



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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**Cross
Over
KENTUCKY**

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FOR THE RECORD

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Southern Baptist pastors say, 'Thou shalt not drink'

Nashville (BP)—A majority of Southern Baptist pastors and laity believe Christians should not drink alcohol and that using it could cause other believers "to stumble," according to a new poll by LifeWay Research.

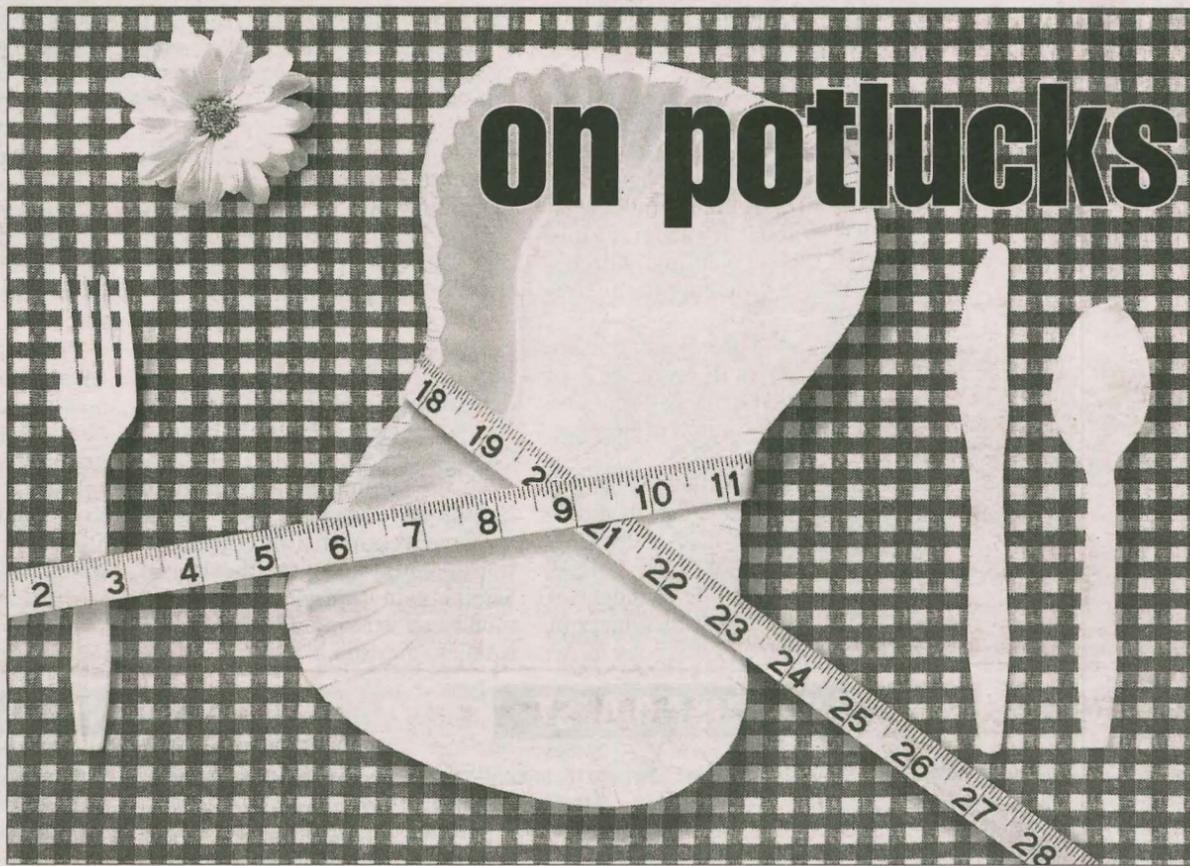
The survey asked Southern Baptist and non-Southern Baptist pastors and laity seven questions about alcohol, ranging from their views on whether getting drunk is against Scripture to whether drinking alcohol is an example of Christian liberty.

Among Southern Baptists, 77 percent of pastors and 59 percent of laity believe "Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage." Those percentages fall, though, when Southern Baptists are asked whether "Scripture indicates that people should never drink" alcohol. Only 41 percent of SBC pastors agreed with that statement.

Those percentages are higher than they are among non-Southern Baptist Protestants. For example, 45 percent of non-Southern Baptist pastors and 45 percent of non-Southern Baptist laity believe Christians should not use alcohol.

Southern Baptists also are likely to believe that when "a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused." Ninety-eight percent of Southern Baptist pastors and 71 percent of Southern Baptist laity agreed with that statement, compared to 89 percent of non-Southern Baptist pastors and 61 percent of non-SBC laity.

The skinny



Simple changes can reduce fat & calories in fellowship faves

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—The statistics are grim: An annual health survey conducted by telephone revealed that more than 38 percent of Kentuckians are overweight; 28 percent are obese—50 pounds or more overweight—and fewer than 17 percent exercise 20 minutes or more three days each week.

The list of health problems caused or exacerbated by excess body fat is long and includes heart disease, di-

abetes and some cancers. At a recent health fair sponsored by University of the Cumberlands, Associate Professor of Psychology Brad Humphrey put it this way: "Every single condition in medical health is made worse by obesity."

Although the percentage of overweight or obese Kentuckians is higher than the national average, we have a lot of company. A study released last year by Ken Ferraro, a Purdue University sociology professor, determined Baptists in the U.S. are

more likely to be overweight or obese than people of other faiths.

In his study Ferraro, who began studying the correlation between weight and religious practices in the early 1990s, said, "There were more obese people in states with higher populations of people claiming religious affiliations, especially in states with a higher number of Baptists." His results did not distinguish among the various Baptist denominations.

□ See Add common ... Page 6

Church emphasizes relationships in 'close-knit' Appalachian area

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Paintsville—Not many Kentucky Baptist pastors get the chance to go one-on-one with a big-time college basketball player. But there was Jason Hutchinson, pastor of Mountain Community Fellowship in Paintsville, matched up against former University of Kentucky standout Bobby Perry as the last two participants in a game called "Knock Out."

Unfortunately, for the 32-year-old Hutchinson, youth (and just a little bit of skill) won out, as the 22-year-old Perry converted a lay-up to claim victory.

The playground showdown came about as a result of Mountain Community Fellowship's "Bibles and Basketball" clinic featuring former University of Kentucky basketball play-

ers Perry, J.P. Blevins and Josh Carrier.

The former UK players led the approximately 20 boys and girls through a series of drills designed to hone their basketball skills. The kids also got to hear testimonies from the players and their fellow students, as well as each receiving a Bible.

But aside from the thrill of meeting some of their favorite basketball players, Hutchinson said he hoped the kids left with something much more important: the knowledge that Jesus loves them.

The basketball outreach is just one of the many ways that Mountain Community Fellowship, a Kentucky Baptist Convention High Impact church, is reaching out to the city of Paintsville.

"We want to create Christian com-

munity and we want to be a church about our community," Hutchinson declared.

As the young church planter explained, the most useful way to reach the Appalachian community is by developing relationships.

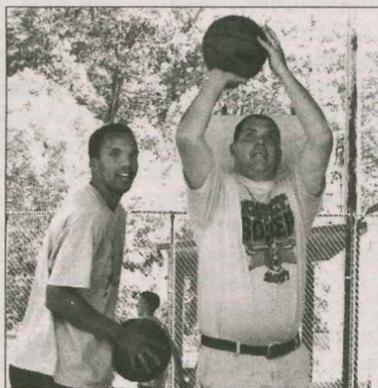
"That's the only way we have found to be effective," Hutchinson noted. "You have to get out, you have to be in the community and you have to create relationships."

Oddly enough, it was an unexpected relationship formed 175 miles away that shaped Mountain Community Fellowship.

In the summer of 2005, Hutchinson found himself in a transition period. After a little less than two years as pastor of First Baptist Church of South Shore, he was called by his

□ See Regional identity ... Page 8

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Oct. 17.



ROUNDBALL WITNESS Pastor Jason Hutchinson of Mountain Community Fellowship (right) puts up a shot against former University of Kentucky basketball standout Bobby Perry. He and other former UK players traveled to Paintsville to help out the church's "Bibles and Basketball" camp. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

NAMB leaders commission Geoff Hammond as president

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

McDonough, Ga. (BP)—Only the second president in the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's 10-year existence, Geoff Hammond—along with 125 new missionaries and seven chaplains—was commissioned Oct. 8 during ceremonies at Eagles Landing First Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga.

Unanimously elected to the post by NAMB's trustees in March, Hammond officially took office in May.

An estimated 1,400 people attended the service. It featured a processional of 75 U.S., state and Canadian flags; special praise and worship music; and commissioning prayers and sermons.

In introducing Hammond, his wife, Debbie, and two sons, Timothy and Nicholas, NAMB trustee chairman Bill Curtis said, "Nights like this help all of us to remember what NAMB is all about. It's about the missionaries, about planting churches and making a difference in the lives of people.

"Geoff and Debbie Hammond are true missionaries in every sense of the word," said Curtis, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Florence, S.C.

"Before they married, Debbie was a journeyman missionary in Brazil. Dr. Hammond has held many Kingdom positions that have uniquely prepared him to be president of NAMB. He was also a missionary in Brazil, a director of missions in Ar-



PRAYER FOCUS Greg Faulls (left), pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, and chairman of NAMB's president search committee, led a time of prayer for NAMB's new president, Geoff Hammond, and his family at an Oct. 8 commissioning service in McDonough, Ga. (BP photo by Adam Miller)

kansas, a church planting strategist in Virginia, a church's minister of global missions, a NAMB missionary in Virginia and senior associate director for the SBCV (Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia).

"All of these amazing opportunities given to him by God prepared him in a unique, special and providential way as he begins to lead the North American Mission Board," Curtis added.

In the commissioning charge to Hammond, Hershael York, associate dean of ministry and proclamation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said Hammond was arriving as president of NAMB to minister to a continent un-

dergoing rapid change.

"Our society and culture are growing ever browner in skin and graying in hair color," York said. "We have an aging population, increased immigration and are more culturally diverse.

"But one thing is certain not to change," he declared. "We will never be more lost than we are today. The human heart will never be more depraved than it is right now. The gospel will never be more necessary than right now. Surface strategies may have to change and adapt but behind the missiology, there's always the Lamb."

Before his closing commissioning prayer, Greg Faulls, chairman

of NAMB's president search committee and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, asked committee members, trustees and others to come to the platform, surround the Hammond family and place their hands on them.

In his prayer, Faulls thanked God "for this leader, Geoff Hammond, and I ask You would give him, from this point on, the vision—vivid, clear, colorful, compelling—of North America.

"Give him great wisdom, grant him unique understanding of Your holy and inerrant Word. Give him a unique understanding of this world, Your mission field. Give him a unique understanding of the opportunities that are before us in such a time as this. God, grant this man courage, the courage to always lead with integrity and authenticity."

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, said he has known the Hammonds for years because of their work with the IMB.

"I've known of his heart for church planting and for reaching a lost world," Rankin said. "We just praise the Lord that He has brought Dr. Hammond into this place of leadership. We've already had many occasions for consultation and planning, and I'm so excited about the powerful synergy that I believe God is bringing about between our two mission boards to reach the world. We have the same vision and purpose."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Acts 1:8 Challenge adds new resources. New leadership seminars, celebration rallies, renewal and student weekend events, podcasts and a revamped website are among new resources under development as part of the Southern Baptist Convention's Acts 1:8 Challenge. More than 3,200 Southern Baptist churches have committed to an Acts 1:8 missions strategy since the initiative was launched in 2004 by cooperating Southern Baptist associations, state conventions, the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board. "Acts 1:8 is an organic, evolving initiative," said Tim Yarbrough, NAMB's Acts 1:8 coordinator. "It's not a program; it's a passion." Among the new resources is the Acts 1:8 Challenge Podcast. The podcast can be accessed via iTunes Podcasts, searching for the "Acts 1:8 Challenge" direct link or via an RSS feed on the Acts 1:8 Challenge website at www.actson8.com.

Texas convention launches internal audit. For the second time in less than a year, the Baptist General Convention of Texas is looking into alleged misuse of church-starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley. BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade reported to the Executive Board that an internal auditor will examine questions raised regarding \$26,550 in church-starting funds the BGCT provided to First Baptist Church of Weslaco, Texas. The BGCT Missions Funding Committee had approved \$21,000 for the church in 2005 and 2006. Documents indicate the church paid the money to Jonathan Becker, who was at the time pastor of both the sponsor church and listed as pastor of a new congregation, The Family Fellowship. But while Becker reported to the BGCT that The Family Fellowship was a new church temporarily meeting in the facility of the sponsor church, most members of First Baptist Church apparently viewed it simply as a new worship service with a different format—not the start of a new congregation.

Missouri convention may relocate headquarters. The Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board will evaluate the sale of its downtown Jefferson City, Mo., headquarters and may accept a gift of property in a neighboring town. The board plans to consider the issue when it meets in conjunction with the MBC annual meeting Oct. 29. If the board approves the motion to accept the six acres of property in California, Mo., the convention will build its new headquarters on the land, whether or not the motion to sell the current headquarters is approved. California is a small town of approximately 4,000 people located about 25 miles from the state capital of Jefferson City. In recent years, the convention has been trying to sell the Baptist Building it acquired and renovated in 1969 because maintenance costs are too expensive.

Baptist Joint Committee seeks property. The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty is one step closer to owning its own "Center for Religious Liberty" on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Directors of the organization voted Oct. 1 to engage the services of a real estate agent to identify a specific property for the BJC to purchase and renovate. The center will provide offices, research space for visiting scholars, meeting space for legislative coalition partners, and a training center to teach supporters how to relay the BJC's message of religious liberty and church-state separation. For decades, the Baptist Joint Committee has used a rented office suite on Capitol Hill in the Veterans of Foreign Wars building. Directors also voted to accept the Baptist General Convention of Missouri as a member body of the Baptist Joint Committee. The statewide body—formed in 2001 as an alternative to the conservative Missouri Baptist Convention—joins 14 other national and regional Baptist groups that support the Baptist Joint Committee.

Baptists donate \$7.4 million to help battle world hunger

Richmond, Va. (BP)—On Aug. 15, an 8.0-magnitude earthquake 90 miles outside of Lima, Peru, shook the countryside and left approximately 33,000 people without shelter and food.

Baptists immediately came to their aid. Missionaries on the ground and others from the United States gathered to feed and comfort the Peruvians.

Wayne Brinkley of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board set up community kitchens to feed families in a city a few hours from Lima. A preliminary relief team assessed needs in the earthquake areas to bring relief to smaller communities. Within days, a system to feed thousands through Southern Baptist World Hunger Funds was in place and Baptist volunteers were in place to assist in the effort.

On the other side of the world a few days later, another disaster occurred. The area around Bihar, India, was caught off guard in what was called the worst flood in living memory. Once again, World Hunger Funds allowed Southern Baptists to respond rapidly.

Southern Baptist missionaries and local believers surveyed the flooding conditions, then quickly put into effect a plan to take food to those in need. The survey trip revealed about 1,000 families stranded and in desperate need of food.

Food packets were filled with ready-to-eat items designed to provide the maximum nourishment possible. A small group of nearby

Christians banded together to get food to those stranded and in danger of starving.

In three days, because of Southern Baptists' gifts to the World Hunger Fund, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program, the missionaries and Indian believers packaged and distributed food to families in four of Bihar's flooded villages.

"Fortunately, through Baptist relief, we have the resources to do something," said a Christian worker serving in Bihar. "Even though there are not a lot of local resources at our disposal, God gave us what we needed and what we'd be able to handle."

Nearly 190 other international hunger relief projects were carried out in 2006 because Southern Baptists gave \$6 million in financial gifts to help feed hungry people overseas. Southern Baptists gave another \$1.4 million that was distributed to 2,200 hunger ministries in North America; 3.5 million meals were provided and more than 30,000 professions of faith in Christ were reported.

Hunger funds are used only for meeting food-related needs, such as assisting people with buying and growing food and using it properly, as well as to teach nutrition.

Along with the physical needs met through each of these projects, the gospel is shared, Bibles are distributed and local Christians are engaged to meet the spiritual needs of the people receiving hunger funds.

KBC Mission Board leaders approve personnel proposals

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board's administrative committee addressed a series of personnel-related issues during their Oct. 9 meeting.

Committee members approved an associate in the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department, a part-time church development strategist and an interim leader for the church development team. They also approved a proposal to recommend a partnership missions department director to the full Mission Board in November.

Coy Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello, was named the Baptist Men's associate effective Jan. 1. He will succeed Larry Koch who has announced his retirement effective Jan. 31.

Mike James, pastor of Glen's Creek Baptist Church in Versailles, was named part-time church development strategist for Eastern Kentucky effective Oct. 16. James, who also will continue to serve Glen's Creek Church, will succeed Jim McGee who retired at the end of August.

Alan Witham, the KBC's church development strategist coordinator, also will serve as interim leader of the church development team. Former team leader French Harmon resigned in September to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset.

Board members also approved a proposal to recommend Scott Pittman as the KBC's partnership missions department director. Pittman, who has served as a Southern Baptist international missionary to Brazil since 1991, will be voted on by the KBC Mission Board during its Nov. 12 meeting.

If elected, Pittman will succeed Ross Bauscher effective Jan. 16. Bauscher was named KBC evangelism growth team leader last December. Randy Jones, leader of the KBC missions growth team, has been



Mike James



Scott Pittman



Coy Webb



Alan Witham

serving as interim partnership missions director.

Baptist Men's associate

Among the new staff members, Webb has been pastor of First Baptist, Monticello, since 1992. A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., Webb previously served as pastor, interim pastor, associate pastor and minister of youth at churches in Kansas and Tennessee.

Webb, 49, also served as a missionary with the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as pastor/director of the Christian Social Ministry Center in Kansas City, Kan., as well as on-site coordinator for the Kansas/Nebraska Southern Baptist disaster relief team.

In his role with the KBC, he will be responsible for providing leadership in such areas as disaster relief, Baptist Builders, Campers on Missions and Habitat for Humanity.

"Coy is very committed," Jones told committee members. "He has pastoral experience. He loves the

Lord. He's a soul-winner. He's missions-oriented."

"I feel God calling me toward this ministry," Webb noted. "I have a passion for ministry and missions and a passion for discipling others."

He said he sees his new role as an opportunity "to help churches do their mission and ministry" as he seeks "to be a servant to Kentucky Baptist churches."

He and his wife, Cathy, are the parents of three children, Mandy, Matthew and Marc.

Church development strategist

James, 54, was called earlier this year as pastor of Glen's Creek Church. He previously was pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Lexington and also has served as an associate pastor and minister of youth, music and education at churches in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. He is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Regent University in Virginia.

In his role as a regional church development strategist, James will be responsible for networking, resourcing and encouraging Eastern Kentucky congregations in development and growth.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey told committee members, "I am happy to bring to you today the recommendation of Mike James to fill this position."

Noting that James' "service in churches is outstanding," Mackey added, "I am certainly excited to have someone of his experience and vision and capacity to fill this role."

Describing himself as "a product of Kentucky Baptists," James said he made his profession of faith in Christ while attending a Kentucky Baptist mission congregation.

"I've had the blessing of serving different size churches in different places," James said. "I really have treasured all of the ministry experiences I have had."

Voicing concern that "most of

our churches are kind of stuck, plateaued or declining," James warned, "If we keep singing the same song, we're going to keep dying."

"I would like to see revival sweep across Kentucky," he declared, adding that one of his goals is "helping churches get a Great Commission vision for reaching people."

James and his wife, Kathy, have one son, Michael.

Partnership missions director

Pittman served in a variety of roles as a missionary to Brazil, including a state evangelism director, seminary professor, church planter and strategy facilitator. He also has served since 2005 as the on-site coordinator for the KBC's missions partnership with Baptists in Brazil.

Pittman, 50, previously was pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church and served on the KBC Mission Board. He also was a former minister of youth and associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Fairdale. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, Southern Seminary in Louisville and Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Jones emphasized that Pittman "has been a real friend to Kentucky Baptists" in his role as on-site partnership coordinator in Brazil.

If Pittman is approved by the full board, Jones added, "because of Kentucky Baptist partnership missions, he became an international missionary to Brazil and because of Kentucky Baptist partnership missions, he would be returning to Kentucky."

Recounting his spiritual pilgrimage and calling to ministry, Pittman noted that "the Lord has used Kentucky Baptists throughout my ministry to guide and nurture and lead me."

"My vision for this department is focusing not so much on the short-term trip," he added, "but focusing on the long-term effects that partnership missions can have throughout the world."

Pittman and his wife, Joyce, are the parents of two children, Erin and Joel.

"Most of our churches are kind of stuck, plateaued or declining. If we keep singing the same song, we're going to keep dying."

Mike James, newly elected church development strategist for Eastern Kentucky

Disaster relief training offered next month for new volunteers

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists interested in being trained as disaster relief volunteers can learn more about the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief ministry and become certified volunteers at the upcoming Phase I Disaster Relief Training.

Sponsored by the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department, the training will be held Nov. 10, 8 to 11 a.m., on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"We're always looking for new volunteers," said Larry Koch, disaster relief associate for the KBC. "People of all ages are needed, but we are looking especially for young retirees who can give leadership to the organization."

More than 7,000 individuals are trained as disaster relief workers in Kentucky. Kentucky Baptist volunteers can staff feeding units designed to deliver thousands of hot meals on short notice, help remove

debris, remove mud from flooded homes and provide many other disaster relief services.

"Disaster relief opens the doors to share Jesus Christ," Koch noted. "It really is a missions endeavor."

Kentucky Baptists are part of a larger network of Southern Baptist volunteers trained to respond to disasters. Together, Southern Baptist disaster relief teams compose the third largest relief organization in the United States.

Registration for Phase I Disaster Relief Training is \$15 and includes all materials. Payment will be accepted at the door, but participants must register in advance by contacting Bob Perkins at (502) 897-4398.

To learn more about Kentucky Baptist disaster relief efforts and training opportunities, visit <http://www.1.kybaptist.org/kbc/welcome.nsf/pages/BhoodDR>, e-mail baptistmen@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3401 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

Cross Over emphasis set for Elizabethtown

Elizabethtown—From now until next month's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, Kentucky Baptists from across the state will be participating in service projects and sharing their faith as part of Cross Over Kentucky 2007 in Elizabethtown and surrounding communities.

Cross Over is a series of community outreach events planned in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting Nov. 13-14 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Severns Valley Baptist Association, Cross Over activities are open to all Kentucky Baptist churches. Volunteers are still needed for many of the projects.

"We want to show people what Kentucky Baptists are all about," explained Ross Bauscher, leader of the KBC's evangelism growth team. "Kentucky Baptists love to serve others, and Cross Over gives them a chance to do that together."

Cross Over will feature a variety of outreach projects including community prayerwalks, door-to-door surveys to determine community needs, social service projects and outreach events.

The community/prayer needs surveys include

teams of three people who will be assigned specific areas to survey. As each team completes the surveys with area residents, an opportunity is extended to share a witnessing booklet with interested individuals.

Service projects will include carpet removal, linoleum installation, minor construction projects, roof repair and more.

According to Bauscher, Cross Over also will feature outreach events for youth and children that are open to the public.

On Oct. 31, Rineyville Baptist Church will host "Trunk or Treat," a family-oriented alternative to traditional Halloween festivities. Severns Valley Baptist Church will host a youth outreach event Nov. 10 featuring Christian illusionist Brock Gill.

This will be the seventh annual Cross Over event sponsored by the KBC since 2001. Bauscher noted that Cross Over activities are ideal for church groups such as mission teams, Bible study groups, youth groups and ministry teams. Events also are open to individual volunteers.

For more information, contact Gerald Murphy, director of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association, at (502) 765-4023 or visit www.kybaptist.org/crossover.

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

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Muslim world: hard ground, harvest field

By **Erich Bridges**

Richmond, Va. (BP)—In an Islamic country known for violent persecution of Christians, a local believer named Samuel* hands out evangelistic tracts and films every day.

One day, Samuel spotted a conservative Muslim man on a street corner where Muslims gather to collect funds for their mosque. Samuel sensed the Lord telling him to share Jesus with the man.

"Are you sure, Lord?" Samuel prayed as sweat began to prickle on his forehead.

"Yes, go," he heard a voice within him say.

So he walked straight up to the Muslim man and declared the gospel. Instead of the hostile response Samuel feared, the Muslim man listened thoughtfully.

"That's interesting," he said when Samuel finished. "Last night I was listening to the radio and heard something about this. I have to work now, but can you meet me later?"

They met later that night, and Samuel led the man to faith in Christ.

Courageous? Yes. Dangerous? Undoubtedly. Samuel isn't a natural risk-taker, however. He just wants to obey the Lord.

"We have been teaching our team about boldness," said a Southern Baptist worker who trained Samuel to spread the gospel. "He comes across as very timid, but the Lord has changed him. We tell him to be careful, but he keeps going. These national believers are bold!"

Many such testimonies were shared at a recent consultation on church planting among Muslim peoples. Nearly 500 Christian workers from 46 nationalities attended the conference in Asia, where they talked about fruitful ways to guide Muslims to Christ.

One scholar at the conference recalled a similar gathering nearly 30 years ago where participants asked, "How do we take the gospel to Muslims?" Now the question has

become. "How do we become more effective at planting churches and discipling Muslim-background believers?" That, he said, is "a huge forward move."

COMMENTARY

Among recent advances:

■ In one Muslim area in South Asia, the first local believer began sending gospel materials to friends and family members by mail, buses and other local transportation. Now he can track on a map how the good news has taken root along the roads to various villages. He counts 75 baptized believers in eight churches, plus numerous "seeker groups." At least one second-generation church has been started by one of the new congregations.

■ In a Middle Eastern country, a Christian worker entered the office of a strongly anti-American Muslim group. "We'd like to help your people," he said, adding that some of the helpers would come from America.

"When they heard me say America, the men stood with their guns ready. But after more dialogue and discussion, they said 'OK.' Now they allow us to go to their villages. They escort us and protect us, and our volunteers pray and give Bibles to the people."

For every such success story told at the conference, however, there came a reminder of the challenge of working among Muslims.

"A year ago our team members could put a finger on 50 (worshiping) groups, so we know there are a lot more," one worker reported. "People come and say, 'We have 50 believers. Can you give us a (gospel) film?' We have girls who are leading others to Jesus. Families are coming to faith. But we are seeing a lot of persecution. Our team has suffered. One member went to prison twice and they used several meth-

What are you thinking?

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Bellview Church celebrates Homecoming

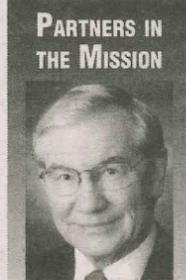
My wife, Kay, and I were privileged to be present for the Homecoming celebration of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah on Oct. 7. Pastor Lee James, who has served there for more than 15 years, had planned a great day of extended music and drama, as well as lunch in the gym.

It was exciting to see the number of young people participating in the celebration service. The youth creative ministries group presented a dramatic interpretation of a song. Three youth who are part of a group called "Reborn" also provided special music along with the celebration choir and the Bellview vocal ensemble.

The children were recognized for their special efforts to help with funds for paving the parking lot. A new children's building is under construction, which will result in parking lot extension and repairs.

The new minister of students, Brad Walker, had also prepared the

youth for a mission trip during the fall break and members gathered around them for prayers of dedication.



Bill Mackey

For my visit, Pastor James arranged for a joint Sunday school session for adults and youth, and gave me the opportunity to teach about missions and to share the story of world missions through the Co-operative Program. He had included a CP brochure in the Sunday bulletins and I provided a fact sheet about the results of CP missions work in Kentucky and around the world.

I shared a Bible message based on Acts 1:6-8 and used the following outline:

I. God Purpose Is Grander Than Ours (v. 6-7). God's purpose is for all nations to worship Him.

II. God's Power Is Greater Than Ours (v. 8a). God's power through the Holy Spirit is available to believers.

III. God's Plan Is Broader Than Ours (v. 8b). God's plan extends be-

ods to harm her. She came out with a battered back—and a heart song. That heart song is now being taught to others."

Another worker exulted about victories in other places, but wept over the lack of visible results in his own area. "We haven't seen (any believers or churches) yet, and we have been laboring a really long time," he admitted. "Can you please pray for my people?"

Conference participants gathered around him to ask God for the salvation of his people, and for encouragement and strength for him.

Are Muslims becoming more open to the gospel of Jesus Christ? It depends on where you are—and when. The Holy Spirit works on His schedule, not ours.

Scott Holste, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's associate vice president for research and strategic services, remembers his years among a particularly resistant Muslim people group in Asia. He often compared notes with other missionaries hoping for glimpses of progress with their peoples.

"Our dream at the time was to see at least one healthy church planted in each of these people groups," he recalled. "I don't think in our wildest imagination we ever thought there would be scores or hundreds of churches like there are among some groups now."

In some places, the day of bountiful harvest has arrived. In other places, it may take generations of patient sowing and removing rocks from the soil before any real church planting can take place.

"That's the challenge," Holste observed. "We need to be bolder than we've been in the past. It still may take years and years, but let's push the edge."

**Name changed for security reasons*
Erich Bridges is senior writer for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

yond the local church field to "the uttermost parts of the earth."

Following the Sunday school lesson, a young couple who had just moved from the state of Washington came forward to express interest in mission work in Africa. It was a privilege to share their names with the KBC partnership missions department to connect them to a missions opportunity.

Bellview has long been involved in partnership missions experiences, including trips to Brazil and Kenya. Bellview also has had ongoing work in Kenya that has resulted in starting eight churches. One church now exceeds 300 people in attendance.

It was gratifying to learn that although the church had been through some challenging times, the emphasis on missions and support of the Co-operative Program and missions offerings continues to be strong.

Whatever challenges may come, I pray that God will continue to enable all Kentucky Baptists to remain faithful in "Connecting All People to Jesus Christ!"

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Guard against being insurance rich & cash poor

By **Jeremy White**

Having daughters is a joyful privilege—and an accompanying challenge. One example is the event that causes many grown men to shudder: the wedding.



To help plan financially, here's another of the insurance industry's creative products: wedding insurance policies. No kidding, you can insure against "cold feet."

With the average cost of weddings approaching \$27,000, insurance companies think the bride's father is a good prospect. Imagine what a snowstorm or a flu outbreak among the bride and her family could do to the big matrimonial day. A postponement could cause a loss of non-refundable cash deposits. New riders also protect against "change of heart" coverage. If the bride or groom gets "cold feet," then the insurance still pays.

The basic purpose of any type of insurance is to transfer a financial risk you're not willing or able to take to someone (usually a company) willing to take the risk in return for compensation.

You can find insurance for just about anything. Lloyd's of London will insure a football player's knees, a pop singer's voice or a special event. Of course, they will do it for a price, called a premium.

Is purchasing wedding insurance wise? It depends on the likelihood of the feared risk occurring. Then, the risk likelihood must be compared with and assessed by the cost of the premium. If the wedding insurance policy costs only \$15, then you might say that's reasonable compared to the risk. What if the premium costs \$1,000? Then, perhaps your answer is different. (In case you're curious, a typical wedding policy could cost around \$300).

Using wedding insurance as an example, what insurance is probably necessary for most folks? I'd suggest health insurance, automobile liability insurance, home insurance. If you have dependents, then life insurance and disability is important coverage.

What insurance can you probably do without? Electronics equipment warranties, mortgage life insurance, auto collision and comprehensive (if your cars are older), cancer insurance (if you have health insurance already) and credit card payment insurance.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah

Approach stages of grief as an active process to address

Q: I have experienced several types of grief in my life lately: a divorce, the death of a pet and transition in my job situation. Is there a grief model that would be helpful to me as I work through all of these challenges?

A helpful model for grieving is offered by Dr. Therese Rando, most famous for her book "How to Go on Living When Someone You Love Dies." It is also the model put forward by Dr. Harold Ivan Smith in his many books about grieving both death and divorce.

SINGLES

The difference between this model and others is that it is active rather than passive. Grief is not something that happens to you, but a process you choose to work through every step of the way. Here are the steps:

- Recognize your loss.
- React to your loss.
- Recollect and re-experience.
- Relinquish old attachments.
- Readjust to a new world.
- Reach out to a new future.

Make no mistake about it, this process is

tough work. But that is much more empowering than just "getting through it." It will take time, but time alone will not move you forward without your conscious effort. Practice saying "I can" rather than "I should," "I ought to" or "I must." Give yourself permission to grieve.

The first three steps deal with the past. Feel what you feel. Name the feelings. Participate in a support group that allows you to be wherever you are and doesn't tell you how to feel.

The fourth step, once you've faced the past, has to do with letting go. Until we know what we are choosing to be released from, we are not ready to let it go.

The fifth step involves stepping out of your comfort zone. As Dorothy told Toto in "The Wizard of Oz," "I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." Growth stretches you and is healing.

Finally, allow yourself to move on to a new future. The prophet Jeremiah promised his people "a future and a hope." That same promise is there for you. And God will be with you every step of the way (Psalm 23). It is His presence that gets you through the process.—James Stillwell

Q: Can we learn anything constructive about parenting from reality shows like "Nanny 911"?

The basic premise of popular reality shows like "Nanny 911" seems ridiculous. You can't handle your kids, so you bring an outsider into your home to show you how—and you put the entire thing on network television. I would be embarrassed!

PARENTING

Be that as it may, on a recent show the nanny offered advice that all parents would do well to hear and heed. I file it under the broad heading of "parents paying attention." It involves learning to ask four questions about where child's whereabouts and activities:

Where are you going? You should always know, and at some point, you should check to make sure your children do indeed go where they tell you they are going.

Who are you going with? If others are going to join the group, make sure you know, and make sure you know who they are too.

What are you going to be doing? There are exceptions, but by and large, activities that are off-limits at your house and under your supervision should remain so when your children are with others.

When will you be finished? Allow enough time for the activity, but beware of extra time that can lead to trouble or just be an imposition. Parents or other adults may be a better source of information here than children.

Parents who are paying attention will know the answers to these four questions, and will be in a much better position to protect their children from friends, situations and circumstances that can lead to trouble.—David Garrard

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



Cross Over seeks to impact state for Christ

It's that time of year again. With crisp fall weather finally in the air and the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting less than a month away, it's time for Kentucky Baptists to turn their attention to Cross Over Kentucky 2007.

Cross Over is an annual volunteer ministry blitz held in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting. Patterned after a similar SBC ministry effort begun in 1989, Cross Over Kentucky was introduced in the Commonwealth in 2001 in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting in Murray. Since then, ministry volunteers from throughout the state have been involved in outreach projects each fall prior to the state convention gathering.

A couple of years ago, Cross Over Kentucky was expanded to include mission teams participating in various projects for several weeks before the annual meeting as well as a concentrated effort the weekend prior to the KBC event.

This year is no exception. Under the first-time leadership of Ross Bauscher, the KBC's former partnership missions director who was named evangelism growth team leader last December, Cross Over 2007 features ministry projects throughout October and November.

"We want to show people what Kentucky Baptists are all about," Bauscher emphasized. "Kentucky Baptists love to serve others, and Cross Over gives them a chance to do that together."

According to a four-page Cross Over Kentucky insert in this issue of the Western Recorder, Cross Over is "an effort to reach Kentucky for Christ ... by mobilizing Kentucky Baptists from all over the state to be involved in missions and evangelism projects in the Severns Valley Baptist Association during the weeks leading up to the 170th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," which will be held Nov. 13-14 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Among the many missions and evangelism projects scheduled for this year's Cross Over are:

- Prayerwalking in area neighborhoods and praying for residents to be receptive to the gospel.
- Repair Affair projects to assist families and individuals with needed home repairs.
- Youth evangelism efforts.
- Children's outreach events.
- Door-to-door witnessing.
- Community/prayer needs surveys that include an

opportunity to share a witnessing booklet with interested individuals.

- Service projects such as installing flooring, replacing roof shingles and building decks and ramps.

In short, Cross Over offers a variety of short-term ministry opportunities that can be tailored to any group's availability, skills and interests. In addition to one-time mission teams, volunteer teams can include youth or collegiate groups, Bible study groups, men's or women's ministry teams, Woman's Missionary Union or Baptist Men on Mission groups as well as individuals, couples or families interested in hands-on ministry projects close to home.

Among special features of Cross Over 2007 are a family-oriented "Trunk or Treat" event Oct. 31, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at Rineyville Baptist Church and a youth outreach program Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. at Severns Valley Baptist Church, featuring Christian illusionist Brock Gill.

Gill, a frequent performer and evangelist throughout the state, also was featured at a pair of pre-convention youth rallies as part of last year's Cross Over emphasis. According to Cross Over organizers, more than 100 youth make spiritual decisions at the rallies, including 50 who made first-time professions of faith in Christ.

In addition to providing volunteers to help staff the event, congregations are encouraged to bring their youth to participate in the Nov. 10 rally. The youth event and other Cross Over activities obviously can make a lasting spiritual impact on those who are involved.

Are you or your congregation or ministry group interested in playing an active role in this year's Cross Over Kentucky emphasis? If so, you can get additional information by contacting the KBC evangelism growth team office at (502) 489-3576 or toll-free at (866) 489-3576; visit the Web at www.kybaptist.org/crossover; or call Cross Over Coordinator Gerald Murphy, director of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association, at (270) 765-4023.

The enclosed Cross Over insert encourages Kentucky Baptists to "pray about coming to help lift up the cross of Christ and connect people to Jesus Christ" through Cross Over 2007. What will your role be?

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Ten ideas for Pastor Appreciation Month

By Diana Davis

As churches observe Pastor Appreciation Month throughout October, consider the following ways your congregation can honor your pastor:

10. Lots of letters. On the Sunday before Pastor Appreciation Day, distribute stamped envelopes addressed to the pastor. Include an instruction note inviting each church member to write and mail a personal note of encouragement and appreciation to the pastor during the week.

9. Award T-shirt. Special order a "Best Pastor in (fill in the name of your town)" T-shirt, cap or plaque, and present it to your pastor.

8. Original art. Laminate bookmarks created by the children in your church, featuring their art and signatures. Allow kids to present the bookmarks to the pastor personally.

7. Church in a frame. Prepare a beautifully framed photo or painting of the church building. Even better: Take a group photo of church members in front of the building. Use extra wide matting and ask every church member to sign the mat before adding glass.

6. Very merry commentary. Purchase a full set of Bible commentar-

ies. Allow various groups, such as Bible classes, committees or church organizations, to present one book of the set, individually wrapped with their personal notes of appreciation on the inside pages. You might consider buying individual copies of the Holman Old Testament Commentary or the 12-volume boxed set of the Holman New Testament Commentary.

5. PowerPoint presentation. Create a PowerPoint presentation of the pastor in action as a minister during the past year. Choreograph it to music, such as "Thank You for Giving to the Lord." Play it as a pre-service video.

4. Public thanks. Purchase a full-page ad in your local newspaper, featuring a photo of your pastor and a declaration of your church's love and appreciation. Even better: Add every member's signature on the ad.

3. While you were out. Do a surprise office makeover, with your pastor's wife's input, of course. Hanover Baptist Church in Indiana surprised their pastor with a new home office while he was out of town, complete with paint, decor, furniture and computer.

2. Million M&Ms. Think of one

small thing your pastor enjoys such as M&Ms, fishing lures, coffee, etc. Ask each church member to bring that item on Sunday, such as one bag, any size, of M&Ms. Supply extras for guests or members who forget to bring a gift.

1. Thirty days of appreciation. Recruit volunteers to participate in a month-long schedule of surprise treats. Each day of the month, the pastor would receive a surprise token of appreciation from a church member, committee or group within the church. The tributes can vary widely—a balloon delivery, a shoe shine, an apple pie, a small personal gift. After a whole month of pleasant surprises, won't your pastor feel appreciated?

And won't God be honored by your acts of love for His servant? Don't forget to include a sincere note with specific reasons you appreciate the minister's spiritual leadership, dedication, time and commitment.

Honor God by honoring His servants with a thoughtful, personalized encouragement that fits your unique church and pastor.

Diana Davis, a women's conference speaker based in Indianapolis, is the author of "Fresh Ideas: 1,000 Ways to Grow a Thriving and Energetic Church"

Add common sense to fellowship favorites

Continued from page 1

Some Kentucky Baptists reading this article already are planning the next church banquet, fellowship supper, Sunday school breakfast or snacktime for GAs or AWANAS. The menus probably include the "greatest hits" of Southern cuisine: delicious breaded, fried and creamed creations made with lard, sugar and whole milk.

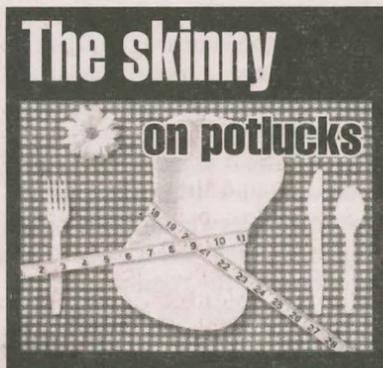
What's a good Baptist to do?

Nutrition and weight-loss experts say making simple and incremental changes in recipes and lifestyle can improve health without sacrificing fellowship around the table.

"There's a way to have each others' backs at the potluck," said Lynn Bell, a Weight Watchers group leader in Oldham County. "If you have other people in the (church) who are really trying to watch their weight, get together and decide, 'OK, you bring the chicken. I'll bring a fat-free' this or that."

After a few fellowship events featuring healthier fare, "it gets kind of intriguing to other people," Bell said. Presentation is everything. Consider a fruit tray with yogurt dip compared to a cake in the usual 9x13 pan. "Our stuff is prettier," Bell said. "They try it and say, 'this is pretty good.'"

As a children's choir director at church and director of employee wellness for GuideStone Financial Resources in Dallas, Tamara Quin-



tana said she always is looking for ideas to make snacks and meals more nutritious and less fattening.

"It's a challenge for me to reward (children) without it being candy," Quintana said. For snacktime, she makes sugar-free fruit punch, "instead of serving them high fructose corn syrup," common in soft drinks and other treats. The children can't tell the difference, she said. Sliced apples and bananas are common treats for her choir members.

Providing healthy snacks to accompany the morning coffee "is a huge challenge for Sunday school classes," Quintana said.

The convenience, and taste, of doughnuts is difficult to resist, but

when it is her turn to bring breakfast to class, Quintana prepares a fruit tray and perhaps a low-cal breakfast casserole.

For parties at work, "I try something new with the GuideStone population all the time," Quintana said, adding, "I can't say I've always been successful." Eating healthily requires effort and planning, she added. "It does take a lot of work to think through."

Like Bell, Quintana encourages fellowship organizers to clearly identify healthier dishes for church members. Low-fat and low- or no-sugar fare should be labeled and perhaps placed on a separate table or part of the serving line.

"There are so many people who are diabetic and are watching carbs for other reasons (than weight loss)," Quintana said. "If we would make that effort at socials ... to label it and put it aside, people would appreciate it."

Health-conscious cooks have on their side an array of products in stores today that are sugar free, or have reduced sugar content, and also reduced-, low- or no-fat.

Bell said "across the board" healthier products taste better than they

did 10 to 15 years ago. "The more convenient items," such as microwave meals, "have become so much better tasting. I don't feel deprived." Labeling also has improved, making it easier for consumers to determine which products are healthier than others.

Abandoning crispy, skillet-fried chicken, cornbread, sweet tea and green beans cooked in fatback does not mean abandoning tasty food, Bell emphasized.

"It's not as if we're eating dog food," she said. "I mean, I'm on Weight Watchers but I have my standards."

In some recipes, reducing calories, sugar and fat is simple and does not alter the taste of the finished product, she said. For example: Weight Watchers suggests using half the butter, margarine or oil called for in a cake or cookie recipe, substituting the same amount of unsweetened applesauce.

Another option is swapping half of the hamburger called for in a meatloaf recipe with ground turkey.

See the chart on the right for other suggested substitutions.

Cooks may be reluctant to See Add common ... Page 7

Southern-style oven fried chicken

1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp table salt
1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
3 oz buttermilk
3/4 cup cornflake crumbs
1 pound uncooked boneless, skinless chicken breast,
4, 4-oz pieces

Preheat oven to 365 degrees. Lightly coat 8 x 8 x 2-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray; set aside. Combine flour, salt and cayenne pepper in medium-size bowl. Place buttermilk and cornflake crumbs in 2 separate shallow bowls. Roll chicken breast halves in flour mixture and evenly coat each side. Next dip chicken into buttermilk and then cornflake crumbs. Place coated chicken breasts in prepared baking dish. Bake until chicken is tender and no longer pink, about 20 minutes. There is no need to flip the chicken during baking. Yields 1 breast per serving.

Courtesy Weight Watchers International, Inc.

Peach Cobbler

6 medium peaches, peeled, pitted & sliced
6 1/3 tablespoons sugar, divided
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice or almond extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon table salt
3 tablespoons reduced-calorie margarine
1/2 cup fat-free skim milk

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In large saucepan, combine peaches, 1/3 cup of sugar (5 1/3 tablespoons), cornstarch lemon juice or extract and cinnamon; toss to coat peaches. Set pan over medium heat and bring to a boil; cook until mixture thickens about 1 minute. Remove pan from heat; transfer mixture to 8-inch square baking pan. Make topping by combining flour, remaining tablespoon of sugar, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. Work in margarine with a fork until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add milk; stir until flour mixture is evenly moistened. Drop 8 tablespoons of topping over peaches. Bake until golden brown and filling is bubbly, about 20 to 25 minutes. Yields 8 servings.

Courtesy Weight Watchers International, Inc.

Pastor's wife develops health-focused Bible study

By Erin Roach
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Hopkinsville—A nutrition educator is on a mission to show her fellow Kentucky Baptists how taking care of their bodies is an offering to God.

MeMe Perdue, wife of Eddyville First Baptist Church Pastor Tim Perdue, has written a nutrition and physical activity-based curriculum grounded in Scripture titled "In His Image" to call God's church to a healthy lifestyle.

Perdue is director of Penny-rile Allied Community Services, a nonprofit nutrition education program based in Hopkinsville that promotes a healthy diet and exercise to local school children.

Perdue said she sensed a call to incorporate into the church what she has learned about achieving a healthy lifestyle. The rising rate of obesity among Kentuckians,

and the resulting medical problems, concern her greatly.

"We're looking at a population of people who are very ill because of a very basic biblical principle that we are ignoring," Perdue said. That principle is God's instruction to believers to consider their bodies temples of the Holy Spirit.

"In His Image" encourages believers to meditate on Bible passages about finishing the race or displaying the fruit of the Spirit.

Nutrition education follows as students learn how to interpret food labels, use the Web site MyPyramid.gov and other practical insights.

"We bring in registered dietitians who talk to folks about setting up a seven-day menu planner," Perdue said. "They demonstrate how you can do that and feed your family at a cost-effective

rate and at the same time have a healthy meal."

"A Walk with the Master" is the study's exercise focus. Participants are assigned to 12 teams bearing the name of one of Jesus' disciples. Teams compete against one another tracking their steps each week using a pedometer.

"The task leader for each team keeps track of their steps, and we log that every week," Perdue said. "They also give a call of encouragement or maybe prayerwalk together."

Purdue said the study is meeting a need. "Women, as well as men, are literally hungry to hear this information," she said.

Perdue spoke at the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's recent fall retreat and is scheduled to speak at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's children's ministry conference in January 2008.

Local students flock to U of C's community health fair

By Kim Hamby
University of the Cumberlands

Williamsburg—Local residents—including elementary, middle and high school students—gained insight on nutrition, fitness and the problem of obesity at the University of the Cumberlands' recent "Dare to Compare" Health Fair.

It was the school's sixth bi-annual health fair for the on- and off-campus communities.

A Stanford University study revealed that the average college freshman gains 20 pounds during his or her first year of studies. The fair informed Cumberlands students and others about the importance of eating healthily and exercising.

According to Brad Humphrey, associate professor of psychology, "Every single condition in medical health is made worse by obesity."

The information stations at the fair provided insights on "the five basic components of health," Humphrey said. Cardiovascular endurance, Body Mass Index, and muscular endurance/flexibility and strength are the five components of fitness. "We do not have a way to measure agility, coordination and balance, but we can measure these five elements and work on ways to improve them," he said.

Many Cumberlands athletes helped make the event possible, working at the various stations and telling participants about the importance of health and fitness.

Senior volleyball player Sara Crooke of Jefferson City, Tenn., said she was excited to take part in the fitness activity. "I believe it is important for college athletes to stay informed on health issues so we can help out

those in our community that may not know a lot about health and fitness," Crooke said.

Swimmer Marisa Lobacz of Acworth, Ga., said staying on top of trends in nutrition and exercise is important to her. "Health and fitness information changes on a constant basis," Lobacz said. Health education "will only help me to improve as an athlete."

Student assistant coach and former men's soccer player Ashleigh Townsend of Halifax, England, said physical fitness is more than a personal issue for college athletes. "Kids everywhere look up to college and professional athletes," she said. "When they see positive behaviors from their role models, kids tend to want to act in the same manner."

The university will host its next health fair in April 2008.

Best way to change habits: One bite at a time

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—"It's not a program, it's a lifestyle," has been a mantra for nutrition and exercise gurus for many years, but clichés endure for a reason—they are true.

Tamara Quintana, director of employee wellness for GuideStone Financial Resources, knows how difficult some truths are to apply.

For people who are overweight and inactive, she said, changing a lifestyle in front of food and stressful hours in front of the computer or in the car—and unwinding in front of the TV with a bag of chips—will take time and patience.

The first habit is one that requires attention only once every 12 months, an annual physical. Quintana suggests visiting the Mayo Clinic Web site at www.mayoclinic.com for a list of health screenings based on age and gender.

"It takes three months to create a habit," she writes in her most recent column for GuideStone. "When something becomes a habit, you don't have to think about it anymore. It just happens naturally."

To swap poor habits for healthy ones, Quintana, a nursing school graduate, suggests starting small, mastering one over a three-week period. Then move on to the next one. The more demanding goals might take more time to master.

- Take a multivitamin every day.
- Eat breakfast every day. On its

Web site, Weight Watchers International cites several studies that found that people who eat breakfast regularly achieve better weight-loss results than people who skip breakfast. A 2002 study also found that breakfast-eaters are more likely to maintain a healthy weight for the long term compared to non-breakfast-eaters.

- Eat more chicken and fish and less beef each week.

- Eat two meat-less meals each week. For protein, eat legumes (dried beans, lentils) or cheese.

- Drink eight, 8 oz. glasses of water each day. Quintana said people not used to drinking this much water may need to start with four, then work their way up to six and then

eight.

- Exercise three times each week. At first, people may not be able to reach or maintain the pulse rate recommended for optimal cardiovascular health, but for people who currently get little or no exercise, even a stroll around the block is a good start. When shopping, park farther away from the store.

- Try whole wheat bread, pasta or brown rice instead of white.

- Eat or drink five servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Statistics show that fewer than 17 percent of Kentuckians accomplish this basic rule of nutrition.

You can read Tamara Quintana's columns at www.guidestone.org or on Baptist Press.

Add common sense to fellowship faves

Continued from page 6

springing unfriended members on their church family. Bell recommends conducting test trials at home with the family.

Forsaking the shortening and skillet wasn't easy for the Bell family, she said. "It was a big transition ... to stop frying chicken but (now) we go through propane like crazy because we grill so much.

"We get real experimental with sauces" and spices, she added. "It doesn't have to be plain-Jane grilled chicken with salt and pepper."

Perhaps more challenging than healthier potluck fare is reducing the number of meals and banquets a church schedules, Quintana said. "We (Baptists) like to eat every time we go anywhere."

In his study, Ferraro had a few alternatives. "Churches can be wonderful resources to educate people about health issues," he writes. "Often churches are sites for health fairs and screenings, as well as blood drives." And, when the tables are pushed back, the fellowship hall is a great place to host aerobics class.

The skinny

on potlucks

Smart Swaps

Recipe Ingredient	Substitution
one whole egg	2 or 3 egg whites; 1/4 cup egg substitute; 1/3 cup fat-free egg substitute
whole milk	fat-free or low-fat milk
light cream	evaporated fat-free milk
sour cream	nonfat or low-fat plain yogurt; light or nonfat sour cream
baking chocolate	mixture of cocoa and oil: 1 ounce baking chocolate = 3 tablespoons cocoa powder and 1 tablespoon of oil. (Note: This reduces saturated fat but not total fat.)
sugar	Use only 1/3 or 1/2 of the sugar called for
whipped cream	whipped evaporated fat-free milk sweetened with sugar substitute; reduced-calorie whipped topping mix prepared with fat-free or low-fat milk
butter, margarine or oil for cooking	use nonstick cooking spray; saute or steam with water or broth instead of fat; use smallest amount of oil needed, adding 1 teaspoon at a time
butter, margarine or oil for baking	use 1/2 to 3/4 of the fat called for in recipes, or replace fat with equal parts unsweetened applesauce or pureed fruit (prunes)

Courtesy Weight Watchers International, Inc.

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Regional identity drives Paintsville High Impact church

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Location:
Paintsville

Pastor:
Jason Hutchinson

Launch Date:
Aug. 18, 2006

Sponsoring Church:
Bruners Chapel
Baptist Church,
Harrodsburg

Continued from page 1

home church, First Baptist of Louisa, to lead a new church plant there.

Hutchinson had moved his family to Paintsville, about 30 miles from Louisa, a move that was not met with complete approval by everyone involved.

"It got us questioning on both sides if (planting a church in Louisa) was the Lord's will," Hutchinson recalled.

Doubting his call and on the verge of "a nervous breakdown," as he put it, Hutchinson made his way to Louisville to participate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Basic Training for Church Planters seminar. According to Hutchinson, the drive provided ample time for prayer.

"I prayed from Paintsville all the way up there, three-and-a-half hours steady," he said.

Also in Louisville that weekend were Paintsville residents Harold Underwood and Bill Mills.

The two men were part of a small group of families who had been meeting in homes with the goal of eventually starting a church. They had been eagerly praying for a pastor to lead them.

Agreeing that neither of them felt they could lead as pastor, Underwood and Mills sought advice from the KBC's new work/associational ministries director, Larry Baker. In addition to recommending several books, Baker invited Underwood

and Mills to the church planter training in Louisville.

According to Underwood and Hutchinson, when they walked into the room of about 30 people on the first day of the training, the first word each of them heard was "Paintsville."

The three men eventually connected and talked about the city they called home and their respective callings. They all agreed that they would like to work together through their respective church plants in the future and went their separate ways.

Realizing that God had put Underwood and Mills in his path for a reason, Hutchinson called First Baptist Church of Louisa the next day and declined the opportunity to lead their new church start.

Not knowing of Hutchinson's decision, Underwood and Mills invited him for coffee. The men talked for hours and Hutchinson shared about the decision he had made only hours earlier. Even though no plans were made then, a bond had certainly been formed.

"We weren't really even thinking that we were going to ask him to be our pastor," Underwood said, "but it seemed like maybe the door was being opened."

In October of 2005, Underwood and Mills asked Hutchinson to join them, marking the start of Mountain Community Fellowship.

One issue the three men connected on was that of creating an elder-led church, something that, according to Hutchinson, is a rarity among Southern Baptist churches.

"I'm sure there are some, but I don't know of any (churches) in Eastern Kentucky with elders," Hutchinson pointed out.

He noted that having elders in the church—positions that Underwood and Mills currently occupy—keeps the pastor accountable and also helps direct the

focus of the church.

"The decisions that are made are made with ministry in mind," Hutchinson emphasized. "Not needs, not upkeep, but ministry."

And a church's ministry, more than its denominational ties, according to Hutchinson, is what sets a church apart in the close-knit Appalachian community of Paintsville.

"In Johnson County, 'Baptist' doesn't really set you apart," he acknowledged. "It's not a useful term here. It is in other places and it

certainly is when we start talking about theology. But putting it on the placard doesn't say anything to the community."

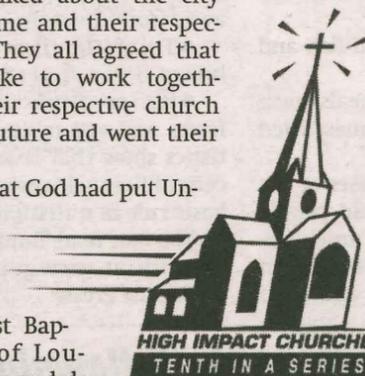
Since its inception, Mountain Community Fellowship's members have worked hard to earn the trust of the people in Paintsville. "We've taken the servant evangelism model and really pushed it," Hutchinson said.

Through backyard neighborhood parties for kids and pumping gas for free at a local station, the church relies heavily on outreach. The congregation even adopted the basketball court at the Paintsville Community and Recreation Center, keeping it clean and maintained on a regular basis.

"Most of what we do is intended to give us a face-to-face meeting with somebody," Hutchinson noted. "And we don't expect everybody that we talk to or serve to come to church. But what we do expect is for Mountain Community Fellowship to have a good name."

And the outreach is working. According to Underwood, the church has baptized "more people ... in the last 14 months than I have seen in the last 42 years put together."

"It's just been absolutely phenomenal to see people come to understand that they need to have a relationship with the Lord," he said. "They're not perfect, ... but they want to follow. It's incredible."



Congratulations!

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Rivierstad offers our congratulations to Georgetown College on the installation of their new Monarke Organ

Please join us in celebration at the dedication ceremony Sunday, October 28th at 4 P.M. John L. Hill Chapel Georgetown College's Campus Georgetown, KY.

Performance by Organist Dr. Daniel Tilford

View the Monarke organ being created and installed online at www.rivierstad.com

Lifting Up Jesus Christ

Purpose

Cross Over Kentucky is an effort to reach Kentucky for Christ. This will be accomplished by mobilizing Kentucky Baptists from all over the state to be involved in mission and evangelism projects in the **Severns Valley Baptist Association** during the weeks leading up to the 170th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Overview of Projects:

October – November 2007

Prayer Walking

Walking or driving targeted areas in the Cross Over effort and praying for the residents to be receptive to the Gospel.

Please pray about coming to help lift up the Cross of Christ and connect people to Jesus Christ.

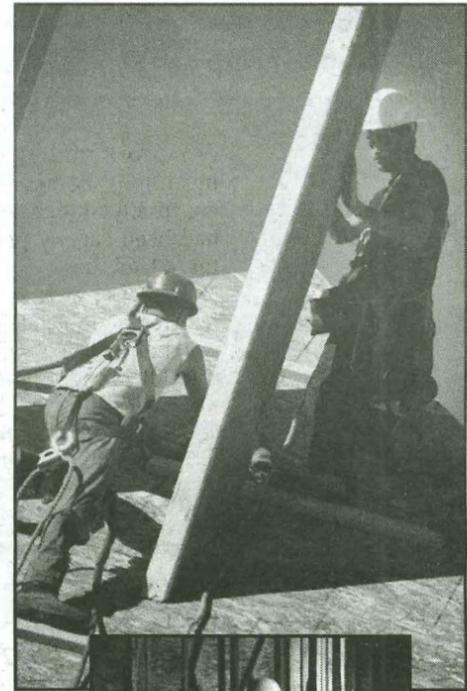
Call Gerald Murphy, director of missions, or Gladys Stieben, ministry assistant for the Severns Valley Baptist Association, at 270-765-4023.

Missions & Evangelism Projects

- Prayer Walking
- Service Projects
- Repair Affair Projects
- Youth Evangelism
- Community/Prayer Surveys
- Door-to-Door Witnessing
- Children's Outreach

Service Projects

- Carpet removal
- Linoleum installation
- Construct a sound system platform
- Build decks and ramps
- Replace roof shingles
- Install a suspended ceiling



Common Questions:

Who Can Participate in Cross Over Kentucky?

Mission Teams, Youth Groups, Men and Women's Ministry Teams, Bible Study Classes, any group interested in being involved in hands-on mission and evangelism projects.

Where Will We Stay?

For information about hotels, please contact the Severns Valley Baptist Association at 270-765-4023.

What is the Timeframe for the Projects?

In most cases, the projects can be tailored to your timeframe. While some projects are multiple day projects, others could be completed in one or two days. Volunteers are also needed for one-day evangelistic events.



KENTUCKY

Over

CROSS

Now Through November 2007

Community/Prayer Needs Survey

A sample of the Community/Prayer Needs Survey is given below. The basic format is that teams of three people will be assigned specific areas to survey and be given packets of materials to use. As each team goes through the survey with residents, an opportunity is extended to share a witnessing booklet with interested individuals.

General Instructions for Community/Prayer Needs Survey

The following are general instructions for the **Community/Prayer Needs Survey** to be conducted in targeted areas.

- You will be assigned to a team of three people with at least one person of the opposite sex on each team and one person from the church you are representing.
- You will be given a packet of materials that contains a map that locates the area to be surveyed, the Community/Prayer Needs Survey cards and information about the church you are representing. Take time to pray together as a team for those homes you will visit and the people you will talk with.
- As you approach the residence to be surveyed, fill out the top portion of the survey including the address.
- A designated person in the group should introduce the team and share the purpose of the survey. One person on the team should record the responses while another person asks the questions. Go through the survey and if appropriate, seek to share the gospel using "Steps to Peace with God" witnessing booklet.
- If possible, obtain the name or names of the persons in the household and fill out the survey card before going to the next residence.
- Leave materials about the church and the witnessing booklet. If no one is home, mark this on the top portion of the survey card indicating the address and leave materials about the church.
- Do not enter the residence or go to the back door. If residents ask you to come in, say that you have been requested not to enter homes so as not to inconvenience anyone.
- After completing the surveys of assigned areas, return to the church to turn in your report forms.

Community/Prayer Needs Survey

Not at Home Busy Refused Survey Refused Materials

Names of Surveyors _____

Address of Home Surveyed (First print the address and then knock on the door or ring the doorbell) _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

At the Door Say:

Hello, I'm _____ and this is _____ and _____ (use first names only). We are with _____ Baptist Church and we are trying to help our church effectively meet the needs of our community by conducting a brief community needs survey. **May we ask you a few questions?**

1. What do you believe is the biggest need in our community?

2. How could our church best help our community and your family?

3. When you attend church, where do you attend?

4. Our church would like to pray for you and your family. Are there prayer concerns our church family can pray for at this time?

5. Can we call and make an appointment to share with you the ministries of our church? If yes, may we have your name and phone number?

6. Would you be interested in participating in a home Bible study? Yes No

7. Comments:

Conclusion - After each survey please check a box below:

Shared a witnessing booklet Profession of Faith Assurance of Salvation

If you have not yet volunteered for Cross Over Kentucky, now is the time!

For more information or to volunteer to participate in one of the many events planned, call Gerald Murphy at 270-765-4023.

For information updates, go to www.kybaptist.org/crossover



Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 13

- Service Projects

Saturday, October 20

- Service Projects
- Prayer Walking
- Servant Evangelism
- Community/Prayer Needs Surveys

Saturday, October 27

- Service Projects

Wednesday, October 31

- Trunk or Treat children's outreach event at Rineyville Baptist Church

Saturday, November 3

- Service Projects

Saturday, November 10

- Brock Gill, Illusionist youth outreach event at Severns Valley Baptist Church
- Service Projects
- Repair Affair Projects

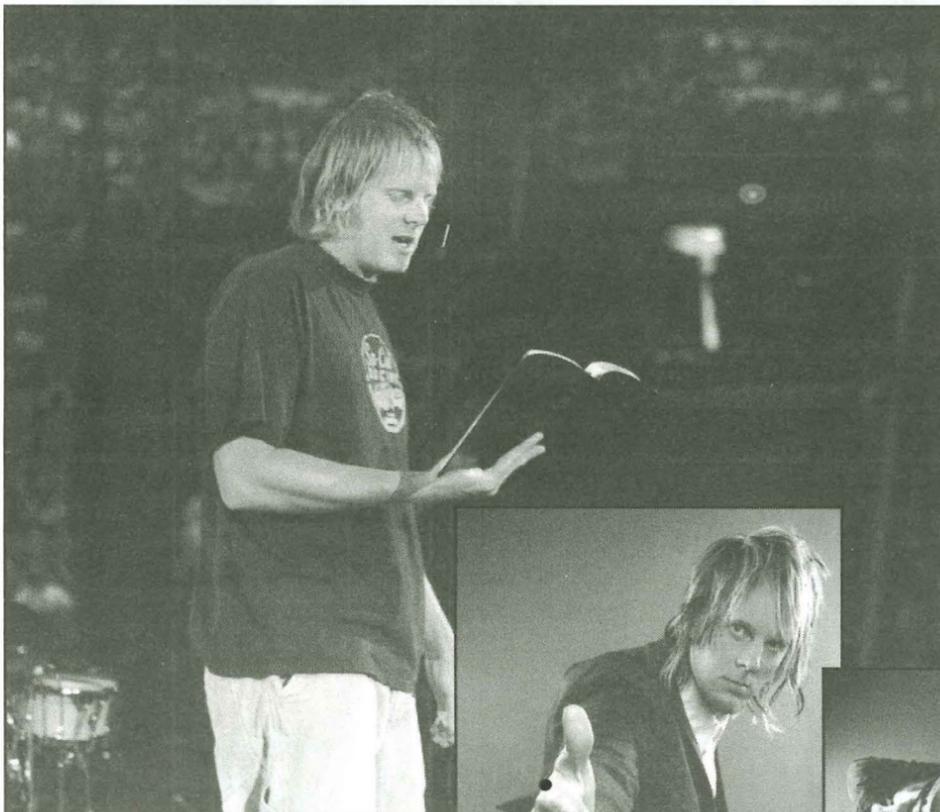
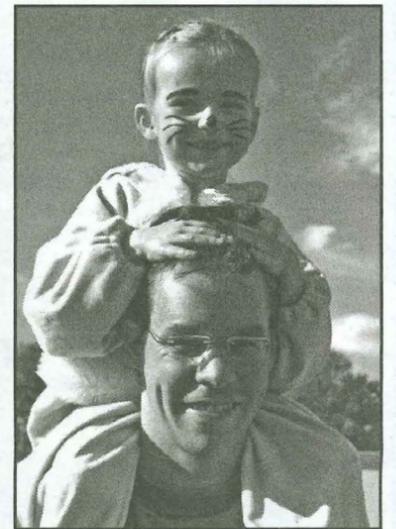
Children's Outreach Event: Trunk or Treat

October 31 • 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Rineyville Baptist Church, 5629 Rineyville Road, Rineyville, KY



Volunteers are needed for this family-oriented alternative to Trick-or-Treating. Children are invited to come to the church where members will have their vehicles decorated and will be giving out candy. There will also be several inflatable games for children to enjoy.



Youth Outreach Event Featuring Brock Gill, Illusionist

November 10 • 7:00 p.m.

**Severns Valley Baptist Church
1100 Ring Road, Elizabethtown**

Volunteers are also needed for an exciting and evangelistic youth event featuring Brock Gill, Illusionist. Forget what you know about illusionists: no cheesy tuxedos, no rabbits to pull out of hats. Brock Gill leads a new generation of edgy, daring illusionists, amazing audiences with his unique stage show, dry wit, and mind-blowing escapes.

God has taken Brock's ministry across the United States and into Mexico and Australia. Understanding that students in this MTV generation have short attention spans and a need to be entertained visually, he has learned how to get an audience's attention quickly and keep it. Brock's message for Christ is clear and effective. He has literally seen thousands of lives touched by God through his ministry.

KENTUCKY Over CROSS

Now Through November 2007

Prayer Walks/Journeys

The Prayer Walking Journeys will consist of walking or driving targeted areas and praying for residents to be receptive to the Gospel.

Instructions for the Church Participating in the Prayer Walks/Journeys:

1. Prepare maps of the areas to be prayer-walked or driven.
2. Designate a timeframe to do the Prayer Walks/Journeys.

The key to touching the unchurched with the Good News is prayer. It is our desire that every targeted area of Cross Over be prayed for through prayer walking or driving strategic areas. Those who want to participate in Cross Over prayer efforts are encouraged to:

1. Put Cross Over on their prayer list.
2. Sign up to be a part of the prayer effort for Cross Over and choose a targeted area.



Cross Over KENTUCKY 2007 Leadership Team

Cross Over Coordinator

Gerald Murphy, director of missions for the
Severns Valley Baptist Association

Churches interested in participating
should contact Gerald Murphy or Gladys
Stieben, ministry assistant for the
Severns Valley Baptist Association, at
270-765-4023.

Gerald Murphy may also be reached at
270-765-8474 or by e-mail at
geraldwmurphy@kvnet.org.

Also on the Leadership Team:

Erdie Carter, Severns Valley Baptist Church
Jason McCray, Valley Creek Baptist Church
J.D. Shipp, Central Avenue Baptist Church
Travis Vaughan, Rineyville Baptist Church



Evangelism Growth Team

P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433
502-489-3576 or Toll Free 866-489-3576
evangelism@kybaptist.org

Please visit our Web site for updated information:
www.kybaptist.org/crossover

This event helps achieve the
evangelism and missions objective
of the Kentucky Baptists Connect
emphasis.



This publication is made possible by
the Cooperative Program.



SWIM TEAM College students from across Kentucky gather to discuss the Student Water International Mobilization initiative, a new mercy ministry dedicated to alleviating the global shortage of pure water. Launched last month, SWIM was introduced to students attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Focus conference for college students. (KBC photo)

Focus 2007 equips students to engage American culture

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Crestwood—Instead of confronting the culture and being concerned for its salvation, many Christians are finding themselves comfortable in American culture, said Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Mohler was a featured speaker at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Focus 2007 event, a conference for college students across Kentucky. More than 600 students attended the event, held recently at Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

"We all run the risk of confronting the culture and being rejected," Mohler noted. "We have to risk some controversy, and we have to risk some offense. But we must remember that we can't be the ones who are offensive."

Designed to equip college students to impact the culture, the conference featured sessions that challenged students to share the gospel by engaging others with different worldviews, as well as through mercy ministries.

"Our burden for college students is that they would deal with God's dreams and Kingdom dreams rather than the American dream," said Keith Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate/young adult ministry group.

According to Inman, the KBC's collegiate ministry is committed to teaching college students about the

importance of "prayer, purity, poor and proclamation."

"This year, we chose to examine the 'poor' and 'proclamation' because we wanted to help students proclaim truth in a postmodern culture and to proclaim that same truth while reaching out to people in need," he said.

On Friday night, Inman introduced the Student Water International Mobilization initiative, a new mercy ministry opportunity for students who want to help alleviate the global shortage of pure water.

SWIM is an independent student organization working as an auxiliary to Edge Outreach, a ministry that oversees vision clinics and water purification projects in various countries, as well as community missions in Louisville.

"We are thrilled about what SWIM is trying to accomplish because it aligns perfectly with what we've already been doing," Inman emphasized.

The KBC's collegiate/young adult ministry group currently is in a partnership with missionaries from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board who are serving in the Dominican Republic. Water purification will be an important outreach for that effort, Inman noted.

"We're using the pure water as a platform to present the Living Water," he added. "We have found talking about water leads to talking about Jesus. It's a natural transition."

KBC launches public affairs blog

Louisville—Continuing to expand its online resources, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has launched a new blog dedicated to matters of public policy.

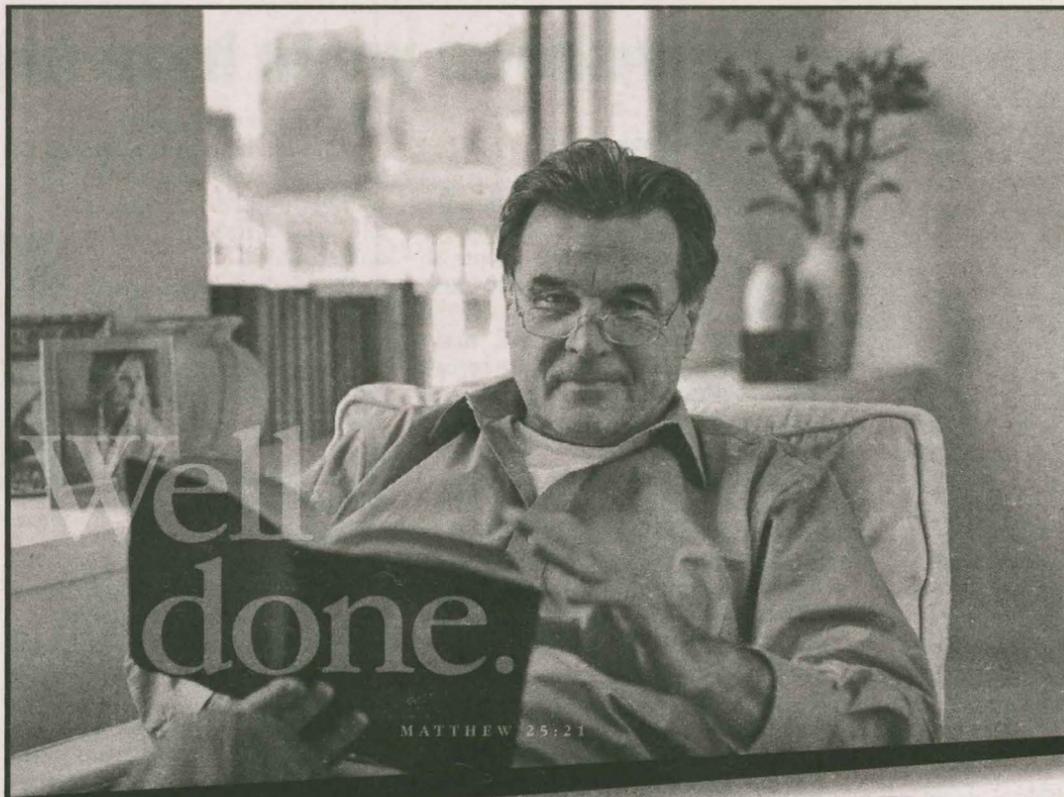
Kentucky Baptists concerned about public policy issues can stay informed through the KBC's new "Committee on Public Affairs" blog. Of particular interest are issues regarding the separation of church and state.

Sponsored by the KBC's Committee on Public Affairs, the online journal is designed to keep Kentucky Baptists advised of issues on the state, national and international levels. The blog provides news and resources for download, and can be accessed at www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs.

"Our committee works hard to stay informed on issues that impact Kentucky Baptists, so we wanted a way to share important information quickly," said Robert Reeves, KBC's communications director and liaison with the committee. "This also allows the committee to issue a call to action when necessary."

The committee works in cooperation with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the Kentucky Ethics League, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and other organizations pursuing similar interests.

"Committee on Public Affairs" is one of seven KBC blog resources available at www.kybaptist.org/blogs.



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Study shows youth have negative views of Christianity

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Ventura, Calif. (RNS)—Young people have graded Christianity, and so far, the report card doesn't look good.

A majority of young people in America describe modern-day Christianity as judgmental, hypocritical and anti-gay. What's more, many Christians don't even want to call themselves "Christian" because of the baggage that accompanies the label.

A new book based on research by the California-based research firm The Barna Group found that church attitudes about people in general and homosexuals in particular are driving a negative image of the Christian faith among people ages 16-29.

"The Christian community's ability to take the high road and help to deal with some of the challenges that this (anti-gay) perception represents may be the ... defining response of the Christian church in the next decade," said David Kinnaman, Barna Group president and author of the book, "UnChristian: What a New Generation Really

Thinks about Christianity."

"The anti-homosexual perception has now become sort of the Geiger counter of Christians' ability to love and work with people," Kinnaman added.

The findings were based on surveys of a sample of 867 young people. From that total, researchers reported responses from 440 non-Christians and 305 active churchgoers.

The vast majority of non-Christians—91 percent—said Christianity had an anti-gay image, followed by 87 percent who said it was judgmental and 85 percent who said it was hypocritical.

Such views were held by smaller percentages of the active churchgoers, but the faith still did not fare well: 80 percent agreed with the anti-gay label, 52 percent said Christianity is judgmental and 47 percent declared it hypocritical.

Kinnaman said one of the biggest surprises for researchers was the extent to which respondents—one in four non-Christians—said that modern-day Christianity was no longer

like Jesus.

"It started to become more clear to us that what they're experiencing related to Christianity is some of the very things that Jesus warned religious people about," he said, "which is, avoiding removing the log from your own eye before trying to take the speck out of someone else's."

Kinnaman said some Christians preferred to call themselves "followers of Jesus" or "apprentices of Christ" because the word "Christian" could limit their ability to relate to people. Even Kinnaman, 33, described himself as "a committed Christ follower," though he has called himself a Christian in the past.

In addition to reporting on the negative statistics, Kinnaman used the book to also give advice—from himself and more than two dozen Christian leaders—on new approaches.

"Our goal wasn't simply to say here's all the problems, but to hopefully point a way forward," Kinna-

man said.

Megachurch pastor and best-selling author Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., used the book to say he hopes the church will become "known more by what it is for than what it is against."

"For some time now, the hands and feet of the body of Christ have been amputated, and we've been pretty much reduced to a big mouth," Warren wrote. "We talk more than we do. It's time to reattach the limbs and let the church be the church in the 21st century."

Andy Stanley, senior pastor of North Point Ministries in Atlanta, suggested that churches should not focus solely on converting people, as has been the emphasis for generations.

"If we were able to rewrite the script for the reputation of Christianity, I think we would put the emphasis on developing relationships with nonbelievers, serving them, loving them and making them feel accepted," he wrote. "Only then would we earn the right to share the gospel."



David Kinnaman

Teenage suicides climb at alarming rate

By Erin Roach
Baptist Press

Atlanta (BP)—The number of youth who take their own lives increased by 8 percent in a period of one year, the largest single-year rise in 15 years, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The study, released in September, found that after a 28.5 percent decrease in suicides among people ages 10-24 from 1990 to 2003, rates jumped 8 percent in 2004. Observers say they are not sure whether it's a one-year spike or the start of a trend, according to a report by USA Today.

Scott Stevens, director of student ministry at LifeWay Church Resources, noted that it is not uncommon for youth ministers to hear teenagers voice thoughts of suicide.

"Teens face challenges of many kinds, not to mention the pressures of a performance-based existence where often the only time they feel accepted is when they excel in their performance—in athletics, academics, etc.," Stevens said. "Unfortunately, teen suicide continues to be a permanent 'solution' to what are often painful but temporary problems."

Young girls at risk

The most significant increase was found among girls ages 10-14, an age and gender group which saw suicides rise 76 percent from 56 per 100,000 in 2003 to 94 per 100,000 in 2004, the study pointed out. Hanging and suffocation were the most common forms of suicide in that group, accounting for 71.4 percent of the deaths.

"Knowing that every incident is unique, I wouldn't begin to prescribe a universal solution," said Chad Childress, director of children's and student evangelism at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "However, the one thing I do know is that every teen must have unconditional love, acceptance and appreciation. I believe those are best found in two spheres of influence.

"First, the home must be the safe haven to unload and find freedom to mess up. Second, a community of friends and adults (is needed to) speak life, purpose and meaning into the lives of their friends," he added. "For those of us who call the name of Jesus Christ, we must lead the way, be the influence and proclaim freedom

that is found in Christ alone."

According to the study, some of the warning signs parents and youth workers can look for include talking about taking one's life, feeling sad or hopeless about the future, changes in eating or sleeping habits, and losing the desire to take part in favorite activities.

"Proper response is the key," Stevens insisted. "Any time a student voices suicidal thoughts, they must be taken seriously and not discounted as a mere cry for attention."

Key questions to explore include whether the student has thought about how he or she might commit suicide and whether the student has the means to carry out the suicide, Stevens said.

"Immediate intervention"

"In addition, one might ask the teen to contact them if they feel like they are about to take their own life. Immediate intervention is needed," he added. "Parents and other authorities and caregivers must be alerted. This is not a time for secrets."

Stevens has had the experience of sitting in a living room with a mother and father while the body of their son, who had shot himself, was still in the bathroom.

"Words are not adequate at such a time, and I believe the most we can offer is a ministry of presence," he noted. "The best thing I had to share with these grieving parents, and that I shared at this young man's funeral, was that I knew he had accepted Christ as his Savior during our DiscipleNow weekend a few months earlier and was confident of his eternal home."

The Centers for Disease Control survey found that 17 percent of high school students said they had seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months, 13 percent said they had created a plan to commit suicide, and 8 percent said they had tried to kill themselves.

"This study demands that we strengthen our efforts to help parents, schools and health care providers prevent things that increase the risk of suicide," Ileana Arias, director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, told USA Today. "We need to build on the efforts dedicated to education, screening and treatment and bridge the gap between the knowledge we currently have and the action we must take."

Student ministry leaders assess their efforts in light of new data

By Chris Turner
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Panama City Beach, Fla. (BP)—Baptisms of Southern Baptist teenagers have been in steady decline for three decades, reaching an all-time low with slightly more than 80,000 12- to 17-year-olds baptized in 2006. It has been more than 20 years since Southern Baptist churches collectively baptized more than 100,000 teens in a year.

The situation is cause for alarm, a youth ministry expert at LifeWay Christian Resources explained.

"We've taken a hard look at ourselves and youth ministry and have come up with a question that challenges our thinking and will shape the future of what we do," said Scott Stevens, LifeWay's director of student ministry. "And that question is this: As student ministry continues to mature, are we developing students, or student ministries?"

About 100 student ministry workers wrestled with that question during a LifeWay conference in Panama City Beach, Fla., to address the challenges student ministers face. Wondering whether the point of student ministry has been missed is a tough—but necessary—topic, Stevens said.

"We think it's time to put a laser-like focus back on the spiritual development of students," he noted. "That's what's going to make a lasting impact. Not that all the fun things youth ministries do is bad, it's just that teens need to be spiritually equipped when they leave our youth groups."

Two studies conducted by LifeWay Research this year reveal at least two significant challenges. In one study, the majority of church-going teens, when asked, could not clearly define that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. In the second study, 70 percent of 18- to 22-year-olds who regularly attend-

ed church during their teen years dropped out of church for at least a year and 35 percent of those said they would never return.

"We believe we've lost focus on the spiritual development of students," Stevens said. "We believe the solution to the problem is not in a better plan for student ministry but to find a biblical model for student spiritual development that functions within the context of the two main institutions God gave us—the home and the church."

"If it were possible to develop students apart from cultural influences, it would be easier," said Michael Wood, vice president of Teen Research Unlimited in Northbrook, Ill., "but the reality is that today's culture strongly influences a teen's world."

"Teens today Google their way through life. Things become obsolete very quickly. ... Their world is constantly changing. They are growing up in a world where there is an aftermarket for everything. E-Bay has taught them that."

Stevens asked the audience to think about the implications of Wood's presentation in relation to faith, particularly in response to the trend of teens looking for easy answers to their needs.

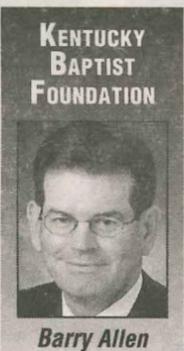
"Faith is not always an easy thing to live out," Stevens said. "There are hard things in a life of faith that are worked out over time. Living a committed life isn't a quick fix. The challenge for us as youth ministry workers is learning how we transfer the hard things of faith and get them to stick with our teenagers while living in a disposable world."

Paul Turner, national student ministry leader for LifeWay, turned the focus from youth to youth workers as the place to begin having an impact in the lives of the teens, noting that leaders need to have a clear understanding of God's grace.

'Giving thanks offering'

Consider creative options to support Sunrise ministry

Traditionally, we Kentucky Baptists have focused our prayerful attention and financial support for our Christ-centered ministry to children during the Thanksgiving season. That season is upon us, and I encourage you to continue and to enhance your attention and support for this ministry through the Thanksgiving Offering of Sunrise Children's Services. Remember, in addition to cash (check), you can give appreciated stock, bonds, mutual fund shares and real estate.



Barry Allen

If your church promotes and collects the offering in behalf of Sunrise, that is certainly an efficient way to make cash gifts. If your church does not offer this service, you can mail your contribution to Sunrise Children's Services, PO Box 36570, Louisville, KY 40233-9909.

Although Thanksgiving is the traditional season of giving for the benefit of this ministry, you can make a "giving thanks offering" to it throughout the year and on an ongoing basis. Also, your church can promote and receive a "giving thanks offering" any time during

the year it fits the church's schedule versus a Thanksgiving Offering at Thanksgiving.

There are other ways of "giving thanks" for this ministry, which I encourage you prayerfully to consider. To perpetuate your "giving thanks offering" beyond your lifetime, you could establish an endowment fund the income from which would replace your annual offering after you are gone. The endowment could be established during your life and funded at death, or it could be established and funded at your death. A bequest in your will or trust, a gift of a life insurance policy or retirement plan/IRA survivor benefits are other ways of "giving thanks." There are also some "giving thanks" ways for which you receive in return for your gift a stream of income on which to live for the remainder of your life.

To the extent you need assistance in considering and implementing one or more of these "giving thanks" ideas, please give us that privilege. Call Laurie Valentine or me toll free.

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Christian bookstore manager in Gaza found shot to death

Gaza City, Palestine (ABP)—The Palestinian Baptist manager of a well-known Christian bookstore in the Gaza Strip was murdered sometime during the Oct 6-7 weekend.

Authorities reportedly found the body of Rami Ayyad on Oct. 7 in Gaza City. He died from a gunshot wound to the head and numerous stab wounds, according to officials from Open Doors, an agency that supports persecuted Christians worldwide. Ayyad had been missing since Oct. 6, when he phoned his family to tell them he had been kidnapped.

Reports differed on Ayyad's age. According to some, he was 30. Other reports listed his age as 26.

Ayyad managed the Palestinian Bible Society bookshop and had received several death threats from people angry about the store.

A spokesman for the bookstore said Ayyad was "the most gentle member on the team."

He was "the ever-smiling one," Simon Azazian said in a press release distributed by Open Doors. "He was the face of our Bible shop, always receiving visitors and serving them as Jesus would."

The bookshop is Gaza's only

Christian bookstore, according to the Baptist World Alliance. It shares a common building with a library and community development center, the base for one of the largest relief agencies in the Gaza Strip.

In February 2006, two pipe bombs exploded in front of the shop. Following that attack, workers received a letter demanding the shop close permanently, according to Christianity Today. The Bible Society reopened it five weeks later. This past April, terrorists

firebombed it.

Ayyad is survived by his wife, Pauline, and two young children. Pauline Ayyad is reportedly five months pregnant with the couple's third child.

Officials have said the shop will remain closed for an undetermined period of time.

Police have not yet identified any suspects in the murder.



Rami Ayyad

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'Could you use a ...?'

Thank you, donors, for trucks, tractors, corncribs, clothing, wagons & more

Most everyone is familiar with the Clint Eastwood movie where he says, "Go ahead. Make my day." There are many things that "make our day" here at Oneida but few do any more to "make our day" than someone calling and asking: "Could you use a ...?" I never know what we are about to be offered. Normally it is something that is well used and no longer needed by the owner. It is amazing how often the item being offered is something we really need.

For example, quite some time ago a friend of this ministry wanted to know if we could use a pole truck similar to the ones used by utility companies. The caller didn't own the truck; rather he told me he thought he could arrange for us to receive the truck if we had a good use for it.

Frankly, the person on the phone had no idea how many times we had wished for just such a truck for trimming trees, reaching the roofs of barns, cleaning gutters and—well, you get the idea. We were tickled pink when we took possession of it this summer. It is a great blessing. If we had located a similar truck in such good condition, it would have cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Recently, we took delivery of a used 4400 John Deere combine in very good condition. It is small compared to combines used on larger flat-terrain farms but ideal for our small fields here in the valleys of eastern Kentucky.

Not long ago a good friend of this ministry gave us a used car—the second car given to us by this person. Frankly, there are times when a vehicle may not be practical for school use. In those

cases, we give our faculty and staff the opportunity to purchase the car. With their limited incomes, they really appreciate being able to get a good used car for a relatively small investment.

A few days ago a friend called to ask if we could use a 15-passenger van. In recent years, safety concerns have been raised about these vehicles, which is why the church wanted to sell it. Here at Oneida, we don't use these vans to transport students but they come in handy for the maintenance, construction and farming staff.

Well, everything given to us is not a car, truck or van. Fortunately, we are blessed to receive a variety of things. Corncribs, tractors and wagons are just a few of the items our farm staff is pleased to receive. Many times items are given to us that can be used by our maintenance or new construction staff.

Other items include furniture, appliances, tools—and everyone knows about our used clothing store. Tons—and I do mean tons—of used clothing are brought to our campus every year. These items are sold at very modest prices to folks in the community. Proceeds are used to help our students. Many other clothing items are provided to our faculty, staff and students. About 80 percent of the clothing I wear every day comes from our used clothing store. If Jesus had to be placed in a "used" manger, I certainly can wear used clothing with pride.

So if you have been wondering if we could use something you have, most likely the answer is yes. Go ahead—make my day. Give me a call and ask me if we "could use a ...?"

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



W.F. Underwood

A Triple Ditty

Three generations of one family now on campus

James Ditty and wife, Dorothy, have a rich heritage at Clear Creek—or maybe I should say a rich lineage. Dr. and Mrs. Ditty both earned degrees at Clear Creek, graduating in 1978. Now there are three generations of Dittys on campus.

In his senior year, James Ditty was asked by Professor Dudley Pomeroy to write a paper anticipating what God would do in James' life over the next 15 years. James included in that paper his belief that God would bring him back to Clear Creek. "I was wrong," he recalled. "God didn't bring me back in 15 years. It took 20."

God brought him back in 1998 as professor. Dr. Ditty teaches Old Testament and science, and coordinates student mission trips.

You must be careful when you refer to Dr. Ditty on the Clear Creek campus. You must specify which Dr. Ditty you are referencing. James Ditty's son, John, also teaches here. The students tend to distinguish them by calling the elder, "Daddy Ditty." The Dittys have another son, James Jr., who is director of missions for the Guam Baptist Association—the only Baptist association on that Pacific island.

And all three of these men are Clear Creek graduates. Daddy Ditty brings a rich field of experience to Clear Creek. He served as a missionary in South Africa where he taught Old Testament and church history. He also started new churches there. He said the most rewarding part of his work is the lasting fruits of his labors. "I still get e-mails from my students in Africa," he told us. "Every one of my students there are still in the ministry." We hope this tenacious perseverance will be a hallmark of Clear Creek students who sit under his teaching as well.

Getting back to that Ditty lineage, this semester, a new student enrolled at Clear Creek. His name is Paul Ditty. He is the son of James Ditty Jr., the grandson of James and Dorothy. Not only are there now three generations of Dittys who are Clear Creekers; we have them all on campus at the same time. Maybe James is waiting to see all three generations teaching God's Word.

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



You are invited to breakfast with

Dr. David Coffey

President of Baptist World Alliance

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007

8:30-10:00 a.m. (EDT)

St. Matthews Baptist Church

3515 Grandview Avenue, Louisville, KY 40207
(Between Cannons & Breckenridge lanes. Off I-64: Cannons Lane exit)

For reservations, call (502) 896-8882
or e-mail jwatts@smbclouisville.org
before Oct. 25

Breakfast cost: \$6 per person

Join us for this opportunity to meet Dr. David Coffey and learn more about BWA's global ministries of world evangelism, disaster relief, help for persecuted Christians and world-wide fellowship for Baptists.

This event is organized by Dr. Leslie Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church; Rev. Matthew Smyzer, superintendent, Central District Baptist Association; Dr. A. Russell Awkard, moderator, General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Stand in the Gap

Christian men, fewer but still fervent, reunite on National Mall 10 years later

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—In numbers that were far fewer but with a faith that was nonetheless fervent, evangelical Christian men gathered in the shadow of the Washington Monument on Oct. 6 for a day of spiritual renewal that recalled a much larger meeting of a decade ago.

The Stand in the Gap 2007 rally brought thousands to the National Mall, almost 10 years to the day when hundreds of thousands turned the prominent stretch of grass into a sanctuary. On a grassy hill just south of the monument, men dropped to their knees or bowed their heads in prayer, holding their Bibles open or lifting them into the air.

"I want to grow up to be a good man and a strong man and a godly man," said Paolo Sossa, 13, of Burke,



SOUNDING THE CALL Pastor John Jenkins of First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Md., issues a call to faith during the Stand in the Gap rally Oct. 6 on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Va., as he opened the gathering in prayer.

"I want to be like Jesus," he declared.

For six hours, men from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds worshipped together, some with their faces bowed to the ground in prayerful silence. Fathers lifted their sons onto their shoulders. Solemn moments of repentance mixed with loud bursts of praise as men shouted or high-fived each other.

New approach

The event reflected changes seen in men's ministries as events have shifted from mass gatherings to smaller groups and fellowships. Just as this year's event attracted a smaller crowd, there are new networks drawing smaller groups of men to activities around the country.

Promise Keepers, which spearheaded the original "Stand in the Gap" assembly 10 years ago, endorsed the weekend meeting but was not an official sponsor.

"We had already set our focus and our priorities otherwise," said Ed O'Brien, general counsel of the evangelical Christian men's group, before the rally.

This year's gathering was co-sponsored by the National Coalition of Men's Ministries and the Washington Area Coalition of Men's Ministries.

While the 1997 rally brought hundreds of thousands of men to Washington at the height of the movement's popularity, organizers of this year's event obtained a permit for 10,000, and the numbers who showed up totaled a few thousand.

Promise Keepers, which once packed stadiums and held dozens of conferences annually, this year hosted seven smaller gatherings. Next month, the group plans to launch



a new Saturday morning "cinematic program" in local theaters to urge men to get involved in community service projects.

"The large, catalytic event that used to be synonymous with the Christian men's movement no longer defines the movement," said Drew Dyck, assistant editor of New Man magazine, in an interview before this year's rally.

"It's gone more grassroots and viral and all these little ministries are springing up," he added.

Gathering together

Whether they were present 10 years before or not, the men gathered on the Mall said they came seeking faith and fellowship.

"I just love the Lord and I just like to be around Christians," said George Haskiell, 65, of Terra Alta, W.Va., who attends a Nazarene church after becoming a Christian six years ago.

Joe Osgood, 53, from Claremont, N.H., came back to Washington af-

ter feeling transformed by the 1997 event.

"I was here the last time and I wouldn't have missed it this time," said Osgood, a car mechanic who attends a nondenominational evangelical church. "The first time changed my life and it's been changing ever since."

Marty Granger, chairman of Stand in the Gap 2007, said the day was meant to renew commitments to God and families more than to recall a "mountaintop" moment from the past.

Organizers said they view the weekend rally as more than a one-day or once-a-decade experience. Instead, they hope it will be a catalyst for acts of kindness and service that will allow men to live out their beliefs.

"All this will be for naught," said Rick Kingham, president of the Redmond, Wash.-based National Coalition of Men's Ministries, "if it doesn't thrust us, as the men of God, into a brand-new future."

10-YEAR REUNION

Thousands of men gathered near the Washington Monument Oct. 6 to worship God and pray for the nation during Stand in the Gap 2007, held on the 10th anniversary of the first such event, which brought a million men to the National Mall in 1997. (BP photos by Lee Love)

Appeals court orders cross to be removed from national preserve

San Francisco (BP)—The debate over whether cross monuments can be displayed on public property continues as the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in California ruled recently that an 8-foot cross honoring veterans must be removed from the vast Mojave National Preserve.

Congress, in a defense appropriations bill, had transferred government ownership of an acre of land to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in order to stop complaints that the government was sponsoring a religious symbol on public land. But the 9th Circuit upheld a lower court's decision, essentially overturning the land transfer.

The cross was built in 1934 by a group of World War I veterans, and in 1994 Congress created the national preserve and put the land under jurisdiction of the National Park Service, according to the Associated Press. Repeated disputes by the American Civil Liberties Union have

landed the cross in the appeals court three times.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said the court's decision could jeopardize other symbols, such as the Mount Soledad Cross in San Diego.

"The court's actions bear an eerie resemblance to the Taliban in 2001, when militants set out to bomb two colossal Buddhist statues that had stood untouched in Afghanistan for more than a thousand years," Perkins wrote recently. "From Sri Lanka to Germany, the global community condemned the actions as religious barbarism."

Likewise, Perkins noted, the Mojave cross and another long-contested cross at Mt. Soledad "are monuments to America's cultural history, a symbol of our Christian heritage and a tribute to brave Americans who laid down their lives in our nation's cause. Their memories should not be besmirched."

Freemasons granted religious protection

Los Angeles (RNS)—Freemasonry may rank with Christianity, Judaism and Islam as an official form of "religious exercise," a California court of appeals suggested in a ruling on Oct. 3.

As such, Masons would fall under the protections of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000, the landmark law that says government may not infringe on religious buildings without a compelling interest. "We see no principled way to distinguish the earnest pursuit of these (Masonic) principles ... from more widely acknowledged modes of religious exercise," the statement said.

The case involved the Los Angeles Scottish Rite Cathedral and the Scottish Rite Cathedral Association of Los Angeles. The court concluded that "chief" Masonic principles include "the reverence of a supreme being and the embrace of other forms of religious worship."

The court said it could find "no decisions analyzing whether Masonic practices are sufficiently religious in nature to qualify under RLUIPA," which states that the government cannot "impose or implement a land use regulation in a manner that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person."

The court's statement countered a lower court's opinion that "the 'Freemason' organization is (not) a religion."

While the Masons may have received a victory as a religious group, the court ultimately ruled that the RLUIPA law did not apply in the specific case at hand.

In 2002, Los Angeles Scottish Rite Cathedral began leasing the Scottish Rite Cathedral, a Masonic temple on Wilshire Boulevard, from the association. Despite city codes that restrict the use of the cathedral to Masonic-related activities, the group rented out the building for non-Masonic events. As a result, the Los Angeles city council withdrew the cathedral's certificate of occupancy in 2005.

In response, the two Masonic associations went to court, claiming that their rights under RLUIPA were being harmed. The lower court initially rejected the case, but the appeals court ruled that since the cathedral was used for "a melange of cultural and commercial events with a declining nexus to Masonic principles or other religious exercise," the Scottish Rite organizations could not claim protection under RLUIPA's "religious exercise" clause.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ A total of 10 teams and 92 volunteers participated in mission projects this year as part of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Brazil. Express thanks to God for those who were involved in the trips and pray for those who were impacted by their ministry efforts.

■ Pray for a Brazilian Baptist Christian to lead the work of planting a church in the University Park community. Pray for God to touch someone's heart with a desire to see people in that Brazilian community come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord and to disciple new believers in home worship groups.

■ Pray for future ministry opportunities in Kentucky Baptists' partnership mission projects on the state, national and international levels.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AUBURN**—Ruth Shifflett, organist for New Friendship Church for more than 50 years, died Sept. 13 at age 76. She is survived by her husband and one son.

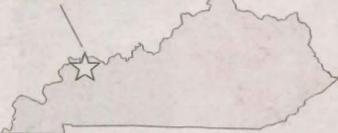
■ **BUFFALO**—Buffalo Church will hold revival services Oct. 21-24 with Jeff Anders as evangelist. For more information, call (270) 325-3820. Rodney Troutman is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Retired Kentucky Baptist minister Henry Parrott died Oct. 10 at age 91. Parrott, a member of Lowell Avenue Church, was pastor of several Kentucky churches as well as director of missions for Central, Lincoln County, Ohio River, Rockcastle, Bates Creek and Taylor County associations. He attended Clear Creek Baptist Bible School, Campbellsville College, Georgetown College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is survived by his wife, Madlyn, six children, 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

■ **CLAY CITY**—Retired Kentucky Baptist pastor Grover Craft, a member of Clay City Church, died recently at age 93. Craft was pastor of churches in Menifee, Magoffin and Wolfe counties for more than 40 years. He is survived by four adult children, 10

Spotlight on ...

Henderson



First Church will host the Western Kentucky Men's Conference Oct. 26, 7 p.m., and Oct. 27, 8 a.m., with Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church of Woodstock, Ga., as featured speaker. For more information, call Rich Stratton at (270) 826-2332. Todd Linn is pastor.

grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

■ **CRESCENT SPRINGS**—Crescent Springs Church will hold revival services Oct. 21, 6 p.m., and Oct. 22-24, 7 p.m., with Kerry Dale Spencer as evangelist.

■ **DAYTON**—East Dayton Church will hold revival services Oct. 21, 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Oct. 22-24, 7 p.m., with Fred Workman as evangelist.

■ **LANCASTER**—Hyattsville Church recently called Gary Durham as pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 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.
- 12 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministers Association Fall Meeting, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 12 KBC Mission Board, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 13-14 KBC Annual Meeting, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 16-18 All-State Junior High Choir, Campbellsville University.
- 17 Christian Women in Ministry State Leadership Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

He previously was pastor of Green River Memorial Church in Campbellsville.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Porter Memorial Church will host "Judgement House" Oct. 27-31, 6:30 p.m. For reservations, call Gina Woodyard at (859) 272-3441.

■ **LONDON**—Liberty Church will hold revival services Oct. 28-31 with Don Mathis as evangelist. For more information, call (606) 864-6147.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Hurstbourne Church recently called Jeff Smith as minister

of education. Mike O'Neal is pastor.

St. Stephen Church held a grand opening for The Fountain of St. Stephen, a clothes closet/food pantry, Oct. 14. Kevin Cosby is senior pastor.

■ **MORNING VIEW**—Piner Church will hold revival services Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Nov. 5-8, 7 p.m., with chalk art evangelist Scotty McDowell.

■ **PRINCETON**—Southside Church will host its 11th annual "Judgement House" Oct. 21-28, 6 p.m. For reservations, call (270) 365-5510.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

FOR SALE: 1998 Dodge 15-passenger van. Low mileage; runs good. For additional information, contact Mt. Zion Baptist Church at (270) 737-7221.

FOR SALE: 1999 Ford 15-passenger van. 55,000 miles. \$7,500. Call (270) 456-1980 or 469-5656.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor. If you feel God leading you in this direction, please send resumé and cover letter to: Search Committee, Decoursey Baptist Church, 8830 Locust Pike, Ryland Heights, KY 41015, Attn: Gloria Bowman.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/media and outreach at Westminster Baptist Church, Westminster, Md. For position description, see our Web site at www.Westminster-Baptist-Church.org.

SEEKING: Full-time director of missions for Blackford and Breckinridge Baptist associations. Resumés may be submitted to the associational office at 404 Elm St., Cloverport, KY 40111; or to thebaptistassoc@bellsouth.net. Resumés will be accepted until Nov. 20, 2007.

SEEKING: Pastor for Baptist church in Kentucky's golden triangle (Carroll/Owen/Gallatin line). Salary, housing, benefits. Resumé: Doug Robinson, 1640 Southfork, Owenton, KY 40359; or sbc0907@hotmail.com. EEO.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of worship for Glasgow Baptist Church. College graduate, music emphasis. Resumé/information: contact gbc_worshipsearch@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Siloam Baptist Church, Glasgow, Ky. Parsonage furnished. Please send resumé with cover letter to: Siloam Baptist Church, 517 Siloam Road, Glasgow, KY 42141. For more information, call (270) 646-0079 or 646-8128.

SEEKING: Minister of administration and discipleship. An innovative and contemporary church with a proven track record of being on the edge is looking for a minister who will work with our senior pastor to lead our church to the next level. Responsibilities include: coordination, training, organizing a viable ministry of small groups; oversight of the operational functions of the church, including—but not limited to—organizational structure, communication, facility oversight, office personnel supervision and event coordination. Finally this position will be tasked with leading bridge building ministries to impact the community. Reports to the senior pastor. Send resumé to: Nikki Heiserman, administrative assistant, New Work Fellowship, 1611 S Main Street, Suite 3, Hopkinsville, KY 42240; nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and education at New Friendship Baptist Church in Auburn, Ky., west of Bowling Green. Please submit resumé to PO Box 245, Auburn, KY 42206; or info@NewFriendshipChurch.com. For questions, call Tim Taylor, (270) 791-8238. To view the job description and additional information, visit our Web site at www.NewFriendshipChurch.com.

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

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister for Ballardsville Baptist Church. E-mail resumé to richard.marcello@medpro.com; or mail to 4300 S. Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014. www.ballardsvillebaptistchurch.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for small church in Cannonsburg area. If interested, send resumé to: Liberty Missionary Baptist Church, 12835 Copley Road, Ashland, KY 41102. Telephone: (606) 928-6611.

SEEKING: Interim youth minister. NKY missional church seeks leader (up to half time) for existing outreach to urban teens, mostly straight-edge. Start now. latoniabaptist@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Evergreen Baptist Church, a diversified congregation located in a well-populated rural community. Forward resumé: Pastor Search Committee, Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. www.evergreenbaptistchurch.us.

SEEKING: Bivocational youth minister for church with 165 in worship attendance. Church is 25 miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio. Candidates should be of conservative theological background, have a college degree or experience with youth ministry in the church. Send resumé to: Rev. Page and Personnel Team, Crittenden Baptist Church, PO Box 132, Crittenden, KY 41030.

SEEKING: Part-time youth/children's minister. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, Palomar Baptist Church, 2190 Ft. Harrods Drive, Lexington, KY 40513. For information, contact Kim Goard at (859) 963-1400.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. Signal Mountain (Tenn.) Baptist Church (www.signalmtnbaptist.org) is accepting resumés until the end of October for an energetic spiritual leader. Please send resumés to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Rob Philpaw, 101 Plaisades Drive, 37377. psc@signalmtnbaptist.org.

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 resumé 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: Minister of worship. An innovative and contemporary church with a proven track record of being on the edge is looking for a minister who will work with our senior pastor to lead our worship to the next level. Responsibilities include planning, leading, coordinating and organizing a comprehensive worship ministry that is relevant to our community. A high value is placed upon the use of creative arts. The ability to coach and develop a number of gifted worship leaders in the church will be helpful. Experience using technology (audio, lighting, projection, computer) is a plus. Reports to the senior pastor. Send resumé to: Nikki Heiserman, administrative assistant, New Work Fellowship, 1611 S Main Street, Suite 3, Hopkinsville, KY 42240; nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.org.

YOUTH SKI RETREAT: \$89/weekend—includes skis, lift, two nights on-site lodging, five meals and lesson. Wild and Wonderful West Virginia: (800) 392-0152. Ask for Christmas week special.

Ukrainians cross borders to take gospel to Kazakhstan

Family's decision to leave home country brings unexpected blessing of health

By Kristen Hiller
SBC International Mission Board

Pavlodar, Kazakhstan (BP)—Roman Gopanchuk leans forward to explain a Scripture passage to his home Bible study group in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan.

Just outside the living room door, Gopanchuk's 8-year-old son, Timofey, plays with Russian-speaking children. After a year of repeated asthma attacks, Timofey can finally breathe freely. And with their son's health restored, so can Roman and his wife, Viktoria.

The Gopanchuks first considered serving as missionaries in Kazakhstan after reading an article about Pavlodar in a quarterly magazine published by the Ukrainian Baptist Union. As they learned about the need for missionaries there, Viktoria said her son's asthma played a significant role in their decision to move from their home in Lutsk, Ukraine.

"We were thinking and praying a lot about what to do because treating him and the medicine, they didn't help," Gopanchuk said. "Some people advised us to move from where we had lived."

Roman and Viktoria contacted Franz Tissen, president of the Baptist Union of Kazakhstan, who invited the Gopanchuks to serve in Pavlodar.

"Living in the Ukraine, we were absolutely sure God wanted us in Kazakhstan," Gopanchuk noted. "And when we arrived here, one of the brightest examples is that our son has not had an asthma attack since we came here."

Because of Ukraine's wealth of religious freedom and its strategic geographic location connecting Russia to the West, Ukraine is commonly considered the "bread basket" of Christianity in the former Soviet Union.

Flood of new churches

In fact, since the collapse of communism 15 years ago, the Ukrainian Baptist Union has planted 1,900 churches. But despite the growing number of church plants, Bible institutes and theological education programs in Ukraine, fewer than 2 percent of Ukrainians profess to be evangelical believers.

"We still have a lot to do here," said Mick Stockwell, Southern Baptist International Mission Board strategy associate for Ukraine, Belarus and satellite regions. Until now, he explained, Ukraine has been a receiving culture. "Everything's been about what people bring to them; what people do for them. They are just now working on what it means to go on mission trips, to be called, to search and know God's will."

Since July 2005, IMB missionary Joe Ragan has partnered with both Ukraine and Kazakhstan Baptist leaders to recruit Ukrainian believers like the Gopanchuks to serve as missionaries to Kazakhstan.

Because of Kazakhstan's diverse



population, Ragan explained, missionaries have a unique opportunity to reach a wide range of people groups with the gospel. Just over half of the Central Asian nation's population is ethnically Kazakh, while the remaining inhabitants are comprised of Russians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, Germans and various other ethnic groups.

"A world outside"

"For me, the important thing is for Ukrainians to discover there's a world outside of Ukraine, and that they can be a part of that work," Ragan noted. "Many of them have probably seen American missionaries come to their country and do mission work. And so they never thought that they, themselves, could be a part of something like that and go to another country."

The Gopanchuks are only one of several Ukrainian families who have spoken with Ragan about the possibility of relocating to Kazakhstan to serve as long-term missionaries. As Ukrainian believers begin to leave their homeland to share Christ in other parts of the former Soviet Union, Stockwell and Ragan agreed Ukrainians have access to places where Americans might have difficulty serving.

"An American passport is not always welcome in every country simply because they know we're a 'Christian' nation," Ragan noted. "But Ukrainians don't have that history."

Although the Kazakh government has placed some restrictions on missionary work in the country, Ragan said believers can work within the context of those restrictions and still complete their missionary task of planting churches.

For the Gopanchuks, the primary goal is to plant churches in a city of 350,000 people, where only one Baptist church exists. "If God wants us to create another church here in Pavlodar," Roman Gopanchuk said, "I don't know how much time it will take, but I know it's all in God's hands, and He can do everything."

MEETING SPIRITUAL NEEDS Ukrainian missionary Roman Gopanchuk (seated, right) and Yuri Klochkov (standing) lead a weekly home Bible study group outside the Kazakhstan city of Pavlodar. The Gopanchuks, who are from Ukraine, moved to Kazakhstan after reading a magazine article about the need for missionaries there. "Living in the Ukraine, we were absolutely sure God wanted us in Kazakhstan," Gopanchuk said. (BP photos)

Ukrainian youth move toward change

By Kristen Hiller
SBC International Mission Board

Kiev, Ukraine (BP)—As an evening worship service begins at Central Baptist Church in Kiev, Ukraine, more than 25 young people crowd into a basement room to pray for the contemporary youth service to follow. Among the group is youth worker Vladimir Goloschapov from Transfiguration Baptist Church in Donetsk, Ukraine.

"Young people are the future," Goloschapov noted. "The kind of young people we have in our church today will determine what kind of church we have tomorrow."

Today, 15 years after the fall of communism and only two years since Ukraine's Orange Revolution, many Ukrainian believers sense their nation is on the verge of change.

As believers in Ukraine become accustomed to their post-Soviet religious freedom, Mick Stockwell of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board suggests Ukrainian young people will be the ones to fulfill the Great Commission in their own country and abroad.

"The church that survived communist persecution, the older generation, is in survival mode," Stockwell, an IMB strategy associate, said. "The new generation is what God will have to use to evangelize, disciple and train leaders."

With approximately 20,000 students enrolled in Christian universities across Ukraine, young people are doing just that. Last year, 13 Ukrainian young people boarded a train in Kiev for Kazakhstan



TOTALLY COMMITTED Believers gather at Central Baptist Church in downtown Kiev for a weekly youth worship service. At the close of the service, 40 young people committed the next year of their lives to ministry.

to work alongside IMB missionary Joe Ragan, sharing Christ through events ranging from English lessons to children's camps.

Ukrainian young people are responding to the call to participate in global missions. At the close of the Central Baptist youth worship service, 40 youth stepped forward to commit the next year to changing both their community and their world through Christian ministry.

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY



With Kentucky Baptists!



Dr. Bill Henard, senior pastor, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., spoke at one of the early chapel/convocations at CU. Dr. Michael V. Carter, CU president, is at right.



The Rev. Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, Ky., and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, spoke at the Pastors and Church Leaders Conference.



Dr. Michael Duduit, president of American Ministry Resources, LLC, and Dr. Robert Smith, associate professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, featured preachers at the recent Pastors and Church Leaders Conference. Join the Rev. John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, in responsive reading during the conference in the Ransdell Chapel.



Dr. Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, spoke at the dedication of the Ransdell Chapel April 18, 2007.



Dr. Frank Page, left, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, addresses those attending the dedication of the Ransdell Chapel. With him are the Rev. William Henderson, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Taylor County, and the Rev. Wilburn Bonta, director of missions for the Russell Creek Baptist Association.

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