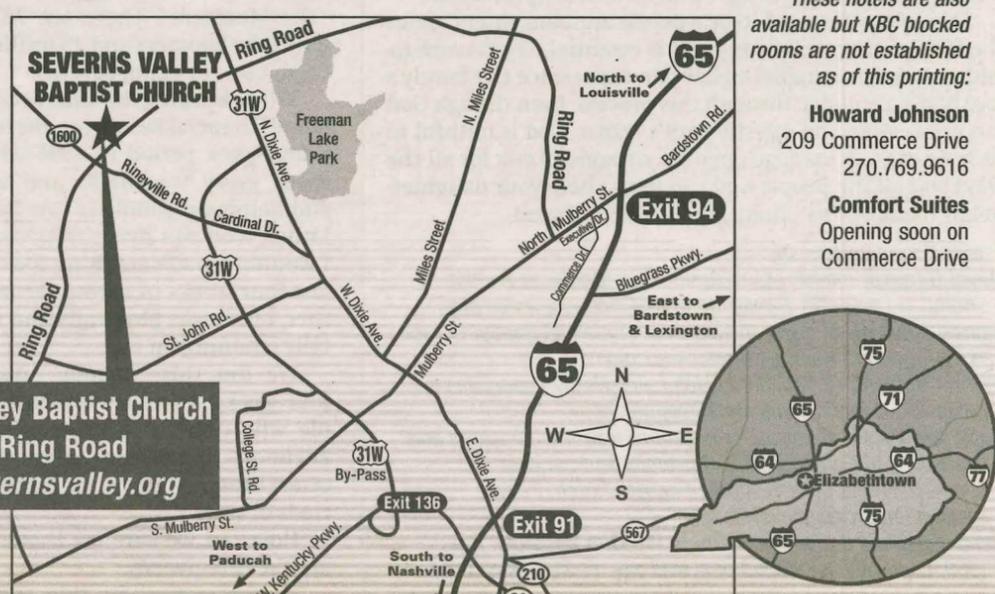
**170th KBC Annual Meeting
November 13-14, 2007
Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown, Kentucky**

<p>Best Western Atrium Gardens 1043 Executive Drive 270.769.3030 \$55.59 (standard, luxury rooms) Complimentary breakfast Restaurant on-site Free high-speed internet in-room access Fitness room Located next to Cracker Barrel Reservation deadline: October 28</p>	<p>Hampton Inn 1035 Executive Drive 270.765.6663 \$89 (doubles) Complimentary breakfast Free high-speed internet in-room access Fitness room, pool Reservation deadline: October 12</p>
<p>Fairfield Inn & Suites 1031 Executive Drive 270.769.1440 \$89 (doubles, kings) Complimentary breakfast Free high-speed internet in-room access Fitness room Reservation deadline: October 31</p>	<p>LaQuinta Inn 210 Commerce Drive 270.765.4747 \$79 (1-4 guests) Complimentary breakfast Free high-speed internet access Microwave, refrigerator Fitness center, indoor pool Reservation deadline: October 28</p>

These hotels are also available but KBC blocked rooms are not established as of this printing:

Howard Johnson
209 Commerce Drive
270.769.9616

Comfort Suites
Opening soon on Commerce Drive



Severns Valley Baptist Church
1100 Ring Road
www.severnsvalley.org

For more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting or contact the Communications Department by phone at **502.489.3578** or **866.489.3578** or e-mail Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org

Serving 'the least of these'

Crossings program provides opportunity to aid orphans

The past several weeks have been quite interesting and extremely challenging. I have just returned from Zambia, Africa. Zambia is in the southern part of the continent and has a population of about 11 million people with more than 1 million being orphans.

As you may recall, our camp ministry has been in partnership with camp programs overseas that minister to thousands of orphans. Last summer, we began praying specifically for an opportunity to come alongside those who are the least—those in the most need. Our prayers are to connect the thousands who attend Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek to specific children on a year-round basis.

In Zambia, we have an opportunity to partner with some of our Baptist brothers to create a school/care system for hundreds and eventually thousands of precious children who are fatherless.

We have the opportunity to provide food, clothing, medicine, education and gospel teaching to as many as we can support. Far beyond financial support, Crossings campers will have the opportunity

to build relationships with specific orphans for the purpose of praying for them and writing to them as well as creating awareness of their needs for the hopes of adoption. We want to teach our kids to make a difference for the cause of Christ.

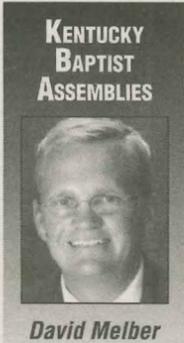
As I spent time in these villages, I was overwhelmed with the magnitude of poverty, sickness and death. The problem is enormous. The average life expectancy is just over 30 years of age and with HIV/AIDS, malaria and other sickness, children are being orphaned every hour.

As the Body of Christ, we have been commanded to care for the least of these. Christ equates our service to Him with service to Him (Matthew 25:40).

Pray today that God will open your eyes to the needs in this world. We can make a difference in the lives of those in great need, but it will take thousands of churches and believers working together. For more information and ways to help minister to these children, please contact our office.

Serve Christ today by meeting the needs of the least on this earth.

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



KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES

David Melber

Missionaries in the home

Foster care program offers positive family influence

Sunrise Children's Services has some very special and gifted people serving with us. The staff who work directly with the kids in residential, foster care, counseling centers, adoption services and our after care program each make a difference daily in the lives of kids and families. Although these gifted servants are not literally parents to our kids, many of them fill that void very well. They do help "raise" or "rear" children.

What does "raising a child" look like? Is it possible to make such a claim when you have provided a loving home for a child only from the age of 11 to 19 years old? If so, Sunrise Children's Services foster care program can make such a claim.

One particular young lady entered our program depressed, aggressive and sexually acting out. After she learned to trust her foster parents, she began making good grades, participated in high school band and was active in church. She began dating a fine young man and eventually they began to discuss living together. When her foster parents objected, stating that the girl knew this was wrong biblical-

ly, she and her boyfriend told the foster parents that they respected them enough not to go against their wishes and refrained from living together until they were married. When the June wedding day came, the young woman walked down the aisle on the arm of her foster father as a joyful bride.

"Who gives this woman to be married?" the preacher asked. "Her mother and I," proudly responded her foster father. The young bride continues to keep in touch, even calling the foster care staff after returning from her honeymoon to thank them.

The lack of a positive family influence is the root cause of many of the social, economic and moral issues children face today. When children live with a traditional family that loves and provides for their best interests, they stand a far better chance of real success than any other option anyone can offer.

The family noted above was involved in "real, life-changing, Kingdom missions." They were and are missionaries in their own homes. Sound interesting? Give us a call; you can help us literally save lives without ever leaving home.

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

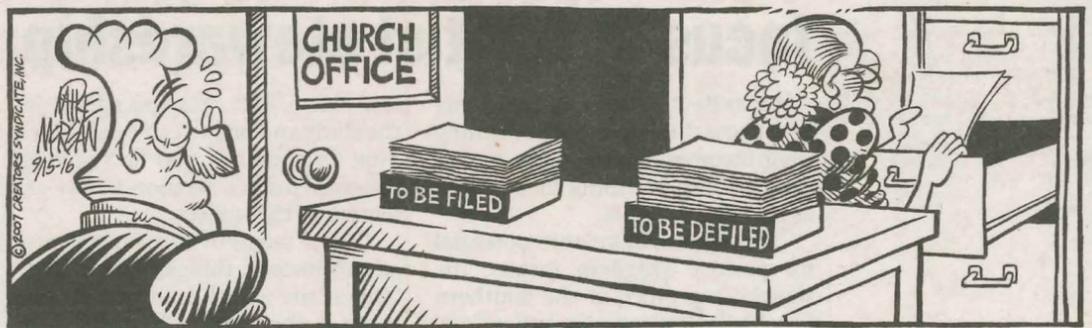


SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Bill Smithwick

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Joyce Handzo

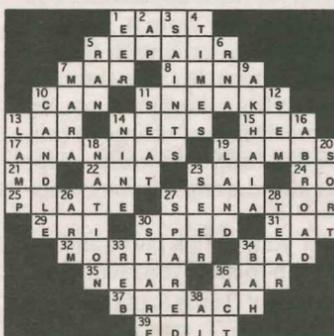
Across

- 1 "Many shall ____ to and fro" (Daniel 12:4)
- 3 "An half ____ of land" (1 Samuel 14:14)
- 6 "And ____ his son reigned" (2 Kings 21:18)
- 10 "As ____ is written" (Mark 1:2)
- 11 Certified Public Accountant, abbr.
- 12 A type of bird that wasn't to be eaten (Leviticus 11:13)
- 14 Master of Arts, abbr.
- 15 Louisiana, abbr.
- 17 "The ____ of heaven" (Jeremiah 33:22)
- 18 "The children of Gad called the altar ____" (Joshua 22:34)
- 20 "A Prophet was beforetime called a ____" (1 Samuel 9:9)
- 21 "____ that believeth on him is not condemned" (John 3:18)
- 23 "And Jacob ____ his clothes" (Genesis 37:34)
- 24 "For the grace of God that ____ salvation" (Titus 2:11 nkjv)
- 27 The sixth note of the musical scale
- 29 One of the sons of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 30 "A ____ work of a sapphire stone" (Exodus 24:10)
- 32 "He passed through the midst of ____" (Luke 17:11)
- 35 "Ye ____ of this world" (John 8:23)
- 36 "I will nourish you, and your little ____" (Genesis 50:21)
- 37 North Dakota, abbr.
- 38 "That which growth of ____ own accord" (Leviticus 25:5)
- 39 "The mountains skipped like ____" (Psalm 114:4)
- 41 Northeast, abbr.
- 42 "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also ____" (Galatians 6:7)

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56							57		

- 44 "I ____ daily with you" (Matthew 26:55)
- 46 "I am he that liveth, and was ____" (Revelation 1:18)
- 48 New Testament language, abbr.
- 50 "____ ye now believe?" (John 16:31)
- 52 "The ____ shall take him by the heel" (Job 18:9)
- 54 "Jael the wife of ____" (Judges 5:24)
- 56 "Be ____ with such things as ye have" (Hebrews 13:5)
- 57 "____ the kine to the cart" (1 Samuel 6:7)
- 19 "Abram ____ as the Lord had spoken" (Genesis 12:4)
- 22 "____ and Medad do prophesy in the camp" (Numbers 11:27)
- 25 "All flesh is as ____" (1 Peter 1:24)
- 26 "And I said unto him, ____, thou knowest" (Revelation 7:14)
- 28 "Why make ye this ____, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- 30 "Neither shall there be any more ____" (Revelation 21:4)
- 31 Vessel, abbr.
- 32 "The ____ beguiled me" (Genesis 3:13)
- 33 "____ did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord" (1 Kings 15:11)
- 34 "He will ____ them with his troops" (Habakkuk 3:16)
- 40 "I am come that they ____ have life" (John 10:10)
- 42 Rear Admiral, abbr.
- 43 "Escaped the ____ of the sword" (Hebrews 11:34)
- 45 "The unclean spirit had ____ him" (Mark 1:26)
- 47 A period of time
- 49 One of the men who was not with Adonijah (1 Kings 1:3)
- 51 Alternating Current, abbr.
- 53 "____ the beginning" (Genesis 1:1)
- 55 "Let there ____ light" (Genesis 1:3)

Last week's solution



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Estate tithing becomes new focus of Baptist stewardship

Nashville (BP)—Most church members know the importance of tithing their incomes, but few have considered the idea of tithing their estates as part of their wills.

To help facilitate this potential for positive Kingdom results, the stewardship office of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee is launching "It's a New Day for Christian Estate Planning" to provide church members with resources for making arrangements to fund ministries beyond their lifetimes.

"As Southern Baptists tithe their estates, it catapults us into a position where we can fund the Great Commission in a greater way," said Ashley Clayton, associate vice president for stewardship at the Executive Committee.

"The International Mission Board desires to double the number of missionaries that they have," Clayton added. "If Southern Baptists would tithe their estates, we could do this in a short amount of time."

Clayton emphasized that the goal of the stewardship office is to lead Southern Baptists to freedom from personal debt, but said he understands that stewardship in a broader sense has other components, such as Christian estate planning.

The largest generational transfer of wealth in history is occurring in the United States now, Clayton said. A Boston College study predicted the amount exceeds \$41 trillion as the World War II generation passes on and Baby Boomers get older.

Don Mann, a stewardship pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Win-

ston-Salem, N.C., has specialized in the study and practice of estate planning for churches, and he supports the convention's decision to give attention to the subject.

"There seems to be a convergence of two historic things," Mann said. "One is the wealth transfer and the other is the unprecedented opportunities that churches and believers have to change local and global communities with the gospel."

Most church members probably would tithe their estates if they were asked, Clayton said, but the problem has been that churches have not been asking the question.

"It's a New Day for Christian Estate Planning is about applying biblical principles of stewardship to our estates," Clayton said. "Since 9 percent of a person's assets are typically in cash and cash equivalents and 91 percent are in fixed assets, it stands to reason that we should steward our estates just as we steward our income by including a gift to the church or to mission causes."

The Executive Committee already has begun working with state Baptist foundations and the Southern Baptist Foundation to create awareness and provide education and resources to assist churches in enabling their members to tithe their estates, Clayton said.

"This is about serving our members and addressing family issues and tax issues," he said. "It's also about serving the Kingdom. It serves the members and it serves the Kingdom by potentially funding mission causes all over the world."

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Resolutions will be receiving resolutions to be considered at this year's annual meeting until October 14.

This year's meeting is to be held Nov. 13-14 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown

IF YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

E-mail it to: executive@kybaptist.org (preferred method)

or
Mail it to: Committee on Resolutions
c/o KBC Executive Office
P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253

All Resolutions Must:

- Be typewritten, titled and dated
- Be accompanied by a letter or e-mail from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing
- Include complete contact information for the person submitting the resolution and his or her church

No person may submit more than three resolutions in a single year.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Executive Office

P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

502-489-3577 or 866-489-3577



For more information, visit our web site at:

www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

What can we do for you?

Tours, choir, meals, lodging among ways Oneida can partner with Kentucky Baptists

Today another wonderful group visited our campus. There are few things that brighten our day more than 10 to 20 people coming to see what is happening at Oneida.

Today's group was about 18 to 20 senior adults. About half of the group had been here before, although for some it had been 15 years. They were impressed with many of the changes that had taken place since they last visited.

They quickly made their way to our chapel service. Two staff members were showing slides and talking about their summer mission trip to Rwanda, Africa. After chapel, we encourage guests to remain seated until the students leave. Lunch follows chapel, so about half of our students are on their way to the dining room. It is usually best if a group of senior adults does not get in the way of students on their way to lunch.

After the students left, I asked the group if they had any questions prior to their tour. Forty-five minutes and about 20 questions later it was time for our guests to go to lunch too.

They asked some really good questions and I am sure some of them thought my answers were a little longer than they expected. I was pleased to share a little about our ministry and the history of our school.

What about you? Have you visited our campus recently? We would love to give you a tour and answer any questions you might have. This is a beautiful time of the year to travel—neither too hot nor too cold. We would be pleased to tell you about our ministry and answer any of your

questions too.

If you can arrive by 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time, you can attend chapel. Then we will take you on a tour of the campus, including a free all-you-can-eat lunch in our dining room. Most groups also enjoy a visit to our gift shop to see some of the craft items our volunteers have made. Often the men enjoy a trip to the farm while the women are shopping.

Another way we can be of service is to bring our choir to your church. From mid-October to the end of April, our choir travels to different churches. Usually our schedule for the coming year is completed by the time school begins in August. The choir already is booked until April 2008, but you can put your request in now for the following year. If you wait too long, next year will be filled too.

We also can visit your church. I would be happy to come to your church on a Sunday or Wednesday evening to tell you about our ministry and how we put your mission dollars to work as we receive Cooperative Program gifts. I never expect a stipend for these appearances, so there will be no expense to your church.

Another possibility is for your church to plan a volunteer trip to our campus. Because the campus and students benefit from your presence, we provide lodging and meals free of charge to mission teams. For some first-time volunteers, or for churches that cannot afford a trip far away, Oneida is a good fit.

What can we do for you? Let us know and we will do everything we can to meet your request.

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 Home Repair Doctor

Student learns to apply different types of skills

The best recommendation for any product comes from a satisfied user. Christian education, though it is a very spiritual product, is still a product nonetheless.

Many of our students come to us at the recommendation of their pastor, mentor or friend who is a Clear Creek alumnus. Shawn Skaggs is a first-year student who came just that way. Shawn's pastor in Lakeland, Fla., is 1998 alumnus David Renfro.

Seeking counsel for the calling he felt God placing on his life, Shawn said he recalls sitting in front of Pastor Renfro's desk.

"Just how do I know if I am being called into full-time Christian service?" Shawn asked.

David Renfro answered from the experience of one who has already been over the same road. "If you didn't already know you needed to be in full-time Christian service," he pointed out, "you wouldn't be sitting in front of me now."

Shawn isn't sure exactly what God has in store for his future, but it likely will be some form of restoration ministry—both physical and spiritual.

On the physical realm, he has a

personal business that has earned him the title, Home Repair Doctor. His experience in electrical work and other skills help him excel in this field.

Other tools God has given him help him excel as youth minister for Riverside Baptist Church in Pineville. He describes the status of that work as being in a time of "rebuilding." The youth group now is experiencing growth after going over some bumps in the road. As it turns out, the Home Repair Doctor is adept at ministry repair as well.

Maybe God will have Shawn and his wife, Amy, help repair broken marriages. They certainly have something to of-

fer in that area. Shawn and Amy began dating when they were 15. In a day of short-term relationships and failed marriages, this devotion is commendable. This could be the next tool God calls for in Shawn's ministry. Whatever God has in store for this couple, they are getting the spiritual preparation they need at Clear Creek.



Donnie Fox

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

Author cautions parents: Don't be 'Logged on and Tuned Out'

By Brooklyn Noel
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—Her son's innocent game of online checkers unexpectedly propelled author and speaker Vicki Courtney into cyberspace several years ago.

With her newest book published by LifeWay Christian Resources' B&H Publishing Group, Courtney hopes to help other parents avoid the momentary panic she felt upon learning that the Internet allowed her teenage son to interact with a faceless opponent thousands of miles away during that online checkers game.

"Logged On and Tuned Out," scheduled for release this month, is designed to offer parents a "crash course of sorts" on the trends and goings-on within the technology-savvy culture of today's teens, Courtney explained.

Courtney said her "Virtuous Reality" ministry and speaking engagements with the "You and Your Girl" conferences sponsored by LifeWay allowed her ample opportunity to see that constantly changing forms of technology serve as the main methods of communication for teens. In addition, ignoring that reality meant "just pushing (teenagers) out in the world and saying, 'Okay, it's a virtual free-for-all, let the culture mold you and set the rules.'"

"It was really a result of being in the trenches, tackling issues related to virtue, that I began to see that we would be remiss not to cover technology and the influence it's having on this next generation," Courtney noted.

She added that parents need to understand the technology op-

tions and activities available to their children, but encouraged parents to realize that promoting their children's online and technology-centered safety doesn't require them to totally master all the intricate details of tides of technology.

"I'm hearing a real desperation among parents that they desire ... to know what's going on, to monitor what their kids are doing, to set boundaries; but quite frankly they don't even know where to begin because the task is so big," Courtney said.

"They've got to jump in, get their feet wet and really just dismiss those feelings of inadequacy that postpone the inevitable," she advised. "I tell parents to get past the fear factor, that feeling of, 'Well, I'm never going to catch up so why even bother.'"

Courtney said the biggest concern she has when it comes to teens and technology is their willingness to share too much personal information. Teens "don't see it as a problem," she said, adding that Logged On and Tuned Out offers parents specific examples of how sharing excessive personal information can produce far-reaching consequences.

"If I don't step in and start setting some ground rules and figuring out what's going on out there in this World Wide Web of technology, and even with cell phones and such, then my kids will be molded with the culture's influence with regard to that."

As she seeks to help equip parents to address such issues, Courtney said parents need to ask themselves, "If not me, who?"



A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines: 12 Habits to Strengthen Your Walk with Christ. Patrick Morley. Moody Press, 2007. 186 pages, \$18.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

When it comes to spirituality, most people know things to do. The challenge for most Christians is the self-discipline to accomplish the tasks they know they should do. Patrick Morley, the founder of Man in the Mirror Ministries, has put together a book for men to help them in this journey of spiritual disciplines.

The disciplines for men are similar to the disciplines for women, but men tend to look at things differently than women do. So what is a man to do?

This book is designed to be read, studied and researched in a small group environment with other men. It is all about men leading other men on the same level in their journey together. The book has 12 chapters subdivided into shorter sections to read and study. The chapters are no more than 12 pages each and can be read with great ease.

The chapters are designed to be read alone and then discussed in a small group environment. There are Bible studies and questions to pose as well as suggested spiritual exercises to try. If the reader, or small group as a whole, is struck by something in a particular chapter that intrigues them or causes them to want to study this discipline deeper, there are suggested resources to examine. The additional resources include books, magazines and Web sites.

Morley begins each chapter heading the same way: "A Man and ...", filling in the spiritual disciplines for men to follow up with, such as Bible study, prayer, worship, the Sabbath, fellowship, spiritual warfare, service, and evangelism. Each chapter includes stories that men can relate to in such areas as sports and hunting.

This book is a resource for men to read to deepen their walk with Christ and their daily Christian service. The book is designed to challenge all men to become better individuals, husbands and men of God.

This is a great book for men's groups to use when beginning their studies at the start of a new church year. It is a wonderful book for high school boys or for young men in col-

lege wanting to begin or strengthen their personal spiritual disciplines. It is an easy enough read and study that all age groups can use this book as a springboard to a deeper walk with Christ. Steve Coleman

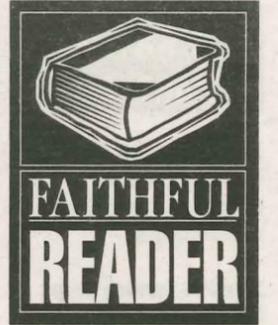
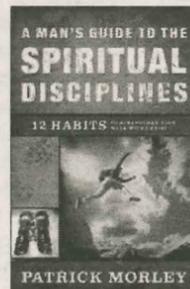
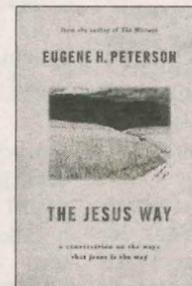
The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways that Jesus Is the Way. Eugene Peterson. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2007. 287 pages. \$22, hardback. ♦♦♦♦♦

Eugene Peterson, author of "The Message," is fast becoming one of my favorite writers. When you pick up one of his books, you know that you are going to have to invest yourself in the read because there is no fluff about what he has to say. The Jesus Way is a book that is not an easy read, in the sense that all along the way you will find yourself in conversation with Peterson, sometimes just wondering about the implications of what you have just read.

Of course the jumping-off point for all that Peterson says is the claim of Jesus to be "the way, the truth and the life." Peterson bemoans the fact that we so often jump over "the way" and immediately focus on what "the truth" is. We boil the truth down to right thought and doctrine without first adopting the way of Jesus. There is a reason for the order. If we do not first wrestle with our own lives and the way that drives us, then concentrating on "the truth" will not lead us to "the life."

In The Jesus Way, Peterson first talks about Jesus as the Way. He then masterfully shows how the lives of other biblical characters (Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah of Jerusalem and Isaiah of the Exile) reveal and prepare the "way" that would be revealed in Jesus. His descriptions are rich and full and he often patterns and structures in the stories that probably have been overlooked in previous study. Peterson also discusses three individuals whose lives illustrate ways other than Jesus: Herod, Caiaphas and Josephus. Peterson's work demonstrates well his love of story and the central place of metaphor in our spiritual lives.

Peterson concludes with helpful descriptions of seven authors who have contributed to his journey of discerning the way of Jesus. Some I have read and some will no doubt become my own new friends along the way. Wayne Hager



By Steve Coleman, pastor of education and youth at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville; and Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: risen4me@hotmail.com; whager@adelphia.net.

Me? Called to ministry? Are you serious? What does that mean?

Do you ever ask yourself, "What do I have to offer to the ministry of my church?" or "How does my specific ministry fit into the big picture of my church's mission?" Would you like to study and interact with others who are asking the same questions?

If so, register for a 4-week online study of the Biblical Basis for Ministry.

Each session is highly interactive and provides opportunities for online discussion with the facilitator and other study participants. The facilitator, Ted Lewis, is the pastor of Mt. Nebo Church, in Portsmouth, VA.

Registration is \$150 (Scholarships are available to cover 50% of registration fee). Courses dates: Oct. 22 - Nov. 18, 2007.

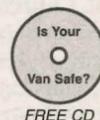
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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

Mission Service Corps Missionary Garnett Jones of Georgetown. Jones ministers to internationals in Scott County by teaching English as a Second Language classes and coordinating activities that benefit those new to the United States. Jones shares the witness of Christ while helping internationals with daily needs such as grocery shopping, getting a driver's license, learning English, finding a job or an apartment or taking children to school. Pray that God will strengthen her health as she ministers in His name. Pray also that internationals will come to know Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

Mission Service Corps Missionary Maegan Worley of Louisville. Worley serves as an intern with the Baptist Campus Ministry at the University of Louisville. She assists campus minister Bill Noe with evangelism, discipleship and special events. Worley seeks to serve as a bridge between the students and the campus ministry, sharing Christ as doors of opportunity are opened. Pray that many new students will find Christ this year through the ministry of the BCM. Pray that God will give fresh direction and vision as Worley and Noe work together to develop strategies and initiatives for sharing Christ with thousands of students on the U of L campus.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ARLINGTON**—Shiloh Church recently ordained **Bobby Dowdy** to the gospel ministry. **Rick Yarbrough** is pastor.

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Bardstown Church will celebrate its 192nd homecoming Sept. 30, 10 a.m., with **Joani Tabor** of Roanoke, Va., providing special music. A fellowship meal will follow. **David Stokes** is senior pastor.

Wickland Church recently called **Grant Williams** as youth minister.

■ **BEREA**—Bethel Church will hold revival services Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, 7 p.m., with **Rick Ousley** as evangelist. **Kenny Davis** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a gospel concert Sept. 30, 6 p.m., featuring local gospel artists. Activities also include a potluck meal at 5 p.m.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Nelson Creek Church will hold revival services Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. For more information, call (270) 754-4712.

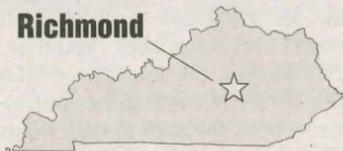
■ **CORBIN**—**Kyle Knight** recently resigned as pastor of White Oak Church.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Second Church recently called **David Little** as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—**Frank Farley**, senior pastor of Farmdale Church, has an-

Spotlight on ...

Richmond



Valley View Church will host its 100th birthday celebration Sept. 30. For more information, call (270) 623-4876.

nounced his retirement effective Sept. 30.

■ **FORT THOMAS**—First Church recently called **Calvin Perry** as interim pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—Unity Church recently called **Kirk Greenfield** as interim pastor.

Walnut Grove Church recently called **Richard Gardner** as pastor.

■ **HARLAN**—**Donnie Adkisson** recently resigned as pastor of Coxton Church.

■ **LaGRANGE**—DeHaven Church ordained **Richard Morris** and **Buddy Nutt** as deacons Sept. 16. **Tommy Purvis** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will



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.
- 25-26 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Severns Valley Association Office, Elizabethtown.
- 27 101 Workshop, Union Baptist Church, Union.

November

- 2-3 International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.
- 3 101 Workshop, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.

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

host the Southern gospel group, **The Melody Boys**, in concert Oct. 7, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church ordained **Jack Briscoe** and **Jim Sallee** as deacons Sept. 9. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Highland Church ordained **Rebecca Brown** and **Peter Smith** as de-

acons Sept. 9. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

■ **MANCHESTER**—Booneville Association elected **Roy Allen** as director of missions during its annual meeting Sept. 13-14. Allen, a retired schoolteacher and bivocational pastor, has been serving as DOM since Aug. 1. He succeeds **Bill Nichols** who retired.

■ **PRINCETON**—Donaldson Church recently called **Chris Turpin** as pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Experienced pastor. Any place, any time frame, any size church, any pay. Call Ben Render, (502) 368-3067.

AVAILABLE: Minister in 30s seeking to pastor a new, emergent church plant or core group. Call (606) 365-8468.

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 gameroom; large dining area; private heated pool. Call Suzannah at (800) 397-2708; www.reunionhouse.org.

SEEKING: Pastor for Ashland Avenue Baptist Church. Resumes will be accepted until Nov. 1 at 2735 Ashland Avenue, Covington, KY 41015.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor who loves the Lord and has a passion for His work and a devotion to missions/outreach. Whitley City First Baptist Church is a small but growing church in rural south-central Kentucky. If God so leads, please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, WCFBC, PO Box 670, Whitley City, KY 42653; e-mail to fbwc@highland.net; or call Amy at (606) 376-2418.

SEEKING: Pianist for Ballardsville Baptist Church (www.ballardsvillebaptistchurch.com). Wide range of musical styles, including traditional, classical and contemporary. E-mail resume to donnivic@aol.com; or mail to the church at 4300 S Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of students/recreation for Red House Baptist Church in Richmond, Ky. Please send resume to the church secretary: dawn@redhousebc.com. For more information, contact the church office at (859) 623-8471, or Duane Cornett at (859) 623-0785. Web site is www.redhousebaptistchurch.org.

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. Resumes 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.

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

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 resumes 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 resume 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. Resume 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 resumes to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015.

SEEKING: God-called bivocational pastor for traditional Southern Baptist church in south-central Kentucky. Must be willing to work well with all age groups, willing to become personally involved in all programs of the church (such as visitation, outreach, fellowship, etc.), and lead as God directs to grow the church spiritually and otherwise. If God is leading you in this direction, please mail your resume to Lyndell Graven, 6299 Louisville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101-8409; or e-mail to lgravenbg@aol.com.

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

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 resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Adairville Baptist Church, PO Box 36, Adairville, KY 42202; or e-mail to abc42202@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: New Hope Baptist (Springfield) is seeking a Christ-filled individual or couple to serve as part-time youth pastor. If interested, please contact Pastor David Kizziah at (859) 284-5202.

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

SEEKING: Pastor for Highland Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn. E-mail resume to dktatam@charter.net; or mail resume to PSC, 808 West Hickory St., Tullahoma, TN 37388.

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister (preschool-6th grade). Send resume 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: 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, resume, 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.

Celebrating a living history

Hundreds of retired missionaries gather to celebrate lives spent on mission fields

By **Erich Bridges**
SBC International Mission Board

Ridgecrest, N.C. (BP)—When you have served for more than 26,000 years, you deserve to celebrate.

As part of the SBC International Mission Board's "Year of Emeriti" observance, nearly 1,000 retired missionaries united for the first time at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, the very location where many of them first heard God's call to missions.

The retirees who attended comprise two-thirds of the approximately 1,400 living emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries and served a cumulative total of more than 26,000 years on mission fields around the world, according to IMB estimates.

"You may feel that old, but you really aren't," IMB President Jerry Rankin joked as he paid tribute to the retirees at the Sept. 10-13 event. "As I look at you and realize what has gone before, how grateful we are that it didn't start with us youngsters. You represent a biblical model of following God as Abraham did. You represent a passion to worship God as Isaiah did, to say to Him, 'Here am I, Lord, send me.' You had the vision of Paul, who was called to regions beyond and to do whatever it takes to get the gospel to the ends of the earth.

"And long before we formulated a mission vision that we would lead all Southern Baptists to be on mission with God, you were fulfilling that vision."

Some of the retirees are moving slower these days. Some use canes, walkers or hearing aids. But their passion for missions burns as bright as ever.

Jim Lochridge, 84, was the first to arrive for an evening celebration service at Ridgecrest's Spilman Auditorium. He sat middle center, sporting a royal blue island shirt and expectantly tapping a shiny bamboo cane.

"You come early, you get the best seat," he said, cracking a grin. His wife, Mary, soon joined him, wearing a matching shirt and smile.

"We're on our 61st honeymoon," Lochridge declared, referring to their recent wedding anniversary.

Beginning in 1958, the Lochridges worked for 27 years in the Philippines, where he was president of the Southern Baptist College in M'lang. It was not his first time in the region, however. He saw action as a U.S. Marine in some of the bloodiest fighting in the Pacific during World War II. Like many members of the great postwar generation of missionaries, he returned to Asia bearing not a gun but the good news of Christ.

"I saw the spiritual poverty in the eyes of those people, and I had to go back," he recalled.

The Lochridges still lead Bible camps for boys and girls in their native North Carolina and other states, and some of their young campers have become missionaries. They also still tell people about Jesus. "I evangelize anytime," he said.

"Flunked retirement"

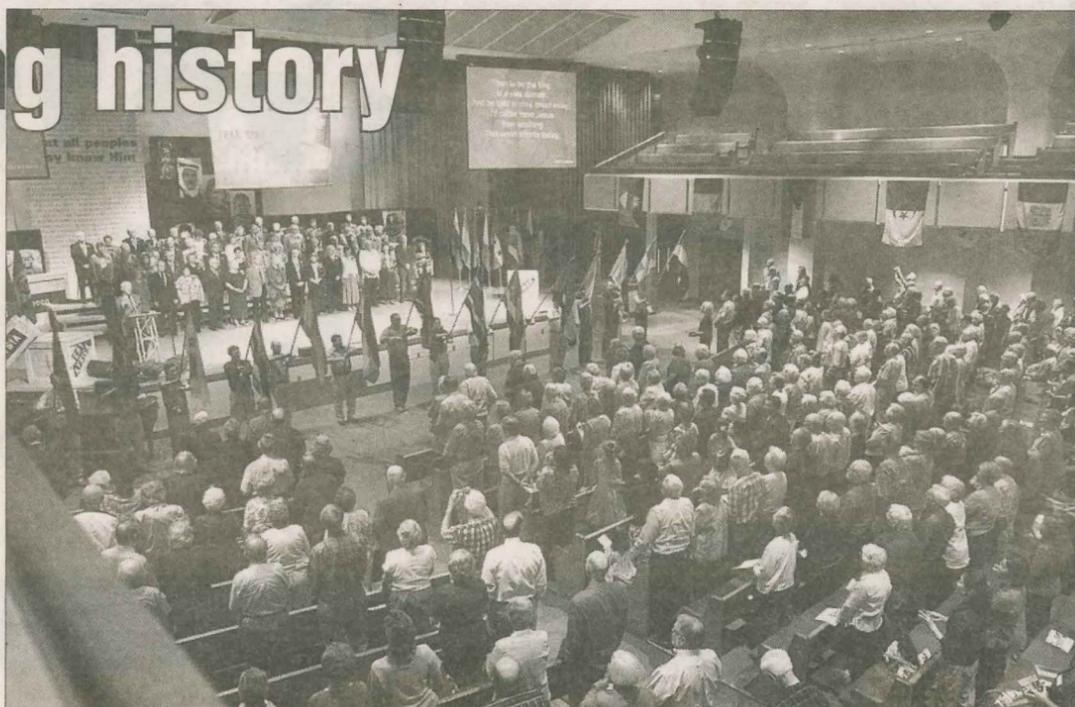
The Lochridges' ongoing commitment to missions is shared by many of the retirees who gathered at Ridgecrest. Mission statesman Winston Crawley, 87, first went to Ridgecrest at age 7 with his preacher father. He went to China as a missionary in 1947 and later oversaw the Foreign (now International) Mission Board's overseas operations during decades of expansion to new fields worldwide. He retired in 1987 but continues to teach missions both in the United States and abroad.

"I flunked retirement," Crawley quipped. "I became a wandering seminary teacher." Next year he plans to teach in Taiwan, he said, "Lord willing."

The emeritus missionaries, combined with the current IMB mission force of 5,234, account for more than a third of all the Southern Baptist missionaries who have served abroad during the board's 162-year history, according to Rankin.

Five served 45 years on their mission fields. Thirty-eight served 40 or more years.

Merrel Callaway, 91, was appointed in 1942. He served in Morocco and Yemen, he told fellow retirees, adding emphatically, "It all was a joy!" Eleven others present also were appointed during the '40s.



Many of the missionaries started Baptist work in their countries of service. Many saw their children and grandchildren follow them into mission work. Hundreds had to evacuate their fields or take cover during wars, coups and revolutions. Harold Hurst, who launched Southern Baptist work in Honduras half a century ago, remembers three revolutions in one year—including one on his birthday.

"The kids were asking, 'Dad, are all those firecrackers outside for your birthday?'" he recalled. It was gunfire. Hurst still leads volunteer teams to Honduras several times a year as his health permits.

If the term "living legends" ever applied to this group, which included:

- Carl Hunker, 91, a China missionary who left the mainland one step ahead of the conquering communists. He went on to lead the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary for many years as president and dean.

- Jim and Betty McKinley and Tom and Gloria Thurman, who braved civil war, devastating floods and famine to share the love of Christ with the people of Bangladesh.

- Sam and Ginny Cannata, medical missionaries who endured false arrest, life under communism and several wars to make disciples during 35 years in East Africa.

- David and Max King, who pioneered seminary education for students throughout the Middle East during decades of service in war-ravaged Lebanon.

- Jurhee Philpot, who returned to serve in Mexico and Costa Rica after her husband, Jim, was murdered in Mexico in 1985.

- J.O. and Mabelee Terry, missionaries to the Philippines and Singapore, who helped develop the Bible storying methods now used to evangelize people groups around the world.

- Catherine Walker, 34 years in China and Indonesia, who extended her impact globally after retirement as the first director of the IMB international prayer strategy office in the 1980s.

That group also welcomed 60 newly retired missionaries into their fraternity. At a special service Sept. 11 honoring the new emeritus group, Rankin said their ministry will continue. For missionaries, the

word "retirement" is really a misnomer, he added.

"Your call is irrevocable. You will continue to find avenues of service as you mobilize others in our churches. Many of you will be returning to the fields. You can't turn loose of the peoples and the places where you've invested your lives for many years," Rankin said. "They're too much a part of your heart, and your heart is still there."

New retirees

The new retirees included Bill and Susan Smith, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to serve in the revolutionary role of strategy coordinator—a mission worker who mobilizes all the resources of the Christian world to bring the gospel to an entire people group.

Also included were 15 missionaries who worked in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa as the modern plague of AIDS swept the region. They brought help and hope to thousands of Africans nearly suffocated by hopelessness.

"During the early '80s, AIDS swept over the country," said Linda Rice, who served in Uganda with her husband, Jim, for 31 years. "It was a rich opportunity for witness. Christ's gospel transformed lives. Those once gripped by fear of the disease became desperate to make every minute count in bold witness and exuberant worship. My own faith grew as I walked with them."

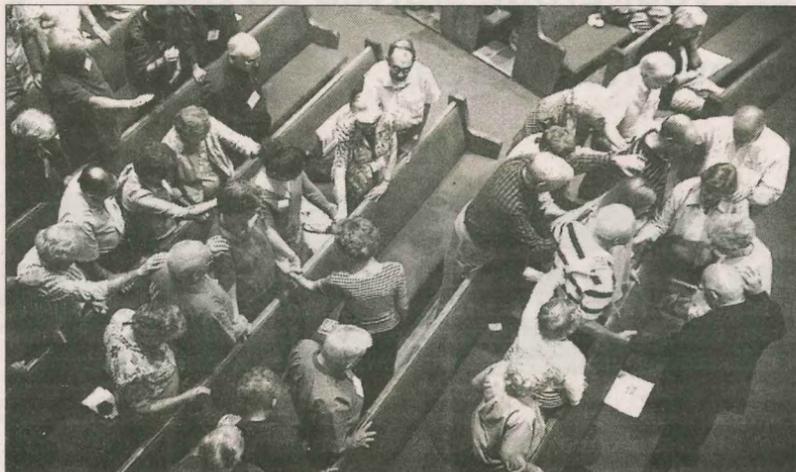
The new retirees and their older mentors also rubbed shoulders with 48 new missionaries appointed at Ridgecrest Sept. 12 by IMB trustees.

"We see it as being a link in the chain," said one new missionary headed to work among an unreached Muslim people group in Africa. "They've gone before us, and they're such an inspiration that we can do this too. It's like the great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 11. Man, these saints have done it. The Kingdom is going to have a lot of people because of these folks. And when they say they're gonna pray for you, they're gonna pray!"

How did the older saints advise the new workers to relate to the people they will serve?

"Just love them," urged Nettie Gammage, who served with her late husband, Al, in South Korea and the Philippines for 38 years. "And stay in touch with Jesus."

LIVES OF SERVICE Sixty newly retired Southern Baptist missionaries were honored Sept. 11 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. They were among nearly 1,000 emeritus missionaries who gathered at the center to celebrate more than 26,000 years of combined service through the SBC International Mission Board. (BP photo by Kristen Hiller)



LORD, SEND ME Retired missionaries gather around soon-to-be-appointed mission workers to pray for their ministries. "We see it as being a link in the chain," said one new missionary headed to Africa. "And when they say they're going to pray for you, they're going to pray." (BP photo by Bill Bangham)



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