



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Scholars indicate evangelical views, votes are shifting

Washington (RNS)—The face of evangelicalism is changing, two authors at the Pew Research Center said Oct. 11, and with that change comes uncertainty about who evangelicals will vote for in next year's presidential election.

Using the AIDS crisis as an example, Michael Lindsay, author of "Faith in the Halls of Power," said the current generation of evangelicals has a broader, more international perspective than their forebears.

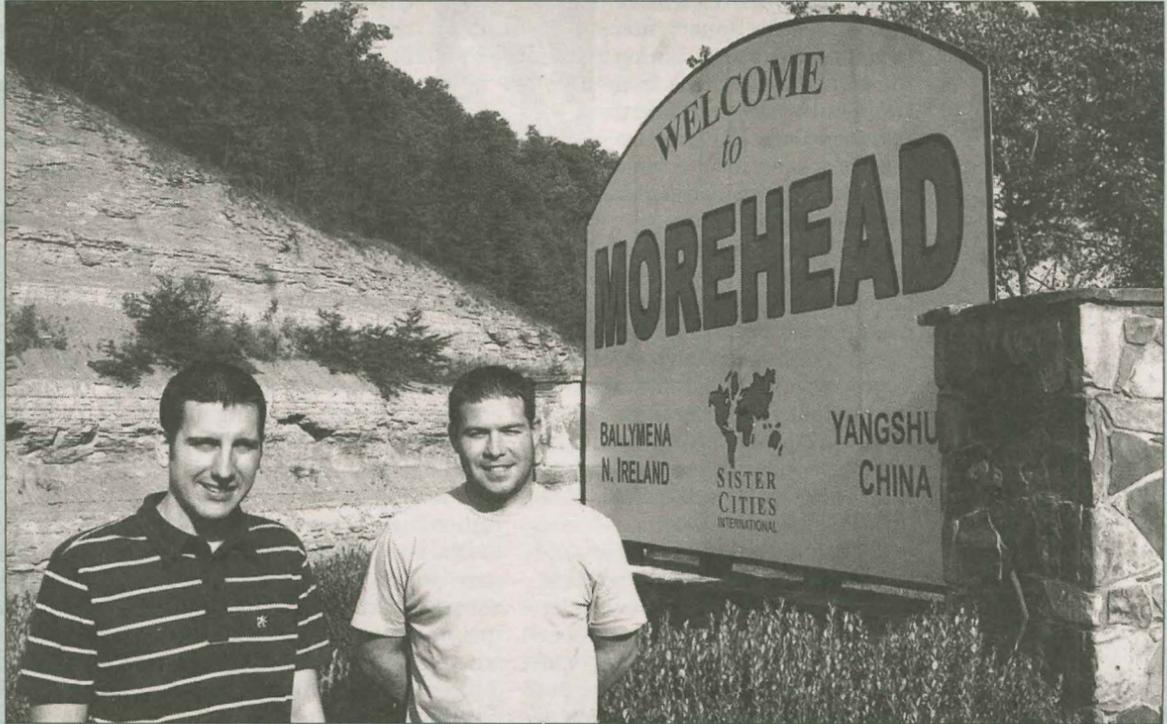
While many evangelical leaders in the 1980s denounced AIDS as "God's scourge on the homosexual community," President Bush's former speechwriter, evangelical Michael Gerson, was the man who brought AIDS back to the forefront 20 years later, Lindsay said.

"That is a really big change in the evangelical community," Lindsay said. "The amazing thing is that once that initiative was announced, some of the very same evangelical movement leaders who had denounced" the crisis "praised the White House for being bold and courageous."

Hanna Rosin, author of "God's Harvard," a book about Patrick Henry College in Virginia, and Lindsay attributed part of the change to a heightened appreciation for Reformed theology, which recognizes the problems in the world while at the same time compelling people to do something about them.

Lindsay said he also sees "the mantle of leadership" passing from evangelicals like evangelist Billy Graham—who focused primarily on evangelism—to pastors like Rick Warren, who believes that social justice and evangelism go hand in hand.

## 'It can happen here'



Pastor Daniel Lucas (left) and Administrative Pastor Adam Eldridge will launch CrossPoint Church in January 2008. Lucas pointed out that Morehead is a hub to several surrounding counties and the church intends to reach everyone in the area. "We're here to reach everyone," Lucas emphasized. "I don't care if you're 90 years old or if you're 9 years old. We're here to reach you." (Photo by Drew Nichter)

## Morehead's CrossPoint Church ready to 'point people to Jesus'

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Morehead**—Daniel Lucas grabs his Bible and emphatically points to it.

"If it happened in here," he declares, "it can happen here."

Gesturing to the glass front door and the parking lot, street and city beyond it, "here" is Morehead.

"God hasn't changed," Lucas continued. "He's still the same God we serve. So if God can do it in (the

Bible), how come God can't do it" in Morehead?

To hear Pastor Lucas, 30, and Administrative Pastor Adam Eldridge, 27, talk about CrossPoint Church, one might mistake it for a megachurch with thousands of members and an abundance of resources.

The reality is CrossPoint has yet to hold a single worship service. Lucas and Eldridge spend their days hashing out a vision for the young

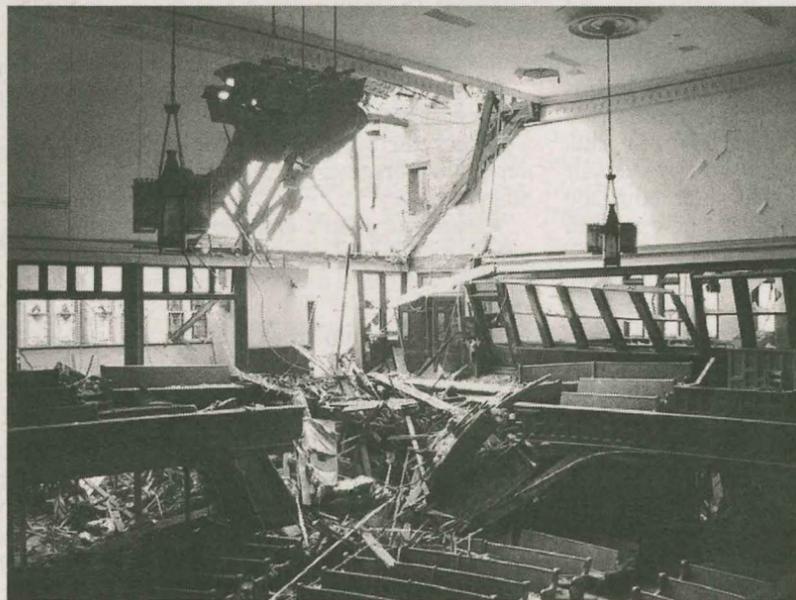
church in a small storefront in the middle of town. The core launch team boasts fewer than 40 members and the two church planters are essentially working for free.

But the lack of a paycheck has done little to dampen their enthusiasm.

"This is the most excited I've ever been about church," Eldridge said.

CrossPoint Church became the  See CrossPoint Church ... Page 3

## Owensboro church suffers extensive damage in tornado outbreak



**AFTERMATH** A view from inside the sanctuary of Third Baptist Church of Owensboro shows the extensive damage caused by an Oct. 18 tornado that hit the area. Pastor James Byrd said he has been told that rebuilding the 109-year-old facility may take as long as a year and cost up to \$5 million. (Photo by Steve Bailes)

**Owensboro**—The sanctuary of Third Baptist Church of Owensboro was severely damaged Oct. 18 when a tornado caused the church's 5-story bell tower to collapse into the building.

The tornado was part of an outbreak of storms that ripped through parts of western Kentucky as well as Louisville and southern Indiana.

About 125 people had been worshipping in the 109-year-old sanctuary as part of the Kentucky Council of Churches' annual meeting.

Third Baptist Pastor James Byrd said he had been monitoring the weather and decided to move everyone into the basement. Less than 10 minutes later, the tornado hit, sending the tower crashing into the sanctuary.

"Had we not gotten out, there would have been people killed," Byrd said.

Crews were on the scene this past weekend assessing the situation. Ac-

cording to Byrd, the damage is substantial and could cost as much as \$5 million. He also noted it will take as long as six months to a year to rebuild the sanctuary.

This past Sunday, worshippers gathered in the church parking lot for a time of prayer and to make decisions about what to do next. Byrd added that several Owensboro churches as well as Brescia University have offered facilities to use while the church rebuilds.

"They are offering us alternatives for where we can worship on a regular basis," he said.

According to the National Weather Service, more than a dozen tornadoes touched down in Kentucky Oct. 18. Meteorologists confirmed that the tornado that struck Third Baptist was the same one that touched down multiple times in Daviess County, injuring 11 people and causing widespread damage in downtown Owensboro.

## Midwestern trustees affirm Roberts, Downing

**Kansas City, Mo.**—Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Philip Roberts and trustee board chairman Gene Downing were both affirmed by trustees during their Oct. 15-16 meeting in Kansas City.

Roberts and Downing and other trustees had been at odds regarding Roberts' handling of the seminary's business and administrative affairs.

The trustees' executive board met for four hours Oct. 15, with Roberts joining them for the meeting's final two hours. The full board then convened in closed executive session for five hours. Trustees declined to discuss the issue with the media.

Twice the trustees excused Roberts and Downing from their board deliberations. Trustees again entered executive session the next day to discuss, among other items of business, a press release drafted by an ad hoc committee of trustees. This reflected a trustee vote taken the previous day not to speak to the press as individuals, but to write their own press release about the meeting.

"Affirming both the integrity and leadership of seminary President, Dr. Phil Roberts, and the leadership of current Trustee Chair, Gene Downing, the trustees ... voted to affirm not only these two leaders, but the overall direction and mission of the seminary," the board press release stated. "Responding to recent concerns and criticisms made pub-

lic, trustees rallied to address these concerns and to affirm seminary administrative leadership and the quality assurance processes of the trustees."

During the board meeting, the release added, "it was noted that the finances of the school are in good condition. It was also noted that the processes and procedures of the seminary needed to be commensurate with the positive financial condition of the school."

Citing "the rapid growth of the seminary in recent years," the statement said trustees "acknowledged that its policies and procedures must be as up to date and as effective as possible, enabling both the president and the trustees to carry out their duties with mutual respect and effectiveness."

The trustees "encouraged both the administration and trustee leadership to continue working together in cooperation and Christian understanding," adding that both Roberts and Downing "overwhelmingly affirmed their desire to work together for the good of the college and seminary, promising to apprise the trustees of the steps taken to improve the processes and procedures of the school as a result of several trustee directives issued during the two-day meeting."

The statement also noted that seminary "staff and faculty remain under a proviso that preceded the

trustee meeting prohibiting them from speaking to the press."

Tensions among the seminary's leaders were first publicized last month after the resignation of the college's chief financial officer, David Hodge, due to a disagreement with Roberts.

Downing, an Oklahoma City businessman, said at the time that he and other trustees were concerned about Roberts' "leadership" and the reasons Hodge resigned.

According to Downing, Roberts placed Hodge on administrative leave Sept. 20 after Hodge declined to give Roberts a copy of a confidential financial analysis. Hodge, who had left a bank presidency in Wichita, Kan., just six months earlier in order to take the position at Midwestern, prepared the analysis at Downing's request.

In a subsequent Kansas City Star article, Downing said the analysis "substantiated the lack of administrative skills on Dr. Roberts' part."

Midwestern trustee David Tolliver, interim executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, told Baptist Press that the "events of recent weeks and days have proven that Midwestern Seminary is larger and stronger than any one person."

"Midwestern has weathered the recent storm and continues to stand strong on the Word of God and in the training of God-called men and women for the propagation of the gospel," Tolliver added.

*Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press*



Phil Roberts

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Dumas named senior vice president at Southern.** Dan Dumas, executive pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., has been named senior vice president for institutional administration for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Dumas succeeds Clark Logan, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's new vice president for business and finance. Dumas, a U.S. Navy veteran, holds degrees from The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, Calif., and Criswell College in Dallas. He previously served on the ministry staff of churches in Alabama, Florida and Texas. He and his wife, Jane, have a 4-year-old son, Aidan.

**NAMB trustees elect two senior strategists.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board unanimously approved Ken Weathersby to lead NAMB's evangelization group and David Meacham to lead the church planting group. Weathersby, who currently is NAMB's senior director of the equipping division, previously was state evangelism director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He also has planted churches in Ohio, Tennessee and Louisiana. Meacham currently is a professor of church planting and director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously was executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention.

**CBF council OKs UN goals, hears of budget shortfall.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's governing board, meeting Oct. 11-12, endorsed the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, joining several governmental and religious bodies in the global fight against extreme poverty, hunger and disease. The Coordinating Council also heard a report on sluggish contributions to CBF, which reached only 86 percent of the amount budgeted for the recently concluded fiscal year and ended the year with a shortfall. Much of the drop in revenue was in undesignated receipts, the category that includes contributions from churches and which accounts for about 56 percent of CBF's revenue. The \$8.2 million in undesignated receipts for 2006-07 was about \$700,000 less than the previous year, continuing a three-year downturn, according to financial data.

## LifeWay's new Baptist Hymnal undergoing theological review

By Polly House  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

**Nashville (BP)**—LifeWay Worship, the music area of LifeWay Christian Resources, recently began a theological review of songs to be included in the 2008 Baptist Hymnal.

The process began with a group of theologians meeting earlier this month on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship, said the group will review every song currently selected for the new Baptist Hymnal, determining if each one is doctrinally and theologically sound.

"We began our look at the hymns and songs with the new additions to the Baptist Hymnal," Harland said. "The new hymnal will have about 650 songs included, and about 300 of these songs will be new ones to our hymnal."

Emphasizing that the theology of the hymns and songs is critical, Harland said the group was deliberately made up of theologians and musician/theologians.

Jon Duncan, state music director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, served as committee leader of the 12-member group.

The Baptist Hymnal is part of The Worship Project, a new set of resources for worship leaders being developed by LifeWay. The goal is to meet the worship needs of churches by coupling the updated hymnal with modern technolo-

gy. The endeavor includes a downloadable audio hymn and worship song repository from which the updated hardbound Baptist Hymnal will be drawn. The second part will be a worship planner, available at [www.lifewayworship.com](http://www.lifewayworship.com).

During the coming months, Harland said the summit participants will go over the songs scheduled to be in the Baptist Hymnal, checking each one verse by verse to ensure its doctrine and theological soundness.

Among questions used to determine each song's suitability are:

- Does the hymn speak biblically of God?
- Is it God-honoring?
- Does the hymn present a biblical view of man?
- Does the song help cover the depth and breadth of Baptist theology?
- Does the hymn call worshipers to true discipleship, service, repentance, witness, missions and devotion?
- Does the hymn speak biblically of salvation?
- Does it engage the whole person—allowing a person to express his deepest feelings?
- Does the hymn emphasize that Christ is the Christian's Lord, Master and King?
- Is there a balance with corporate and individual response in worship?
- Does the hymn speak biblically about the church, the body of Christ?

## 'Purpose Driven' books given to 24,000 prisoners

By Hannah Elliott  
Associated Baptist Press

**Columbia, S.C. (ABP)**—Giving Rick Warren's best-selling "The Purpose Driven Life" to prisoners is nothing new for church volunteers.

But St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., is distributing the book on a much broader scale than most groups. Church members recently gave a copy of "The Purpose Driven Life" to every prisoner in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. They gave away some 24,000 copies in a single day.

Greg Barr, pastor of St. Andrews, came up with the idea after his involvement with a Bible study group at a prison in Columbia. They had studied another of Warren's books, "40 Days of Purpose," and wanted to expand it.

And expand it they did. In one day, prison workers and Baptist volunteers transported thousands of books to the state's 29 prisons.

### Team effort

Barr's pet project had plenty of inside help. Leaders of Warren's Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., sold the church special prison-tailored versions of the books for \$1 a copy. South Carolina corrections officials, who normally limit the number of books inmates can have at a given time, agreed to waive the limit for 30 days so that Warren's book wouldn't count against it.

On the outside, volunteers from the two local Baptist associations and the South Carolina Baptist Convention worked with Prison Fellowship and Changing the Way, a group that helps ex-offenders adjust to life outside of prison. The groups have trained their volunteers to teach Bible studies based on the book, with the hope that prisoners will return to their cell blocks and lead additional studies there.

The connection between the Purpose Driven books and Prison Fellowship goes back several years. They're both tied in with the Celebrate Recovery program, founded by a Saddleback member in 1991 and now in 3,500 prisons worldwide.

It's a project that will continue, if Barr has anything to do with it. His church has purchased 35,000 books so far, and his next plan is to send thousands of them to the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and other county jails.

"I'm hoping people in other states will see this and think, 'That's not very hard. I can do that,'" he said. "I'm hoping that someone in Kentucky will hear about it or someone in Arkansas will see this and say, 'Our church can do that.'"

## Study reveals 'startling' results about Ky. Baptists' beliefs

### Research findings to be released at annual meeting

By Erin Roach  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Louisville**—Seeking to reverse a trend of declining discipleship training in Kentucky Baptist churches, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has partnered with LifeWay Research to evaluate the severity of the problem.

The KBC commissioned a study by LifeWay Research regarding the spiritual maturity of Southern Baptists in the state. The initial results will be released Nov. 14 during the KBC's annual meeting in Elizabethtown.

Steve Rice, the KBC's director of discipleship and assimilation, said one area of particular concern is the surprising weakness in biblical doctrine revealed in the study. He noted that the survey specifically targeted Southern Baptists in Kentucky.

"One of the startling things we found is that 24 percent of Kentucky Southern Baptists believe we may be able to earn our salvation," Rice said. "That shocked us."

"Another doctrinal surprise was that 38 percent believe Jesus may have committed sins during His time on earth," he said. "Sixty-four percent of Kentucky Southern Bap-

tists believe that we may need to continually work toward our salvation or risk losing it. We've just not done a great job in teaching that key doctrine of our faith, eternal security."

Only 13 percent strongly agreed that they intentionally spent time building friendships with non-Christians for the purpose of sharing Christ with them, Rice noted.

"When people aren't disciplined, they're susceptible to false doctrine," Rice said. "They're also susceptible to temptation because they're not strong in their faith and because they don't know God's Word. Maybe most importantly, they're not transformed into the likeness of Christ, which in turn gives a poor witness to unbelievers."

When Rice joined the KBC staff in January, he toured the state to meet with directors of missions and pastors. One recurring theme he discovered was that Kentucky Baptist churches are generally weak in discipleship.

"Years ago we moved to a program approach to discipleship. We began to assume that's all discipleship was, but it is much broader than that," Rice said. "It's not a program; it's a process. A program can be a valuable part of discipleship, but it is not discipleship alone. Discipleship is a life-long journey."

The LifeWay Research study, Rice



Steve Rice



Scott McConnell

said, "was intended to identify the spiritual formation in our churches. The KBC will partner with our churches to formulate a strategy to help congregations move back to the Great Commission component of making disciples."

"A pastor can focus on the Gospels, showing what the disciples did and how Jesus made disciples," Rice said, suggesting ways churches could implement a holistic approach to discipleship. "Obviously the letters of the New Testament—Paul's writings and the general epistles—all are helpful because they're all writing to churches for the most part."

Other ideas for discipleship include mentoring within the church, using small groups to study the Bible, and utilizing some of the discipleship resources available through LifeWay, he said.

"We're still writing the prescriptive part of this strategy, somewhat

of a 'What now? What do we do with the findings of this study? How do we react to it?'" Rice said.

The KBC and LifeWay Research currently are working to address those questions and help equip churches to take action, he said. Information and insights will be shared with churches at the convention and throughout the next year.

Researchers polled more than 200 Southern Baptists in Kentucky, but Rice said "at no time did they know that LifeWay was conducting the survey or that it was connected to a Kentucky Baptist organization so the research would not be biased in that way."

The study measured a variety of behaviors indicating the progress of discipleship in each respondent's life.

By comparing behaviors with biblical discipleship principles, Rice said the study identified the most challenging areas of discipleship that will require the greatest attention from church leaders.

Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research in Nashville, will present the study's results at the KBC annual meeting.

"I strongly encourage all of our Kentucky Baptist pastors and leaders to hear the initial report of this study," Rice said. "I think they'll be helped, surprised and possibly alarmed."

**"When people aren't disciplined, they're susceptible to false doctrine."**

Steve Rice, KBC's director of discipleship and assimilation

## CrossPoint Church prepares to impact Morehead, world for Christ

Continued from page 1

newest of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's High Impact churches in June. Lucas said he and Eldridge have their sights set on a January 2008 launch date.

Through a series of informational meetings in the summer, CrossPoint's core team has grown from four people to more than 30. The two men hope that with more meetings planned through the fall, more people will hop on board.

"Our vision for this church is that we exist so that people who are far from God can become followers of Jesus Christ," Lucas declared.

And according to Lucas, he was once one of those people.

While a student at Morehead State University, Lucas attended a Baptist Student Union worship service trying to find a "good girl" to "straighten me up," he said. At the end of the service, Lucas heard the words that changed his life: "God loves you and God can forgive you."

"It hit me like a ton of bricks," he recalled.

After praying to accept Christ that night, Lucas got up the next morning and began to read his roommate's Bible. Starting with the story of Adam and Eve, Lucas prayed for God to send him a "helpmate." A week later at BSU, he met Leigh Ann, who eventually became his wife.

Lucas graduated from Morehead State in 1999 and moved to Salyersville. A year later, Lucas said he felt God calling him into full-time ministry.

In January of 2004, Lucas became minister of students at First Baptist Church of Paintsville. It was there that he caught the church planting bug.

In the summer of 2004, during a meeting with KBC's Alan Witham and Donnie Patrick, pastor of First Baptist, Paintsville, Lucas heard Witham mention that a church was being planted in Morehead.

"That's the time where that seed just got planted in Daniel's life," said Patrick, whose congregation serves as CrossPoint's sponsoring church.

Understanding that it was not God's timing for him to plant a church, Lucas was called as pastor of Licking River Baptist Church in Salyersville in January of 2005.

Waiting in the wings to take over as minister of students

at First Baptist, Paintsville was Eldridge, who had recently become a member of the church.

For two years, Lucas and Eldridge served at their respective churches. At the start of 2007, both men began to feel God pulling them back to Morehead.

Making the move to neighboring Fleming County, Eldridge took a teaching job at the high school, as well as a part-time position of youth pastor at Flemingsburg Baptist Church.

At the same time, Lucas discovered that two church plants in Morehead had not worked out. According to Lucas, "God said, 'Now it's time for you.'"

He said he felt like God had been preparing him for eight years to return to Morehead.

"Immediately, God started to confirm it; through His Word, through circumstances, through people," Lucas noted.

Knowing each other from college,

Lucas contacted Eldridge about helping him plant a church in Morehead. By July, both men had resigned their positions—Lucas as pastor of Licking River Baptist and Eldridge as both a youth pastor and teacher. Eldridge, with his wife and young son, even moved back in with his parents "because he really believes that God's

going to do something big here and he wants to be a part of it," Lucas said of his friend.

On Aug. 1, the two officially began as CrossPoint Church and immediately started building a team and reaching out to the community.

"We really believe this is going to be a regional church," Lucas noted.

He pointed out that Morehead is a hub city for the seven surrounding counties. One of those counties—Menifee County—was identified in Thom Rainer's book, "Surprising Insights from the Unchurched," as the most unchurched county in the United States.

The centerpiece of the city, Morehead State University, provides an even greater opportunity for impact, not only on the city and state, but on the world. According to the university's website, students from 39 states and 27 countries attend the school.

CrossPoint is "not only going to hit Rowan County, it's going to go abroad," Lucas noted. "Where else ... could we walk out of our office here and meet someone from Indonesia, China, Russia, (or) Romania?"

The primary way that CrossPoint intends to reach these people for

Christ, Lucas said, is through building relationships with people.

"It's relational evangelism," he said. "It's time to quit doing church and be the church. You don't do church once a week. It's every day in your classroom, at the pharmacy, at Wal-Mart, in the cubicle of the person beside you."

That mentality will begin to take shape on Sunday mornings beginning in January. "We think that our front door of the church is the morning worship service," Lucas noted.

The church will meet at the Morehead Conference Center, a facility ideally suited for a church plant looking for a place to hold its "worship experiences."

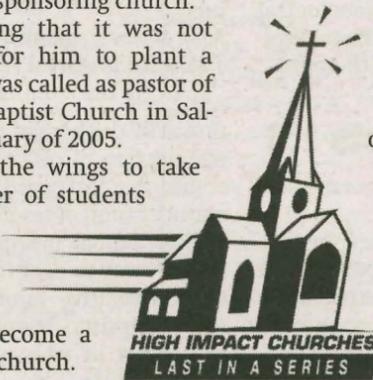
"When people come in, we want them to experience Jesus," Lucas said. The guys at CrossPoint hope that the relational evangelism that happens throughout the week will pay off on Sunday mornings. "God's worthy of our best and we're going to give Him our best," Lucas declared.

Donnie Patrick, who has served as a mentor to both Lucas and Eldridge, said he believes God has great things in store for the city of Morehead through CrossPoint Church.

"There is just no doubt in my mind, being able to walk closely with Daniel and Adam that God has His hand on" CrossPoint, Patrick noted. "I expect them to do things only God can get the credit for."

For Lucas and Eldridge, whom Patrick considers his "two sons," it is not as much about impacting Morehead as it is about impacting the Kingdom.

"I'm passionate about this," Lucas declared. "And I don't know about you, but I want my life to count."



### CROSSPOINT CHURCH AT A GLANCE

**Location:**  
Morehead

**Pastor:**  
Daniel Lucas

**Launch Date:**  
Jan. 27, 2008

**Sponsoring Church:**  
First Baptist Church of Paintsville

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Recovering a bold vision for preaching

By Albert Mohler

Louisville (BP)—Is preaching still central to Christian worship? This question is asked again and again as contemporary evangelicalism is observed. How can this be up for question?

In some circles, preaching has fallen on hard times. An open debate is now being waged over the character and centrality of preaching in the church. At stake is nothing less than the integrity of Christianity.

How did this happen? Given the central place of preaching in the New Testament church, it would seem that the priority of biblical preaching should be uncontested. After all, as John A. Broadus—one of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's founding faculty—famously remarked, "Preaching is characteristic of Christianity. No other religion has made the regular and frequent assembling of groups of people, to hear religious instruction and exhortation, an integral part of Christian worship."

### Superficial substitutes

Yet, numerous influential voices within evangelicalism suggest that the age of the expository sermon is now past. In its place, some contemporary preachers substitute messages intentionally designed to reach secular or superficial congregations—messages which avoid preaching a biblical text, and thus avoid a potentially embarrassing confrontation with biblical truth.

A subtle shift visible at the onset of the 20th century has become a great divide. The shift from expository preaching to more topical and human-centered approaches has grown into a debate over the place of Scripture in preaching, and the nature of preaching itself.

Two famous statements about preaching illustrate this growing divide. Reflecting poetically on the urgency and centrality of preach-

ing, the Puritan pastor Richard Baxter once remarked, "I preach as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men." With vivid expression and a sense of gospel gravity, Baxter understood that preaching is literally a life or death affair. Eternity hangs in the balance as the preacher proclaims the Word.

Contrast that statement to the words of Harry Emerson Fosdick, perhaps the most famous (or infamous) preacher of the 20th century's early decades. Fosdick, pastor of Riverside Church in New York City, provides an instructive contrast to the venerable Baxter. "Preaching," he explained, "is personal counseling on a group basis."

These two statements about preaching reveal the contours of the contemporary debate. For Baxter, the promise of heaven and the horrors of hell frame the preacher's consuming burden. For Fosdick, the preacher is a kindly counselor offering helpful advice and encouragement.

The current debate over preaching is most commonly explained as an argument about the focus and shape of the sermon. Should the preacher seek to preach a biblical text through an expository sermon? Or should the preacher direct the sermon to the "felt needs" and perceived concerns of the hearers?

Focusing on so-called "perceived needs" and allowing these needs to set the preaching agenda inevitably leads to a loss of biblical authority and biblical content in the sermon.

Earlier evangelicals recognized Fosdick's approach as a rejection of biblical preaching. An out-of-the-closet theological liberal, Fosdick paraded his rejection of biblical inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility—and rejected other doctrines central to the Christian faith. Enamored with trends in psychological theory, Fosdick became liberal Protestantism's happy pulpit therapist.

### COMMENTARY

## 'Empowering Believers in Missions,' Acts 1:8

The annual meeting of Kentucky Baptists will be held Nov. 13-14 in the beautiful, new facilities of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. It will be worth your time and trip just to see how this church has provided for preschoolers, children, youth and adults in their new location at the junction of Rineyville Road and Ring Road.

This will be a historic annual meeting as it will be the first held at this new location of the oldest church (1781) in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It will also be historic due to the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the first Baptist association in North America in Philadelphia in 1707.

Each year at the opening of the first session, the Credentials Committee recommends new churches for affiliation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It is a real joy to welcome the pastors and members who are present. Following approval, these new churches' representa-

tives are able to register as messengers to the convention.

Exhibits will also be open for messengers and guests to learn about the ministries affiliated with, and sponsored by, the KBC. Representatives of the agencies, institutions and Mission Board departments of work, as well as representatives of the Southern Baptist North American and International Mission boards and SBC seminaries, are present to answer questions.

Messengers and guests are encouraged to participate in all sessions Tuesday and Wednesday. Reports will be given on all ministries and missions work represented in the KBC budget. Results of an important research report and a line-up of outstanding workshops will also be offered on Wednesday morning.

Dr. Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak on Tuesday night, representing our national and international missions.

Other business will include ap-

proach evident in many evangelical pulpits. The sacred desk has become an advice center and the pew has become the therapist's couch. Psychological and practical concerns have displaced theological exegesis as the preacher directs his sermon to the congregation's perceived needs.

The problem is, the sinner does not know what his most urgent need is. She is blind to her need for redemption and reconciliation with God, and focuses on potentially real but temporal needs such as personal fulfillment, financial security, family peace and career advancement. Too many sermons settle for answering these expressed needs, and fail to proclaim the Word of Truth.

### Preaching as God's servant

Charles Spurgeon confronted the very same pattern of wavering pulpits in his day. Spurgeon confessed that "the true ambassador for Christ feels that he himself stands before God and has to deal with souls in God's stead as God's servant, and stands in a solemn place—a place in which unfaithfulness is inhumanity to man as well as treason to God."

Spurgeon and Baxter understood the dangerous mandate of the preacher, and therefore were driven to the Bible as their only authority and message. They left their pulpits trembling with urgent concern for the souls of their hearers and fully aware of their accountability to God for preaching His Word, and His Word alone. Their sermons were measured by power; Fosdick's by popularity.

The current debate over preaching may well shake congregations, denominations and the evangelical movement. But know this: The recovery and renewal of the church in this generation will come only when from pulpit to pulpit the herald preaches as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men.

*Albert Mohler is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville*

proval of the budget totals for 2008-09, election of officers, approval of committee and board members, and consideration of resolutions.

The annual meeting is the best opportunity to hear firsthand about the cooperative ministries of Kentucky Baptists. Missions is at the very heart of who we are as Kentucky Baptists.

Through the Cooperative Program, Kentucky Baptists support missions and ministries in Kentucky, across North America and around the world. This is how Kentucky Baptists work together in carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord.

I praise God for the fellowship and unity of Kentucky Baptists around the compelling passion for missions. We cannot take that fellowship and unity of purpose for granted. The Holy Spirit of God must move among us in each new generation of leaders to renew our passion for God's great redemptive plan of the ages.

Please continue to pray for unity and respect for one another as we work together in the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

### GIVING

## Make provisions to help beneficiaries handle inheritance

By Laurie Valentine

Leaving an inheritance to a beneficiary who may not be able to manage it, due to immaturity or actual incapacity, is not good estate planning.

An outright bequest (or life insurance or other beneficiary designation) to a beneficiary under age 18 will require a guardian to be appointed to manage the young beneficiary's share of your estate until he or she reaches age 18 (even if there is a surviving natural parent). At 18, the young beneficiary will receive full ownership and control of the inheritance, no matter its size.

A better alternative may be a "testamentary trust."

A testamentary trust is a provision in your will under which you designate a third party to serve as the trustee/manager of the young beneficiary's share of your estate. A testamentary trust usually includes a direction for the trustee to distribute the trust's income to or for the beneficiary. The trustee can also be authorized to use principal for the beneficiary's education, health and other needs if the income from the trust and other resources are not sufficient.

A testamentary trust for a young beneficiary does not have to end at age 18. You designate the age when the trust will terminate and the beneficiary will receive full ownership of his or her share as part of the trust provisions. The full trust amount may be distributed at a single age; or you may want to use a tiered distribution—one-half at one age and the rest at a later age, or one-third each at three different ages.

Testamentary trusts may also be used to provide for an elderly or incapacitated beneficiary. The trust provision can direct an income stream (and possibly also principal) to or for the beneficiary for the rest of his or her life, with the remainder of the trust then distributed to other beneficiaries you have named at the death of the income beneficiary.

Ease young beneficiaries into the management of inherited wealth and eliminate the burdens asset management could place on an elderly beneficiary by including testamentary trust provisions in your estate plan.

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



## Consult experts to evaluate obsessive, compulsive acts

**Q: My daughter is 12 years old and has recently become obsessed with how she looks. She insists on taking long showers before school, after school and before she goes to bed. She seems to be losing her focus on other things in life. I wonder if she could have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, partly because I have a cousin who has struggled with it most of her life. How can I help my daughter deal with this or am I overreacting?**

Any time you notice significant changes in a family member's behavior, it is important to pay attention and address any problems that are emerging.

### PARENTING

At 12 years old, your daughter may be in the midst of puberty and becoming more aware of changes in her appearance and more worried about how she looks, smells or feels. Because your daughter's behavior is interfering with her daily functioning and causing you concern, it warrants attention.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder can result from changes or problems with the chemistry of the brain and can be genetic. This disorder has two components: obsessions and compulsions. Obsessions are unwanted thoughts, images and impulses that create anxiety. Compulsions are behaviors that are repeatedly performed to relieve the anxiety. There are several categories of such ritual behavior. These include washing and cleaning, checking, repeating, hoarding, organizing, worrying and thought games.

Much research and attention has been given to the treatment of OCD. Medication and behavior therapy have proven to be effective. It is important for family members to be involved in treatment and give full cooperation. Learn as much as you can by consulting your daughter's pediatrician and other sources such as the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation at [www.ocfoundation.org](http://www.ocfoundation.org), Anxiety Disorders Association of America at [www.adaa.org](http://www.adaa.org), and the National Institute of Mental Health at [www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov).

Because God has created our physical body, thoughts, emotions and spirit to be intricately connected, it is important to care for the health of all four.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: I have a friend who has just lost a parent to a sudden heart attack. How can I help when I don't know what to say?**

According to Dr. Harold Ivan Smith, who specializes in writing books to help people who are dealing with grief, you have three primary things to share: presence, heart and actions.

### GRIEF

**Presence.** Just being there is worth more than words. It often is a comfort to others in their grief just for others to be there rather than trying to put one's thoughts or feelings into words.

**Heart.** Receive the grieving person's stories. People who are grieving are desperate to tell stories about their loved one, and it is a great gift for you to ask them to share.

**Actions.** Among specific helpful actions you can take are:

- Send cards and notes letting individuals know you are praying for them.
- Do tangible remembrances, donating toward causes that were meaningful to them.
- Attend the rituals. It's important to be there.
- Take food. It is a warm, practical and helpful thing that helps nourish the body and spirit.
- Remember the anniversaries. Letting your friends know you are thinking about them on the anniversary of a loved one's death is a unique and special way of caring.

The New Testament reminds us to "weep with those who weep." This is good advice. It is another way of saying be there, feel their pain and take practical, helpful actions characterized by kindness.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail [wesrec@earthlink.net](mailto:wesrec@earthlink.net).



## Church plants make impact on Kentucky

On Aug. 18, I spent the better part of my Saturday bouncing from classroom to classroom at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, covering Kentucky Baptists' Super Saturday conference. I'm not sure that I've ever seen anything like the incredible facilities that Immanuel Baptist has. Even though everything was well-laid out and clearly marked, it was pretty easy to get lost in a place so large.

Nevertheless, Immanuel's facilities are a testament to what God is doing in Lexington through that congregation and its staff; there is no doubt about that.

The very next day, I found myself in a Ramada Inn conference center just off of I-64 in Mount Sterling. There I had the pleasure of experiencing worship with the 40 or so members of The Baptist Worship Center, a Kentucky Baptist Convention High Impact church.

As I listened to Pastor Travis Drake deliver his message, I contemplated the interesting juxtaposition of the two churches and found one huge similarity: God was (and is) in both places.

The KBC's High Impact initiative began three years ago as an intentional effort to plant churches in communities with high numbers of unchurched individuals. The goal is to start 25 such churches by 2010.

Currently, there are 11 High Impact churches in 10 cities across Kentucky. And I believe that the convention has done an amazing job in supporting and encouraging these churches in fulfilling the Great Commission.

I've also had the privilege of getting to know the 11 extraordinary leaders of these churches; or as George Barna might call them, "Revolutionaries." Each one of these men has a unique story about why they are leading a church plant. Each of them can point to a time in their life when God planted the desire in their heart to lead a new vision of church with one goal in mind: to lead non-Christians to faith in Christ.

For Mike Osborne of Journey in Boone County, God used a tattered old copy of Elmer Townes' book, "Get-

ting a Church Started," to sow the church planting seed. Claudio Toro of Cardinal Valley Iglesia in Lexington, left a successful business career in Chile, uprooted his family and moved to the United States, because he said he felt God calling him to do something more with his life.

In researching the 11-part High Impact series for the Western Recorder, I've also visited many places that before, I might not have expected to find church: storefronts, a school cafeteria, a university student center, an insurance office, an old VFW hall. But even though there were no stained glass windows to be found, God was in each and every one of those places.

Living Stones Fellowship in Grant County, led by Matt Howe, currently meets in an insurance office building and prior to that, met in a bank office. Howe told me about his 3-year-old daughter, who attends preschool at a local Baptist church. He said that whenever they pass by that church in the car, she calls from the backseat, "Look, Daddy, it's my school." But when they pass the insurance office or the bank, she exclaims, "Look, Daddy, it's church."

"What that's teaching her," Howe said, "is that the church is not confined to a building. Church is where people meet to worship and celebrate God."

As Daniel Lucas of CrossPoint Church in Morehead put it, "It's time to quit doing church and be the church."

Each one of these churches has a unique vision for reaching their communities for Christ. But while their methods may be unique, the goal is not. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus tells us to "go and make disciples of all nations." The challenge is as old as the book we live our lives by.

A good friend of mine, Jeff Fuson, said recently that we need to "begin to live great big, wide-open lives with God on the loose." I've seen firsthand that God is on the loose in Kentucky and His people are making an impact for His Kingdom.

Drew Nichter is news director of the Western Recorder

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Drew Nichter

## Celebrating the autumn of life

By David Jeremiah

**El Cajon, Calif. (BP)**—My childhood autumns in Ohio hold precious memories—the fall revival at church, unpacking warmer clothing, hot cocoa, harvest moons, fires in the hearth, a well-stocked pantry, and best of all, football! I loved it.

The autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come.

When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

"Autumn" only occurs once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to "autumn trees without fruit," implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the "autumn of life"?

The seasons come and go, so focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (Psalm 90:1-2).

There's a lot of unwelcome

change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

### FIRST PERSON

And personal changes come—children leaving home; the passing of dear friends; and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work.

But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God.

Author J.I. Packer points out that God does not change. His life is always the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He's the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable and life unending.

We've all suffered setbacks along the way. But God promised, "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten. ... You

shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God" (Joel 2:25-26). His divine forethought knew it all in advance, and He can be trusted with what has happened to us in years past.

Our omniscient Savior knows the end from the beginning, and He will bless whatever is yielded to Him. Focus on His foreknowledge, providence and sovereignty.

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings—family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word and eternal life still to come.

During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

Autumn is a good time to focus on your commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." If you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time.

If you are a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life.

During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

David Jeremiah, founder of Turning Point for God, is senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., and chancellor of San Diego Christian College



**DISASTER RELIEF** In response to wildfires in Greece that destroyed more than 100 villages in August, a team of Kentucky Baptist volunteers—alongside Southern Baptists from three other states—are heading to the country to provide cleanup, remove burned trees and plant new trees for fire victims. (BP photo)

## Kentucky Baptists gear up for fire relief mission to Greece

Louisville—A team of eight Kentucky Baptists will travel to the Peloponnese peninsula region of Greece from Oct. 29 to Nov. 13 to provide disaster relief from wildfires that plagued the region in late August.

According to a report from the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, the area is still recovering from the aftermath of wildfires that raged across 469,000 acres, destroying more than 100 villages and killing at least 67 people.

"People who live in the area are destitute because the fires destroyed virtually everything they have," said Abraham Shepherd, area director for Baptist Global Response, the Southern Baptist international development and relief organization responsible for coordinating the effort in Greece.

The Kentucky team is one of four states involved in the Southern Baptist relief effort. Others include Alabama, Texas and Virginia.

In an effort to keep Southern Bap-

tist volunteers on site for several months, Baptist Global Response has scheduled the teams for consecutive service terms of two weeks each. The recovery effort is scheduled to continue through December.

Volunteers will be providing general clean-up assistance, packaging and distributing goods, helping repair destroyed olive groves, removing damaged trees and planting new trees.

"We just wanted to be able to help the people," said Larry Koch, the KBC's disaster relief associate.

Kentucky Baptists are part of a larger network of Southern Baptist volunteers trained to respond to disasters by manning mass feeding operations, using chainsaws to clear downed trees and limbs, clear mud out of flooded homes and more.

To learn more about Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, visit [www.kybaptist.org/dr](http://www.kybaptist.org/dr), e-mail [baptistmen@kybaptist.org](mailto:baptistmen@kybaptist.org) or call (502) 489-3401, or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

## Pastors' Conference to focus on Connecting culture with Christ

Louisville—Highlighting the theme "Connecting Our Culture with Christ," the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference will be held Nov. 12 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The conference is designed to empower pastors to better minister within the Kentucky culture, said Pastors' Conference President Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.

The conference will precede the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, which will be held Nov. 13-14.

"Every generation has its own culture and there are new influences on the culture, but the message of Jesus Christ never changes," Paris noted. "We need to remember our call to connect our culture to Christ."

The afternoon session of the conference is scheduled from 1 to 4:30 p.m., followed by the evening session from 6 to 9 p.m.

Conference speakers include

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; Christian music recording artist Clay Crosse and his wife, Renee; Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn.; and evangelist Fred Wolfe, founder of Barnabas Ministries.

Kentucky pastors scheduled to speak include Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington and the only announced candidate for KBC president; Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville and current KBC first vice president; and John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset and immediate past Pastors' Conference president.

No pre-registration is required and the event is free to attend.

For more information about the KBC annual meeting and related events, visit [www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting](http://www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting).

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## Campbellsville students unite to take stand against poverty

Campbellsville—Students at Campbellsville University are taking a stand against poverty and hunger with activities planned for the Global Day of Action against Poverty on Oct. 27.

More than 2,000 colleges and universities are registered in the challenge sponsored by ONE.org, as an effort to gather "Americans of all beliefs and every walk of life—united as one—working to help make poverty history," according to the organization's Web site.

Campbellsville currently has more than 380 people signed up to participate in the event.

"Signing up just means taking a moment to enter your e-mail and school on the Web site [www.one.org/campus](http://www.one.org/campus)," said Andrea Lawler, women's residence village director/women's housing coordinator. She said the local chapter is hoping for 100 percent of the university's faculty and staff to register in support of the effort.

On the evening of Oct. 27, a costume ball and silent auction will be held at 8 p.m. in the Student Activities Center gym to collect funds which will go to The World Food Program as part of the benefit to fight hunger. Admission is a donation of \$10 per person, or for students, a donation of \$5 and a can of non-perishable food.

Tickets and information for the event will be available in the lobby of Winters Dining Hall during the week prior to the event.

For more information about the local chapter of ONE, call (270) 789-5547 or (270) 789-5005, or e-mail Ashley Lawler at [amlawler@campbellsville.edu](mailto:amlawler@campbellsville.edu).

## Secretaries Luncheon

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR CHURCH AND  
DENOMINATIONAL SECRETARIES

NOVEMBER 13, 2007 • 12:00 NOON

Join us for good food, good fellowship and  
a special guest speaker!

CECILIA BAPTIST CHURCH  
416 E. Main Street, Cecilia, Kentucky 42724

Held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Cost: \$10.00 • Registration is required by November 9

For more information or to register, contact Jenny Byrd  
at 502-489-3335 or 866-489-3335 (toll free in KY) or  
e-mail [churchdevelopment@kybaptist.org](mailto:churchdevelopment@kybaptist.org).

GUEST SPEAKER: ANN CASE, PART-TIME ENGLISH PROFESSOR AT WESTERN  
KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY AND PIANIST FOR SEVERNS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



This event is sponsored by the KBC's Church Development  
Team and the Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association.



Property improvements

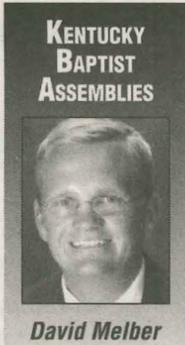
Camp upgrades designed to enhance ministry options

I would like to take the opportunity to give an update on what is taking place at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. As you can imagine, due to the nature of camp ministry our window for improvements and new construction must take place in non-summer months.

If you have been to Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek since summer, you have seen a great deal of construction in progress. I want to personally thank each of you for your patience and understanding as you visit the properties. The construction makes quite a mess, but the future results will be amazing.

At Cedarmore, guests will now have a new fishing lake, new recreation fields and a new conference center. We are excited about all three of these additions as they have been long overdue. The recreation fields are covered with a turf blend that we plan to introduce to the entire Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek properties over the coming years. This turf blend is very resilient to dry conditions and high traffic use that will be great for camp.

At Jonathan Creek, guests will see a new welcome center that includes our camp offices and additional motel rooms for housing. Also new at the Creek will be a recreation lake. This private lake on our property will allow us to offer some amazing recreation elements that we currently cannot offer on Kentucky Lake. Trust me when I say that campers in the future will have great fun on what is to come.



David Melber

Each year we try to schedule improvements that will add value to your visit at each property. God has been so gracious to us to provide the resources that enable these improvements to take place.

I want to personally thank each of you for your prayers for this ministry. Also, thank you for your support of the Cooperative Program as we receive about 11 percent of our budget from CP dollars given in Kentucky.

I do hope you can visit the camps as I believe you will thank the Lord for what He is doing through camps to reach the youth of our world.

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "Ye who \_\_\_\_\_ were far off are made nigh" (Ephesians 2:13)
- 9 Car manufacturing union, abbr.
- 12 Removal of a mistake
- 13 Book that follows Daniel
- 15 Electrical engineer, abbr.
- 16 Memphis' state, abbr.
- 17 Not here
- 19 "\_\_\_\_\_, and ye shall find," (Matthew 7:7)
- 21 Contraction for I have
- 23 "I \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, and he heard me" (Psalm 34:4)
- 27 West Indies, abbr.
- 28 "The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no \_\_\_\_\_ of thee" (1 Corinthians 12:21)
- 29 Article
- 30 A long, low soft couch or sofa
- 31 Geomagnetic electrokinetograph, abbr.
- 32 Book, abbr.
- 34 Inspector General, abbr.
- 35 Letter of the alphabet before "en"
- 37 "Jesus saith unto her, ... whom \_\_\_\_\_ thou?" (John 20:15)
- 39 "Like the \_\_\_\_\_ birth of a woman" (Psalm 58:8)
- 40 Foot, suffix
- 41 Mercury, chem. symbol
- 42 "And Joshua sent men from Jericho to \_\_\_\_\_" (Joshua 7:2)
- 43 "But \_\_\_\_\_ for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4)
- 44 "My heart is like wax; \_\_\_\_\_ is melted" (Psalm 22:14)
- 46 "Make me as one of thy \_\_\_\_\_ servants" (Luke 15:19)
- 47 Royal Horse Guard, abbr.
- 49 "(Abram) sat in the \_\_\_\_\_ door in the heat of the day" (Genesis 18:1)

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- 51 Center fielder (baseball), abbr.
- 52 "Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ said unto Samuel, Go, lie down ... if he call thee ... say, speak, Lord" (1 Samuel 3:9)
- 54 "For my yoke is \_\_\_\_\_, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30)
- 55 "And the people \_\_\_\_\_ for Zacharias, ... he tarried so long" (Luke 1:21)
- 59 "I will pour out of my \_\_\_\_\_ upon all flesh" (Acts 2:17)
- 60 "Bring together into one \_\_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 29:13)
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- 99 "I will pour out of my \_\_\_\_\_ upon all flesh" (Acts 2:17)
- 100 "Bring together into one \_\_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 29:13)

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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PRESIDENT BILL CROUCH  
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*Dedication Concert*  
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ORGANIST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007  
4:00 P.M.  
JOHN L. HILL CHAPEL

*Reception Follows*

GEORGETOWN  
COLLEGE  
*Live. Learn. Believe.*

## Most Americans believe U.S. is Christian nation

Nashville (BP)—Despite the report of a growing hostility toward Christianity, a poll conducted by the First Amendment Center found that 55 percent of Americans believe the U.S. Constitution establishes a Christian nation.

The survey—conducted annually by the non-partisan educational group—measures attitudes toward freedom of religion, speech and the press. It found that three out of four people who identify themselves as evangelical or Republican believe the Constitution establishes a Christian nation, and about half of Democrats and independents agree.

The results also indicate that 58 percent of Americans believe teachers in public schools should be allowed to lead prayers, representing an increase from 2005 when 52 percent supported such prayers.

## Study shows many marriages end in divorce at 8-year mark

Washington (BP)—On average, first marriages that end in divorce last about eight years, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, which also noted that most Americans are marrying later and are slightly more likely to marry more than once.

Tom Elliff, former leader of the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life, said marriages that falter around the eight-year mark generally have experienced serious difficulties long before that point.

"Given the later age at which many are now marrying, and the delay in having children, the eight-year mark can often come at a time when individuals in a marriage are beginning to seriously question such things as career choices, job transitions and the role the church community will play in their lives," said Elliff, senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations at the SBC International Mission Board.

"During this time, troubled marriages tend to become even more so as couples begin seeking reasons for what is interpreted as a lack of fulfillment," Elliff said.

People born in the leading edge of the baby boom experienced high divorce rates in the 1970s and 1980s, according to the Census Bureau. About 38 percent of men born from 1945 to 1954 and 41 percent of women in the same age group had been divorced by 2004.

"People are at risk of divorce throughout their marriages. That risk probably peaks in years 5 through 10," said Andrew Cherlin, a sociology professor at Johns Hop-

kins University. "Lots of divorces are occurring after the first decade of marriage. It's not the case that if you make it through the first 10 years, your marriage is divorce-proof."

The antidote for fragile marriages is tied to a strong commitment to Christ through a local church, Elliff said, adding that premarital counseling is a key component of successful marriages.

"How we begin married life has a great deal to do with how we continue in it," Elliff explained. "I believe we need to take a new look at the statistics that show Christian marriages having a similar divorce rate as non-Christian marriages. Many people consider theirs to be a Christian marriage if they simply are on a church roll or are married by a pastor in a Christian church."

True Christian couples who have a strong faith in Christ, attend church on a weekly basis, regularly pray together and have undergone a serious period of premarital counseling have a surprisingly small divorce rate compared to others, Elliff added.

He also pointed out that today's American culture hardly ever encourages marital perseverance, especially in the tough times of life.

"On the contrary, marriage and fidelity to one's spouse is looked upon as a joke, something not to be expected on the part of any sophisticated person," he said. "Given the impact of the media, I am not surprised that contemporary statistics regarding marriages paint a sad picture regarding the shorter span of first marriages that end in divorce."

## 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

November 13-14  
Severns Valley Baptist Church

Elizabethtown, Kentucky  
[www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting](http://www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting)



Dr. Frank Page

Delivering Tuesday night's sermon, Dr. Page is president of the SBC, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Taylors, SC and the author of several books and articles. He has seen tremendous growth as the church has dramatically increased its ministries and outreach.



The KBC Annual Meeting Will Be an Excellent Blend of Worship, Business, Reporting, Testimony and Fellowship!

TUESDAY, NOV. 13

Morning Session 8:20 am - 12 pm

Afternoon Session 1:30 - 4:40 pm

Evening Session 6:30 - 8:50 pm

Special Feature: Empowering

Believers in Missions 7:25 pm

Sermon by Dr. Frank Page 8:05 pm

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14

Morning Session 8:30 am - 12 pm

LifeWay Research Presentation 9:05 am

First Breakout Session 9:45 am

Second Breakout Session 11:00 am



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P.O. Box 43433  
Louisville, KY 40253-0433  
502-245-4101 or 800-266-6477

## Only time will tell

### Tutoring Lab teachers & aids provide one-on-one help for struggling students

When I interviewed "Timmy" (not his real name) he appeared to be a quiet and somewhat shy young man, even for a 6th-grader.

His mother and father brought him to our school in August because he needed more help academically than he could receive in his former school. Like most of our students, Timmy was not doing as well academically as his parents believed he could do. They had heard about our tutoring program and were hopeful that we could help.

Our tutoring program is not designed for students who have learning disabilities or who require special education assistance. It is designed for students who, for a variety of reasons, aren't performing well in their current learning environments. According to test scores and other materials, Timmy appeared to have the ability but did not seem to understand the material. When I asked about his grades during the interview he told me he made mostly Cs and Fs.

Timmy's parents described him as someone who was "immature, gives up easily, is content to do nothing, is lazy, doesn't always listen and is not willing to accept some responsibility for his grades." We also were told that he was "excited about coming to Oneida to have a fresh start." Additionally, his mother said she needed a break from the frustration of trying to encourage Timmy. We understand that frustration, too.

The OBI staff and faculty who work with Timmy note that he is easily distracted and doesn't seem to be able to put his thoughts together. This is not uncommon.

One reason we provide one teacher/teacher's aid for every two students in the Tutoring Lab is to attempt to keep those students focused. Providing each student with individual attention is critical if we are to help them.

On the positive side, Timmy is cooperative and is undoubtedly the best-dressed young man on campus. Unlike many Christian schools, we do not have a dress code. Our students wear, for the most part, the same clothing they would wear to a public school. On most days, Timmy sports a white shirt and tie. I can assure you not many of our students are interested in wearing a white shirt and tie every day.

Timmy has not made as much progress as we had wished, and only time will tell if our efforts will help him improve his grades. He is somewhat immature and he is not as focused as we would like but he is cooperative. I see him every morning during breakfast and from time to time throughout the day. He is polite and nearly always speaks to me. He will require a lot of patience on the part of our Tutoring Lab staff. Patience is one of the most critical requirements for someone working with the students in our Tutoring Lab. Everything happens on the students' schedules. They cannot be rushed and there is no need to proceed faster than they can comprehend. Hopefully we will see progress for Timmy and our other tutoring students in the months to come but it will not happen overnight. We hope to be able to place Timmy in regular classes before the school year ends.

Only time will tell.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneida-school.org](http://www.oneida-school.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Approved Workman

### Student's daughter becomes key to spiritual clarification

In 1979, Clear Creek student Ron Gardner was 9 years old. Like so many children before and since, Ron was active in AWANAS.

AWANAS is an acronym meaning "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed." The organization, which encourages and rewards scripture memorization, is based on 2 Timothy 2: 15: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

At one particular meeting, Ron remembers an invitation being given. "Everyone was going forward, so I went too," he said. But Ron admits that God still was not really a part of his life.

Several years later, Ron was grown, married and blessed to be the father of three children: Kayla, Dustin and Aaron. Kayla was 7 when she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior after an Easter program at church.

Ron said his daughter's decision made him consider the state of his own soul. He recalled that he prayed, "Jesus, if I'm not saved, save me now. I hand my life over to You, and every decision." After surren-

dering to God's will for his life, Ron said God called him to Christian ministry. Ron knew that answering God's call would involve preparation, so he began looking at Bible colleges. Clear Creek was one of the those schools. Ron said he knew this decision would impact his whole family. Clear Creek, above all other schools, had a definite family atmosphere, and he felt this was where God would have him receive the ministry training he needed.

The Gardners came to us from Indianapolis, so life in Pineville is requiring some adjustments. The schools are much smaller than Kayla, Dustin and Aaron attended previously, but they say

they know that this is where God wants them to be. Ron knows the training he receives here will help him minister to anyone in any church.

His time in AWANAS was not wasted. Ron now fully understands the need to be an approved workman who is not ashamed. That equipping is what Clear Creek does best.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

## Conservatives say new Calif. law endorses homosexuality

**Sacramento, Calif. (BP)**—California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger kept his promise in vetoing a gay marriage bill but also signed a bill that conservatives say will have a stifling effect on religious freedom in public schools—not to mention in promoting the homosexual agenda in schools unlike any other piece of legislation in recent memory.

The new law is known as the California Student Civil Rights Act and is similar to one that the Republican governor vetoed last year.

The law directs teachers not to “give instruction” and school districts not to “sponsor any activity” that “promotes a discriminatory bias” against homosexuality, bisexuality or transgenderism. Its Senate sponsor was Democrat Sheila Kuehl, an open homosexual.

### Potential impact

“Its impact will be extensive throughout California’s public school system,” said Ron Prentice, chief executive officer of the California Family Council. “The bill is written in such a way to promote homosexuality. So for those who promote this bill to say that it is neutral is ridiculous.”

“This bill in its very core is discriminatory towards anyone who disagrees with the homosexual lifestyle.”

Legislative experts agree that the law eventually could:

- Prevent Christian teachers from giving their own orthodox, Bible-based opinion about homosexuality as well as force them to teach students ideas contrary to their own beliefs.

- Radically change what students are taught about families, since instruction about the natural, traditional family with a mother and father could be viewed as “promoting a discriminatory bias” against same-sex couples.

- Prevent health teachers from providing students with facts about the unhealthy nature of homosexuality.

- Require special bathrooms be provided for cross-dressing students claiming to be transgendered.

- Alter or halt yearly events such as homecoming courts and the naming of the “king” and “queen.”

“This one is huge,” Prentice said of the law’s significance. “It can only promote homosexual lifestyle and behavior as a positive, normal aspect of humanity.”

In addition, the law adds agnosticism and atheism to a list of religious beliefs that are protected in public schools.

Schwarzenegger signed the bill Oct. 12, the same day he vetoed a gay marriage bill for a second time.

## NATIONAL NOTES

**New policy allows God on flag certificates.** Americans who ask for a flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol will now be able to include religious references on the accompanying certificate under new guidelines released Oct. 11. Republican House members were angry after an Ohio Eagle Scout requested a flag be flown in honor of his grandfather’s “dedication and love of God, country and family.” The accompanying certificate left out the word “God.” Acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers, who supervises the flag program, said guidelines from 2003 would be revised to allow whatever messages a member of Congress deems appropriate. Ayers added that the existing policies had been “inconsistently applied” and it was not his job to “censor messages” from lawmakers.

**Akron City Council drops Lord’s Prayer.** For decades, the Akron, Ohio, City Council opened its weekly meetings with “The Lord’s Prayer.” But after the Washington, D.C., group, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, threatened litigation, council members decided Oct. 15 to instead pray privately before meetings. They are also working on finding a nonsectarian prayer to replace the Christian prayer. All 13 Akron council members agreed to stop saying the Lord’s Prayer, not wanting to fight—and possibly lose—a threatened court battle.

**NAE names Anderson president.** Leith Anderson, the Minnesota megachurch pastor who has twice served as interim president of the National Association of Evangelicals, was formally named president on Oct. 11. He was named interim president in November 2006 following the resignation of former Colorado megachurch pas-

tor Ted Haggard, who was brought down in a sex and drug scandal. Anderson, 63, has been the senior pastor of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minn., which is affiliated with the Baptist General Conference, since 1977. He also served as the NAE’s interim president from 2001 to 2003.

**Oral Roberts president takes leave of absence.** Richard Roberts, president of Oral Roberts University, announced Oct. 17 that he will take an indefinite leave of absence. The decision by Roberts, son of the charismatic Christian university’s namesake founder, came amid intense scrutiny over allegations of financial, political and other wrongdoing raised in a lawsuit by three former Oral Roberts University professors. “I pray and believe that in God’s timing, and when the board feels that it is appropriate, I will be back in my post as president,” Roberts said.

**Bob Jones University leader endorses Romney.** The chancellor of Bob Jones University, a conservative Christian school in Greenville, S.C., has endorsed former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for the Republican nomination for president. “As a Christian I am completely opposed to the doctrines of Mormonism,” Bob Jones III told The Greenville News Oct. 16. “But I’m not voting for a preacher. I’m voting for a president. It boils down to who can best represent conservative American beliefs, not religious beliefs.” Jones said he opposed a presidential race between former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Sen. Hillary Clinton because both support abortion rights. Bob Jones University posted a statement on its Web site that the school does not endorse political candidates and Jones’ comments were made in his role as a private citizen.

# Unity

## IN ACTION

Atlanta, Georgia  
January 30-February 1, 2008

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

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

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

### PLENARY SPEAKERS:

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

Plus 16 special interest sessions.

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

Celebration  
OF A  
NEW BAPTIST  
COVENANT

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Missionary Pat Howard-Guiterrez of Bowling Green.** Howard-Guiterrez ministers to internationals and also serves as an English as a Second Language consultant. She helps with citizenship classes, teaches English and coordinates the ethnic congregation of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. She has a heart for those who are foreigners in a strange land and would love to see each of them come to know Christ as their personal Savior. Pray for the three ethnic pastors who travel from Louisville to lead the worship services. Pray that her students will see the love of Jesus in her life and that she will be alert to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

**Manger Ministry of Lawrenceville Baptist Church in Corinth.** Lisa Holt directs the "free store" and food pantry that serves more than 140 individuals each month. The ministry shares the love of Christ by networking with other churches and groups to provide food, clothing and furniture to needy families. Pray that ministry volunteers will effectively share the gospel while meeting the physical needs of clients. Pray also for stronger community support and needed repairs to the ministry's building.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BENTON**—Hamlet Church recently called **Jack Henshaw** as pastor.

Zion's Cause Church will hold revival services Nov. 4, 8:45 and 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m., and Nov. 5-7, 7 p.m., with **Ron Gleaves** as evangelist. **Charles Frazier** is pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Jackson Grove Church will host its fall potluck supper and gospel singing Oct. 27 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The **Still Water Quartet** from Hopkinsville and the **Music City Boys** from Nashville will perform. For more information, call (270) 843-1556.

■ **CORBIN**—Faith Church ordained **Carl Begley** and **Ralph Helton** as deacons Sept. 30.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Dunn Church ordained **Kirk Hafner** as a deacon Oct. 21.

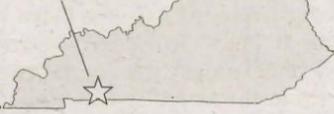
■ **EASTWOOD**—First Church recently called **Jim Hume** as pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold revival services Oct. 27, 7 p.m., and all Sunday services on Oct. 28 with **Walt Barnes** as evangelist. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will host a singles conference Nov. 3, 9 a.m., highlighting the theme,

## Spotlight on ...

## Pembroke



Pembroke Church will celebrate homecoming and host a dedication service for its newly renovated auditorium Nov. 4, 10 a.m., with **Brandt Lyon** as guest speaker. A noon fellowship meal will follow. **Jack Studie** is pastor.

"Singleness and the Glory of God." Speakers include **Mark Combs**, **Josh Martin**, **Kevin Whitt** and **Matthew Perry** with the **Josh Martin Band** leading in worship.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Foster Avenue Church recently called **Jason Davis** as minister of evangelism and outreach.

**Al Washburn** recently resigned as associate minister of music and organist at Highland Church.

West Broadway Church recently called **Will Smallwood** as interim pastor and **Brent Whitten** as associ-



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## October

**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](http://www.kybaptist.org)

ate pastor.

■ **NEBO**—Johnson Island Church recently called **Jeff Devine** as pastor.

■ **NEWPORT**—First Church recently called **Kenneth Cole** as interim pastor.

■ **PELLVILLE**—West Point Church recently called **David Atherton** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Donaldson Church will celebrate homecoming Oct. 28 with **Eric Martin** as guest speaker. For more information, call (270) 365-3723.

Highland Church recently called **Bill Bruce** as interim pastor.

Emmanuel Church ordained **Dixie Cotton** as a deacon Oct. 28.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Josh Smith** recently resigned as pastor of Mossy Gap Church.

## What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. E-mail: [wesrec@earthlink.net](mailto:wesrec@earthlink.net).

## 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](http://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:** Senior pastor for Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 808 Bourne Ave., Somerset, KY 42501.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music (12-20 hours a week) for Cecilia Baptist Church. Experienced individual with knowledge of music, directing congregation and choir. Send resumé to Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 East Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724, Attn: Personnel Committee; or e-mail resumé to [church@cecilia.baptist.com](mailto:church@cecilia.baptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Bivocational minister of youth. Send resumé to West End Baptist Church, 324 South 28th St., Paducah, KY 42003, Attn: Pastor Wayne Carter.

**SEEKING:** Minister to students for Crestwood Baptist Church. For more information, visit [www.crestwoodbaptist.org](http://www.crestwoodbaptist.org). E-mail resumé to Bill Ellis at [bill@crestwoodbaptist.org](mailto:bill@crestwoodbaptist.org).

**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 education and administration for Campbellsville Baptist Church. Experience and seminary degree required. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Campbellsville Baptist Church, PO Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719.

**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](mailto:sbc0907@hotmail.com). EEO.

**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:** 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@bell.south.net](mailto:thebaptistassoc@bell.south.net). Resumés will be accepted until Nov. 20, 2007.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to youth and college students for Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Responsibilities include developing a comprehensive ministry of outreach and discipleship for middle school and high school students and ministry to the families of those students; providing spiritual growth opportunities for college-age young adults; assisting with pastoral care ministries. Ability to build and maintain effective working relationships with church members and staff is important. Having a heart for God and the truth of His Word is required. Send resumé to: Search Team, Pleasant View Baptist Church, 13571 Ky. Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489.

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

**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:** 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](mailto:nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister to work primarily with 6th-12th grade students. If interested, mail resumé to: Symsonia Baptist Church, PO Box 343, Symsonia, KY 42082.

**SEEKING:** Minister of administration for Crestwood Baptist Church. For more information, visit [www.crestwoodbaptist.org](http://www.crestwoodbaptist.org). E-mail resumé to Bill Ellis at [bill@crestwoodbaptist.org](mailto:bill@crestwoodbaptist.org).

**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](mailto:nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.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](mailto:fbwc@highland.net); or call Amy at (606) 376-2418.

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

# Hope emerges in Pakistan two years after deadly quake

Islamabad, Pakistan (BP)—Houses of stone crumble, and once the initial shock passes after tragedy and loss, people usually return to what they know. The people of Pakistan are no different, so houses of stone they are building.

The October 2005 earthquake that rocked northern Pakistan destroyed entire villages. Government officials estimate the 7.6-magnitude quake killed more than 73,000 people and left about 3 million homeless.

Rebuilding has been slow, and little of it has been done with any kind of longevity in mind.

"The people are rebuilding with the stones in many places, in the old way, and the government is opposed to that," said Mercedes Teofila\*, a Christian worker in Pakistan. "When I ask them why, they say, 'We don't have money, so this is the way we will rebuild.'

"Still, many of them don't have houses," she added. "Some people are building really nice houses, but the poor, they are still in the metal shelters and are building houses with stones."

Two years after the earthquake, fewer than 25 percent of the people are living in permanent, earthquake-resistant houses, Southern Baptist representative Worth Ballinger\* said.

Reconstruction of schools also seems to be stalled. Fewer than 10 percent of the schools are meeting in reconstructed buildings, he noted. The rest are meeting in donated and damaged tents.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan—in a region that sits on an active fault line—was one of the deadliest in recorded history. A 5.3-magnitude earthquake registered in Pakistan as recently as Sept. 9. Rebuilding with earthquake-resistant construction is prudent.

The government has given between \$400 and \$3,000 to families for reconstruction, Ballinger said.

"The people are frustrated as they wait for assistance from the government to rebuild their homes," Southern Baptist representative Elie Arnold\* noted. "They are deter-

mined to rebuild what they have and move forward."

For many in Pakistan, the second anniversary of the earthquake has gone unnoticed. Political news—not the woes of earthquake survivors—filled the front page of one Sunday newspaper prior to the Oct. 8 anniversary.

## The mourning continues

Most of the earthquake survivors, however, marked the date with mournful visits to gravesites during the day and then in the evening with a tearful breaking of the fast they observed for Ramadan.

"The people are resilient, but the loss is still evident as they share their experiences," Arnold said.

For the past two winters, Christians have prayed that snows would be light and temperatures warmer than normal for the sake of earthquake survivors living in temporary shelters. Both winters indeed have been mild.

"I think the winter is going to be very hard, because it's getting cold already," Teofila said. "The people who have these little shelters, they will be in trouble this winter."

The year already has been wrought with an onslaught of rain that resulted in flooding in the earthquake zone.

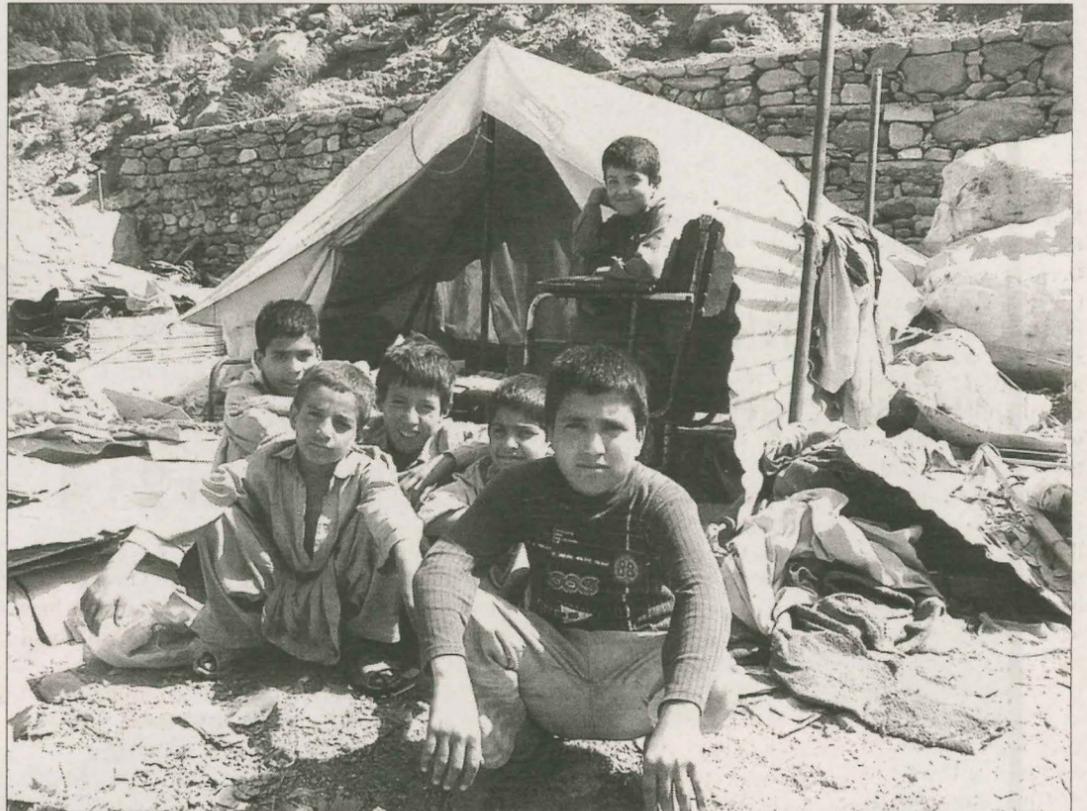
Southern Baptist earthquake relief ended in July 2006, but Pakistani Christians whom Baptists helped train now are ministering through relief and development efforts.

"They've got experience after the earthquake, so now they can go to other areas of the country," Southern Baptist representative Kelvin Peart\* said.

One ministry provided quilts to those who lost their belongings in the earthquake and then again during the monsoon rains and flooding.

"The project team verified the list of beneficiaries for quilt distribution by door-to-door visits," ministry director Abdul Ghaffaar\* said. "It took more than a month to complete the assessment as access to the 74 small localities scattered in mountains was quite difficult.

"We are thankful to the Lord that



He led us through different situations to have practical experience in the mission field, to understand our responsibility and to grow in maturity as the Pakistani church," Ghaffaar said.

In addition to distributing quilts, the ministry has presented health education programs, provided needed clothing and medicines, taught vocational skills as well as reading and writing to women, and distributed Ramadan food packages to families in need.

## Ramadan reminder

That the 2005 earthquake occurred during the month-long Ramadan fast, a time of concentrated worship of Allah, took many Pakistanis by surprise. Their response was that the terrible tremor must be Allah's judgment, punishment for sin. Most of the Muslim earthquake survivors quickly returned to what they knew—an Islam in which worship is duty and living or dying is a matter of fate.

The anniversary fell near one of the most important times of the fast,

the "night of power." For Muslims, this night commemorates when the angel Gabriel gave Mohammad his first message from Allah.

"Many Muslims will stay up the entire night praying and seeking revelation from Allah," Southern Baptist representative Vance Kirker\* said.

On this night, Muslims pray to have dreams and visions. Many former Muslims have testified that they had dreams of a man in white who led them to seek a personal relationship with Jesus as Savior.

Many Pakistanis are hearing truth for the first time. In early October, Peart and Ghaffaar shared the gospel with a Muslim shopkeeper from whom they were purchasing supplies for an upcoming ministry.

"Not only are we doing community development, but it is this—we get to share on the bus, and we get to share with this guy in his office," Peart recalled.

Whether in town or on a mountainside, Pakistanis seem increasingly ready to listen to the Word of God, workers said.

"We have endless opportunities to share—in the bazaar, the park and the local hospital," Southern Baptist representative Yvonne Outland\* said. "The only limit is the amount of Christians we have here to share with others."

As earthquake survivors have shared their experiences of trauma, many have allowed Christians to share with them stories from the Bible that offer them hope.

Southern Baptists are sharing the gospel with earthquake survivors through personal evangelism and Bible storying, but they also are training Pakistani Christians to be effective witnesses for Jesus.

"Two nationals in different villages have come to Christ and have learned that it is their duty to share with their families and friends," Outland said. "Pray that more national believers, who are the minority in Pakistan, would rise up for Christ and reach out to their lost neighbors."

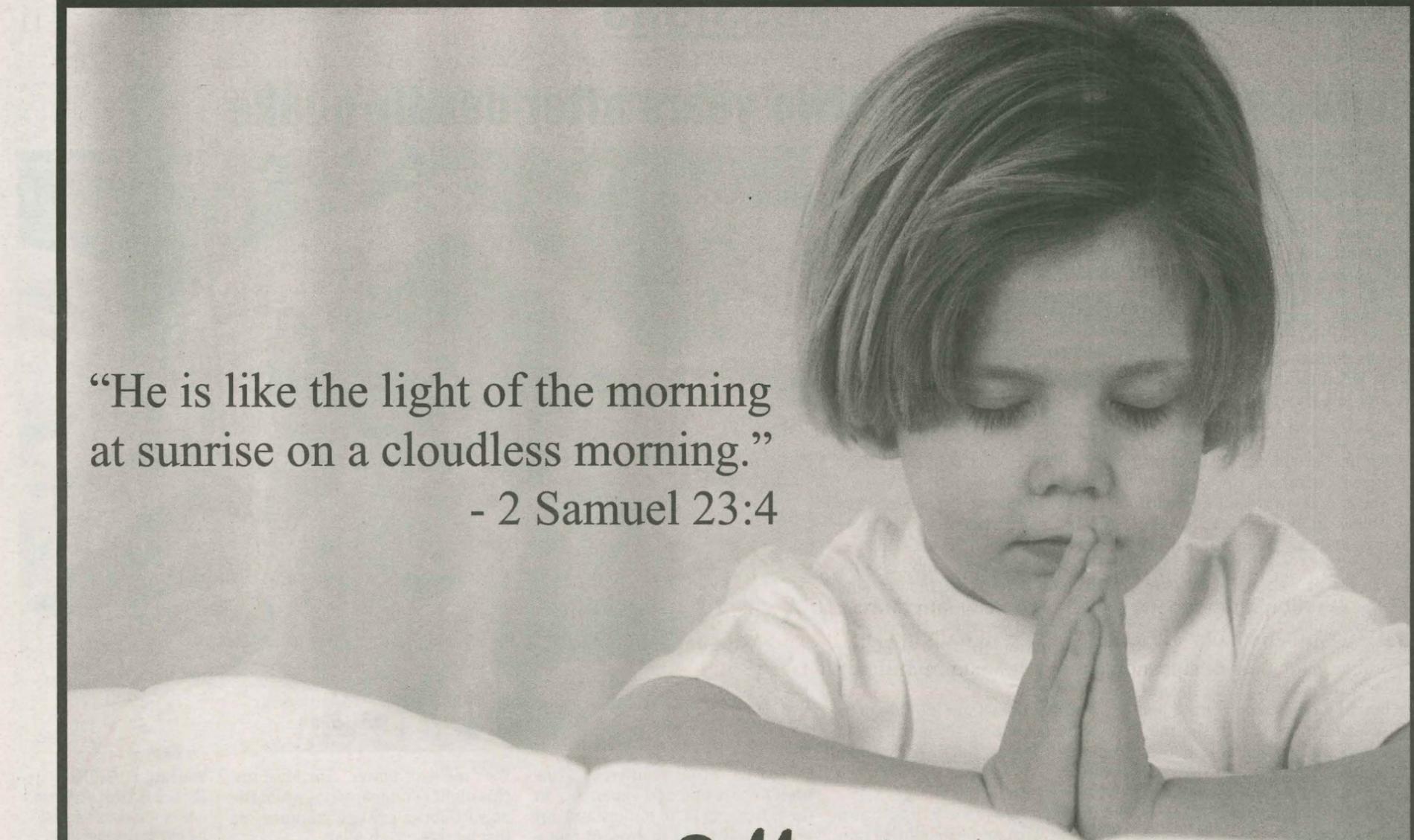
\*Names changed for security reasons.

**WAITING FOR HOME**  
Boys in Balakot, Pakistan, one of the areas hardest hit by the October 2005 earthquake, still live in a tent two years later. (BP photo)

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“He is like the light of the morning  
at sunrise on a cloudless morning.”

- 2 Samuel 23:4

# Thanksgiving Offering 2007-2008

*Giving thanks today for a brighter tomorrow.*

The Thanksgiving Offering is a crucial part of Sunrise Children's Services' ability to take care of the abused and neglected children in Kentucky. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the children in Sunrise's care are shown the love of Christ and are exposed to strong Christian role models. To continue providing this level of care and encouraging hope for a brighter tomorrow, Sunrise needs your help. ***Our goal for Thanksgiving Offering this season is \$1 Million.*** Sunrise must raise an additional \$7 Million to meet the budget every year. Approximately 1.5 percent of that is covered by the Cooperative Program.

*Please ask your church if it will be participating in the 2007-2008 Thanksgiving Offering this year.* The Offering does not need to be taken in November - this year's materials will be available through next October for churches who choose to collect at a different time of year. Please help - the kids are counting on you!



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