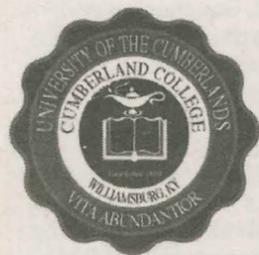


November 6, 2007
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FOR THE RECORD**Baptists**North American Mission Board finalizes sale of FamilyNet TV network. *Page 2.***Kentucky**Bill Henard offers views as KBC's only presidential nominee. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**"Letter of final instructions" is helpful estate planning document. *Page 4.***Editorial**Thanksgiving plans? Count your blessings. *Page 5.***Nation**Court reverses ban on sectarian prayer in Indiana House. *Page 9.***Ky. WMU kicks off campaign to help N. Korean children**

Louisville—It was a natural disaster that went largely unnoticed in much of the world back in August. Overshadowed by the deadly earthquake in Peru and floods in the midwestern United States, residents in North Korea were hammered by torrential rains and massive flooding.

Hundreds of North Koreans died as a result of the floods, with some estimates putting that number into the thousands. As many as 300,000 people were left homeless, most of whom remain without a place to live.

In an effort to help those affected by the floods, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is partnering with its counterpart in Georgia to collect coats for children in need as the harsh winter season approaches in North Korea. The goal is to collect 10,000 coats nationwide by Christmas.

"The Coats for Children project is a way to give tangible evidence of our concern for the people of North Korea," said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU.

Bolton noted that Kentucky WMU entered a partnership with Korea WMU last year. A vital part of that venture was a "commitment to pray for both North and South Korea," she added.

□ See Coat project ... *Page 3*

Trunk or Treat**Church parking lots become mission fields on Halloween**

By **Dannah Prather**
Partnerships Editor

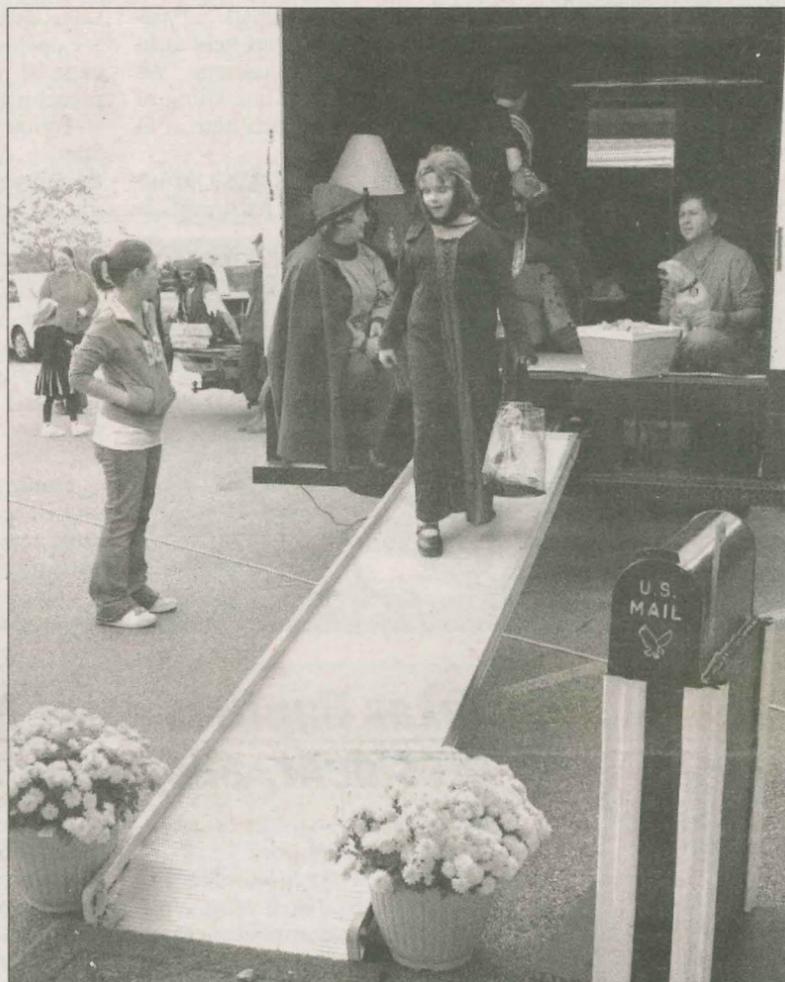
Rineyville—Once considered harmless fun, Halloween, with its pagan ancestry, has become an event some Christians choose to ignore. But many Kentucky Baptists are unwilling to pass up a unique opportunity to invite new people to their church.

In recent years, Trunk or Treat has put a new spin on the door-knocking tradition of trick or treating. Instead of homes, church members are opening their cars, vans, SUVs and trucks to the community.

They don costumes and decorate vehicle trunks and tailgates to provide candy and other small gifts to boys and girls. For parents, the gift is replacing dark streets, strange homes and moving cars with well-lit church campuses where all the automobiles are in "park."

"It's a safe place to bring your kids," said Karen Webster, a member and secretary of Rineyville Baptist Church. She said "the crowds are evidence" of Trunk or Treat's popularity in the Hardin County community. This year marked the congregation's third event. In 2006, about 300 children and parents attended even though bad weather forced activities indoors.

□ See Trunk or Treat ... *Page 6*



'TRUCK' OR TREATER Jesse Ricketts walks down the ramp leading from a unique stop on Rineyville Baptist Church's Trunk or Treat outreach. Rodney and Jaimie Bright outfitted the truck they use in their furniture business with carpet and a sofa, TV and dinette set, giving trick or treaters the feeling they were visiting someone's home. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

Mills demonstrates commitment to missions through organization

By **Ken Walker**
State Correspondent

Hagerhill—Most Kentucky Baptists love to talk about missions, but Bill Mills wants them to remember the word includes action.

A lifelong Kentucky Baptist who became president of the Christian Appalachian Project nearly four years ago, Mills said missions includes tangible demonstrations of love.

"Living out the Christian faith is a lot more than just telling someone about Jesus," said Mills, a Pineville native who grew up in that town's First Baptist Church. "It's showing them Jesus."

"As Baptists, we're so focused on telling the world about Christ that we forget the best way to tell them about Christ is to show them love and kindness."

Founded 43 years ago by a Catholic priest, the eastern Kentucky ministry does just that, using Matthew 25:31-40 as its theme.

In that passage, Christ tells His followers to do such things as clothe the naked, feed the hungry and care for the sick.

Thanks to a mix of corporate and individual donations, CAP provides assistance to children, families, the elderly and the developmentally disabled.

Ministry to the latter includes a \$700,000 respite center that will open next spring and serve up to 36 people at a time.

Many Kentucky Baptists can identify with CAP's disaster relief program, which sends volunteers to assist storm victims in such places as Florida last winter and Ohio in late August.

Spread across the state, the ministry's 230 employees handle a variety of social services.

That can include something as substantial as operating a substance abuse center in Mount Vernon or as simple as taking people to doctor's appointments and the grocery store.

The ministry also operates adult education and job training programs, two children's summer camps and two shelters for battered spouses.

One of its most ambitious programs, "Operation Sharing," sends millions of dollars of donated goods throughout Appalachia.

The items include clothing, food, furniture, office supplies and other materials that are distributed by churches, schools and non-profit agencies.

Mills expects to handle \$114 million of such donations during 2007 while raising another \$30-plus million to operate its programs.

Although it works annually with 1,000 or more volunteer groups, one of the year's highlights is its spring break "Work Fest."

This year the project attracted nearly 400 collegians from 42 schools across the nation. Each year, the student crews rehabilitate 15 to 18 houses over a three-week period.

Even with his dedication to missions through CAP, Mills' career journey started down a completely different path.

After high school, Mills enrolled at Eastern Kentucky University, where he earned a degree in Eng-

lish and public relations and later received a master's degree in manufacturing management.

In 1991 he joined the staff of the Harrodsburg plant of Hitachi Automotive Products, which produces engine components for numerous auto companies.

Starting as a line worker, Mills ascended to various management roles en route to becoming assistant vice president in charge of manufacturing.

While he enjoyed the executive position, which included supervising the plant's engineers and mechanical staff, Mills couldn't forget the other lessons he was learning.

While a member of Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, he got involved in helping operate a youth center.

"I learned about helping people who are less fortunate," Mills said of the experience. "I developed a burden for helping people, especially children."

Despite career rewards, he felt himself being drawn to more meaningful work.

□ See Mills encourages ... *Page 8*



Bill Mills

NAMB finalizes FamilyNet sale to In Touch

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Atlanta (BP)—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley, founder of In Touch Ministries, and Geoff Hammond, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, signed documents Oct. 25 finalizing the sale of NAMB's FamilyNet television network to In Touch.

"This is an historic day for us at the North American Mission Board and as Southern Baptists," Hammond said at ceremonies held at In Touch's Atlanta headquarters. "We come to celebrate the launching of FamilyNet to new heights here at In Touch."

Hammond said NAMB's trustees "have done a lot of hard work in

leading us on this."

"We bring to you, Dr. Stanley, FamilyNet," Hammond added. "We know it's going to be in good hands—in the hands of people who are biblically sound and passionate about the Great Commission."

"We look forward to what God is going to do as He expands the two ministries of FamilyNet and In Touch, taking the gospel all over the world."

Hammond said as a result of the sale, God's Kingdom will continue to see people come to a "saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the Word."

Following Hammond's remarks, Stanley recalled that "years ago, I thought about the possibility of having a network. But I looked at the price and said, 'Lord, that's your thing.' But it never left my mind."

"I said, 'Lord, if that ever is Your will, You work it out.' Well, He's up to His same wonderful tricks. He does things you don't expect when you don't expect them and in ways you don't expect. So this is all of God, born in prayer."

Stanley said In Touch Ministry's acquisition of FamilyNet is "an awesome responsibility, not just an opportunity."

"One of the things that excites me most about this is that we have

the privilege not only of getting the gospel out, but with the help of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, God will help us build a network—on FamilyNet's awesome foundation—that will impact other networks when it comes to things that are righteous, godly, holy and helpful to the life of our nation."

Stanley said he believes other TV networks will watch what happens with the programming In Touch builds into the new network.

"It will say to them that there's a whole vast group of American people who don't want filth, trash and junk. They want things that are good, wholesome and helpful to their families. That's our conviction and our pledge. We'll give our best and our all to building a network that pleases God, impacts the gospel and influences television in this country," Stanley said.

Negotiations between the two ministries began several months ago and were announced in a letter of intent from In Touch to NAMB in August.

Under the agreement, NAMB will continue to have 30 minutes of programming on both the television and a satellite radio channel each week. Also, a NAMB representative will hold a chair on FamilyNet's board of directors.

AGREEMENT Charles Stanley (left), president of In Touch Ministries in Atlanta, shakes hands with Geoff Hammond, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, following the Oct. 25 signing of a contract selling NAMB's FamilyNet television network to In Touch. (BP photo)



Baptist church in Jerusalem meets days after attack

Jerusalem (BP)—Three days after an arson attempt on their building, the congregation of Jerusalem's Narkis Street Baptist Church was meeting again—with more people in attendance than the previous week.

Arsonists tried to burn down the building in the early morning hours of Oct. 24, but quick action by neighbors and firefighters limited the damage only to chairs. The building houses four congregations—Narkis Street Baptist, as well as another Baptist congregation, a Hebrew-speaking congregation and a Russian-speaking congregation.

"There was a large turnout over the weekend as a result of the fire," Bruce Mills, a deacon at Narkis Street, told Baptist Press. "All four congregations had a surge in attendance."

The Israel Foreign Ministry office released a statement expressing "shock and dismay" at the "criminal act" and calling on law enforcement "to apprehend those responsible and bring them to justice."

Texas Baptists elect first female president, adopt reduced budget

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Amarillo, Texas (ABP)—Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting narrowly elected the first woman president of the state convention—and continued a two-decade string of officers endorsed by the moderate Texas Baptists Committed organization.

By about a two-to-one margin, messengers approved a \$50.1 million Cooperative Program budget. They also rebuffed a move to consider a "no-confidence" vote in the BGCT Executive Board.

Messengers also approved the creation of a committee to recommend a "shared vision" for the convention.

Joy Fenner, 72, a former missionary to Japan and executive director emeritus of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas, was narrowly elected BGCT president over pastor David Lowrie by a vote of 900 to 840.

In nominating Fenner, Steve Wells from South Main Baptist Church in Houston said Texas Baptists "have been going through a difficult time" and insisted Fenner could provide the "clear and courageous voice" needed.

Lowrie had been endorsed by Baptist bloggers who called for an end to what they saw as the Texas Baptists Committed organization's control over the BGCT.

Messengers chose not to consider a motion by Michael Chancellor from Crescent Heights Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas, calling for them to give the BGCT Ex-

ecutive Board directors a vote of "no confidence."

With only a smattering of dissenting votes, messengers instead approved a motion by Dan Malone of First Baptist Church of El Paso, Texas, objecting to the "no-confidence" motion.

Ed Jackson from First Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, called on the BGCT president and the Executive Board chair to appoint a committee with 25 members to consider a "shared vision" for the BGCT for 2020.

His original motion called on the committee to bring a final report to the 2008 BGCT annual meeting.

Phil Wise of Lubbock, Texas, chair of the committee on convention business, brought a substitute motion that expanded the number of people naming the committee to include all convention officers, and extended the deadline for a final report to "no later than the 2009 annual meeting."

Messengers approved the substitute motion from Wise's committee.

They also approved a special agreement with Baptist Child and Family Services to allow the agency to elect two-thirds of its trustee board and the BGCT to elect one-third of the board.

In other business, messengers gave initial approval to a constitutional amendment that clarifies the decision-making authority of the convention in annual session.

Constitutional amendments require two-thirds approval at two consecutive annual meetings.

Missouri messengers reject slate of nominees from political group

Osage Beach, Mo. (ABP)—For the first time in eight years, messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention annual meeting have rejected a slate of officer candidates allied with an organized conservative group.

Meeting Oct. 29-31 at a resort on the state's Lake of the Ozarks, messengers overwhelmingly rejected four officer nominees closely identified with Project 1000. The effort, almost a decade old, had been a successful strategy for conservatives to take control of the state convention.

However, messengers still elected conservative nominees, including President Gerald Davidson, a retired pastor who was one of many conservatives to break ranks with Project 1000 in the past year.

Messengers elected Davidson, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Arnold, Mo., who had served a previous term as MBC president, over in-

cumbent Mike Green 832-381.

Since 1999, messengers have backed officer slates endorsed by Project 1000, which refers to the number of messengers that conservative leaders estimated would be needed to beat any moderate candidate for MBC president. But among this year's election casualties was Roger Moran himself, architect of the takeover group.

Instead, messengers opted for a slate of nominees endorsed by a group supportive of the state convention's conservative shift but critical of what they said was a legalistic spirit and increasing control by Moran, his five-member Missouri Baptist Laymen's Association and other Project 1000 insiders.

The opposition group held "Save Our Convention" rallies across the state starting in May to state their case for a leadership change.

Former MBC land avoids foreclosure

Camdenton, Mo. (ABP)—A refinancing agreement with a bank means private development will move forward on land adjacent to Missouri Baptists' Windermere Baptist Conference Center.

Corporate representative Jerry Hill confirmed that a foreclosure notice has been served on Windermere Development Company, Inc., owners of 941 acres that once belonged to Windermere Baptist Conference Center. The center occupies valuable land on a cove of the Lake of the Ozarks.

Hill said the foreclosure notice came as surprise to the development company's officials, who were negotiating a refinance plan of their own. "It has since been resolved, and the

land will not be sold" again, Hill said in a telephone interview.

If foreclosure against Windermere Development Co. had occurred, sale of its property would not have affected the conference center, Windermere chief executive officer Dan Bench said. "The property isn't ours," he added, noting that no restrictions or conditions were placed on the land at the time it was sold to the bank.

The Missouri Baptist Convention is seeking to reclaim the land, which was part of a 1,300-acre tract deeded to the conference center after messengers to the 1999 annual meeting agreed to convert Windermere from a committee-governed entity to a separate institution.

Henard offers views as KBC's only presidential nominee

Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president Nov. 13 during the KBC annual meeting in Elizabethtown. He currently is the only announced presidential nominee.

Henard, also an assistant professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is chairman of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee and chairman of LifeWay Christian Resources' board of trustees. He is a graduate of the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Southern Seminary.

Q: If you are elected KBC president this fall, what would be your major goals and hopes for the coming year?

First, my goal would be to encourage Kentucky Baptists about increasing our baptisms and reaching our state for Christ's sake. Second, I would want to encourage Kentucky Baptists about our support of KBC causes through an increased commitment to the Cooperative Program. Third, I will call for Kentucky Baptists to experience a new spiritual awakening in our state.

Q: After being nominated but not elected as KBC president four years ago, why do you feel that now is the appropriate time to be nominated again? How did you reach that decision?

During the last four years, I have had the opportunity to serve Kentucky Baptists through a variety of ways. Those experiences have prepared me to be able to step into this leadership position. Reaching the decision, though, was not easy. The subject was discussed over coffee with a few friends. We met prior to a KBC meeting to relate some SBC events, since several of us served as SBC entity trustees. The conversation moved to the KBC, at which time the group in unison asked me to consider being nominated. I told

them that I would pray about it and seek counsel. I asked my church deacons for their advice. Only after receiving a positive response from them did I agree to be nominated. It was not an easy decision at which to arrive.

Q: In addition to your ministry as a pastor, you have served three years as chairman of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee as well as chairman of LifeWay Christian Resources' trustee board and assistant professor at Southern Seminary. How have those responsibilities helped prepare you to serve as state convention president?

Being chairman of the KBC administrative committee has provided valuable leadership and information tools. I have been able to see the KBC's workings from the inside and have gotten to know our KBC staff, especially Dr. Mackey. I also believe the staff has been able to see my heart and passions.

As board chairman of LifeWay's trustees, I have learned leadership both through practice and by watching some of the great leaders of our convention at LifeWay. It has also allowed me to promote the work of the KBC nationally.

Teaching at Southern Seminary has offered a consistent challenge that has humbled me greatly. I am honored to have the privilege of serving Southern Baptists in this way. It tests my leadership skills, as I am evaluated by students, peers and supervisors.

Q: Kentucky Baptists face ongoing challenges in seeking to increase baptisms and Cooperative Program giving while your congregation is among the annual leaders in both categories. How has your church maintained its focus in these areas and how do you think the KBC should address such issues?

We have maintained our focus on missions and evangelism in several ways. First, they are not programs

but are priorities in our church. Instead of taking missions and evangelism and demoting them into a committee status, we have established them as a primary function of our church.

Second, our people hear me expositively preach and teach about the biblical basis for missions and evangelism. We have looked at what the Bible teaches about being Kingdom focused and about becoming a Great Commission church. Missions and evangelism are essential core values for our church.

Third, we practice evangelism and missions. Our budget, our schedule and our staffing reflect these priorities. For example, when we do FAITH, it is the only event scheduled because it is the priority. Rarely does anything else take place at the same time. I always teach the first semester learners, without exception. Hopefully our people see me model evangelism and catch the passion.

The KBC must continue to prioritize missions and evangelism. While there are many things that we do, they cannot occupy the same status as missions and evangelism. We must know what biblical evangelism is and equip and encourage Kentucky Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission.

Q: What is your perspective about the KBC's current "Kentucky Baptists Connect" ministry emphasis?

KBC Connect is a wonderful tool that helps us keep missions and evangelism as the priority of our convention. With its emphasis on increasing baptisms, discipling new converts and engaging unreached people groups, KBC Connect helps us focus on the Great Commission. It is a unifying point of significance for all Kentucky Baptists.

Q: One of the primary responsibilities as president is to appoint three members to the KBC Committee on Committees. What

criteria would you use to make your appointments?

First, what is their commitment to the KBC through evangelism and giving? Second, do they have a servant's heart? Third, what is their biblical understanding of the Great Commission?

Q: How do you identify yourself within the current political/theological spectrum of Baptist life?

I am an evangelical Southern Baptist committed to evangelism and church planting. My political/theological perspective stems from my grandfather, who mortgaged his home to start a church in Knoxville, Tenn. I was ordained at this church. That's theology in action.

Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

Our strengths lie, first, in our people. Kentucky Baptists are a people committed to the Bible and to being obedient to Christ. KBC churches are made up of a wonderful people who love the Word of God.

Second, our greatest strength is our KBC staff. We have a convention office filled with men and women who love God with all of their hearts and are committed to excellence in working for Kentucky Baptists.

Third, we have a rich history. Kentucky Baptists have seen God move in the past. We will see Him bring awakening again.

Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest needs? Why?

First, our greatest challenge is to reach this state with the gospel. With 2.7 million Kentuckians who do not know Christ, we have an awesome task ahead of us.

Second, we must impact the commonwealth morally. We are threatened by expanded gambling and the moral/ethical ills that follow. Other moral issues stand at the forefront. The only hope we have is Jesus. Our state does not need social reform, it needs a spiritual awakening. Kentucky Baptists are challenged to be the means through which God brings a fresh encounter with Him.



Bill Henard

"I am an evangelical Southern Baptist committed to evangelism and church planting."

KBC presidential nominee Bill Henard

Coat project is 'tangible evidence' of WMU's concern for N. Korea

Continued from page 1

Between now and Dec. 9, all Kentucky Baptist churches wishing to participate in the project will collect coats. Beginning Dec. 10, those churches will be responsible for delivering the donated coats to a designated site in its region.

For those individuals wishing to donate, WMU has several requirements. The coats must be:

- Heavy enough to withstand harsh winter conditions.
- New or unused.
- Of a primary color (red, green or blue).
- Without any logos.
- Preferably made in the U.S.

Coats are needed for children ranging in age from birth to 12 years old. WMU also asked that the coat pockets be left empty; no gifts, candy or Bibles should be placed in them.

Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission, who have agreed to partner with WMU in the project, will pick up the coats from each collection

site beginning Dec. 17. The group will then deliver the coats to Georgia WMU, where they will be prepared for shipment to North Korea.

The Coats for Children venture is a cooperative effort with Global Resource Services, a "non-government organization that has been providing humanitarian aid, medical teams, dairy projects and other assistance to (North Korea) for the past nine years," Bolton noted.

According to the organization's website, GRS' mission is "to go to regions challenged by conflict, looking beyond charity to find real solutions where peace and security are in jeopardy."

This is not the first time Kentucky WMU has partnered with GRS. In 1997, the two groups also worked together to collect winter coats for children in North Korea. The following year, the organizations teamed up to send containers of rice and beans to the country.

For more information about the project, visit www.kywmu.org.

Coat donation drop-off sites

Kentucky Baptist churches that wish to participate in the Coats for Children project should collect coats between now and Dec. 9. From Dec. 10-14, those churches will be responsible for transporting donated coats to the nearest designated drop-off site. Individuals may also bring donated coats to any one of these sites:

Blood River Association office, 47 Aurora Highway, Hardin. (270) 437-4203.

First Baptist Church of Princeton, 300 W. Main St., Princeton. (270) 365-5591.

First Baptist Church of Mayfield, 118 W. South St., Mayfield. (270) 247-2992.

Daviss-McLean Association office, 1003 Scherm Road, Owensboro. (270) 684-2377.

Little Bethel Association office, 445 Thompson Ave., Madisonville. (270) 821-6400.

Warren Association office, 6448 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green. (270) 842-4160.

Severns Valley Association office, 500 College St., Elizabethtown. (270) 765-4023.

Highland Park First Baptist Church, 7321 Billtown Road, Louisville. (502) 231-3917.

Crittenden Association office, 305 N. Main St., Williamstown. (859) 824-7755.

First Baptist Church of Morehead, 123 E. Main St., Morehead. (606) 784-5768.

Elkhorn Association office, 1161 Red Mile, Lexington. (859) 254-7747.

Pulaski Association office, 116 Mill St., Somerset. (606) 678-4465.

Lincoln County Association office, 4160 U.S. Highway 27 S., Stanford. (606) 365-7123.

First Baptist Church of Pineville, 405 Kentucky Ave., Pineville. (606) 337-2040.

First Baptist Church of London, 804 W. Fifth St., London. (606) 864-4194.

Pike Association office, 79 Ratliff St., Pikeville. (606) 432-2660.

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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Who is my neighbor in today's world?

By **Erich Bridges**

Richmond, Va. (BP)—She steps onto her eighth-floor apartment balcony in the morning, as she often does, to watch her neighbors on balconies nearby.

"Looking down and across, I always see a mature couple sitting at a table having coffee," says the Southern Baptist worker who lives in a major Middle Eastern city. "He reads the paper in his undershirt, while she, in her housedress, is usually preparing some kind of food, chopping greens or snapping beans." She sees them exchanging words, and wonders what they talk about.

On a ground floor is a taxi company. The drivers sit outside waiting for a fare, chatting and telling stories. Many of the second-floor residents in another building talk to people walking by on the street.

Her favorite neighbor, however, lives across the street in another eighth-floor flat.

"She is an elderly lady with black hair," the worker says. "She is out several times during the day watering her flowers, sitting and enjoying the sun or just watching other people on balconies like I do. I cracked up one time when I saw her wearing a baseball cap with her nightgown. She must crack up at some of the things she sees and hears from our family as well. I've always wanted to go over and visit her. But I haven't."

"As I look around at these and the other 997 balconies in my view, I'm overwhelmed. I can probably

say it's true that most of them do not know Jesus. This morning, same as many, I have felt compelled to just pray. These people, every single one, need to know that God loves them so much that He sent Je-

sus into this world to love them, to heal them, to feed them and to rescue them through the sacrifice of His own life."

Her high-rise neighbors, even the many who have yet to meet her, are blessed. A follower of Christ is lifting them up to Him—and looking for opportunities to tell them about Him.

Up to 86 percent of all Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists do not personally know a Christian, according to mission researcher Todd Johnson. Of the world's 100 most responsive "megapeoples" (people groups with populations topping 1 million), 31 are Muslim, 31 are Hindu and four are Buddhist, according to the World Christian Database.

More and more of those Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, Johnson reminds us, are moving to traditionally "Christian" lands. They join the throngs of other people of all religious and ethnic backgrounds seeking God. Do we help them in their search or pass by on our busy way? Busy missionaries struggle with the same question.

A short-term student missionary bicycling in West Africa stopped in a small village earlier this year. "It consisted of a few mud huts, two old ladies, an old man and a young teenage girl," he recalls. "The man

had cataracts and was almost deaf, so he couldn't see or hear me at all. The old ladies just sat around and watched in a slightly confused state. The young girl seemed to be pretty excited. I guess it's not every day a white guy on a bike interrupts her from pulling water up out of the well."

He left the village without telling anyone about Jesus; he lacked the language skills to communicate. Later, however, he passed the village again—this time in a truck with a ministry team and interpreters.

"As we drove by I said, 'I stopped in that village one time. It was just an old guy, a few old women and a young girl,'" he recounts. "Then I thought, 'Wow, that's a dying village. Those people are going to die, probably sooner than later. Who is going to tell them about God?' I thought this as I drove by. With the two pastors and two interpreters we had with us, we just drove by, passing them up for a bigger village we had already planned to go to."

The bigger villages, the priority appointments, the more strategic opportunities are important—not only for missionaries but for all believers. You can't stop for everyone. But you can stop for the people God places in your path.

"Look around your world," pleads the Middle East worker from her balcony. "Pray for those around you. Ask God for the courage to go and share His love and message of hope in Christ with someone. ... This is what it's all about."

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

COMMENTARY

Maintaining status quo?

Is it curious that in an Oct. 23 guest commentary about the need for pastors to preach more effectively, the president of one of our denomination's oldest seminaries chooses to look to men (John A. Broadus, Richard Baxter and Charles Spurgeon) for a model for preaching, and

doesn't quote a single word from Jesus? Do Jesus' words to the crowds not qualify as "preaching" by Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler's standards?

Are we striving to emulate men or Jesus? Should one strive to preach more like Baxter or Spurgeon than Jesus Himself? In responding to the "perceived needs" of those who

heard Him speak (this was Mohler's criticism of "out-of-the-closet liberal" Harry Emerson Fosdick), did Jesus lose authority and content?

Perhaps we (like the Pharisees for whom Jesus expressed so much frustration) are more concerned with maintaining the status quo and with the preservation of our institutions than with the mission Jesus gave us.

*Tim Gooch
Goshen*

West Union Association's 175th session

Recently, my wife, Kay, and I had the opportunity to be with West Union Baptist Association for the celebration of its 175th anniversary. The meeting was a great time of celebrating the heritage of the past while looking forward to the future.

The association has been very effective in numerous ministries, including support of the recent Will Graham Crusade, which resulted in approximately 180 professions of faith. During the association meeting, Director of Missions Jim Bryant recognized 15 church and associational ministry leaders who have invested nearly 30 or more years in local ministry and service.

As part of its anniversary celebration, the association has published a book, "A History of 175 Years 1832-2007," compiled by Jim Bryant, Edith Wallace and Zula Craig. The book provides a fascinating overview of the history and ministries of the association and its churches.

Bryant helps to bring some of the

history in the book alive through a dramatic monologue he has developed in which he portrays El-

der James Philip Edwards. Edwards was a natural church planter. He started churches in four states—Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri—in the early 1800s.

Edwards moved to the Purchase area in 1834 and in 1837 represented nine of Kentucky's 43 associations at a meeting in Louisville to organize the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (now the Kentucky Baptist Convention). In the 1838 annual session, the association recognized Edwards as a missionary, a title he held until his death in 1855.

As early as the 1830s, the association commended the Sunday school as beneficial to the churches and communities, and especially for the next generation. The association aided in starting Clinton College in 1870.

A revival broke out in the association from 1840-43 during which

STEWARDSHIP

'Letter of final instructions' is helpful document

By **Don Spencer**

Ask most people what it means to have an estate plan and their answer will speak of the need to have a will.



Although many people neglect having an up-to-date will,

another large group of people, who may or may not have a will, neglect a simple but extremely important estate planning document, a "letter of final instructions."

A letter of final instructions does not require an attorney and it is not a legal document. It typically is addressed to one's spouse, adult children or executor. Through this document an individual is able to make sure the people most important to him or her are aware of the existence of assets that otherwise might prove difficult to find after one's death or incapacity occurs.

An important part of this letter is information about funeral preferences. This can include a description of the type of service, information about pre-planning arrangements and burial location. Pre-planning for these areas is useless unless the survivors know the details.

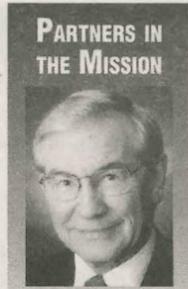
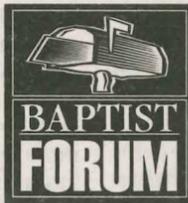
Without a letter of final instructions, heirs typically have to reconstruct the assets without any guidelines, sometimes causing nightmarish results and significantly increased probate costs. The letter of final instructions should spell out complete details and the exact location of all significant assets. It should also disclose the location of statements, receipts, tax returns, etc.

Remember this letter is for information only and is not legally binding. Actual beneficiary designations and one's will are legally binding. The letter of instructions can give survivors helpful, timely information before a will is read.

This letter is also a place to list all individuals and businesses to be contacted in case of one's death. This includes information about any current insurance policies.

Finally, I must emphasize two important details. First, make sure the information is up-to-date. With it not being a legal document, a person is not restricted by the formalities of a will. Second, make sure those who need access to this letter always know where to find it. Make sure it is readily accessible should death or incapacity occur.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department



Bill Mackey

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

How can couple avoid taking their marriage for granted?

Q: I have been married for four years. We, like most couples, get caught up in day-to-day living. How can we keep focused on our marriage and not take it for granted?

The two of you will need to commit to be lifelong learners. You will need to study your marriage.

MARRIAGE

The marriage relationship is a living, changing relationship. Look for books and Bible studies that cause you to examine and study your relationships—materials that raise questions for you to explore and discuss together. Here are a few marriage discussion questions to get you started:

- What strengthens your marriage?
- How has your marriage grown this past year?
- What are the things that feed your marriage and keep it alive and growing?
- Do you have reasonable expectations of each other? What are they?
- Name 20 ways you show love to your spouse.
- Name 20 ways your spouse shows love to you.
- How can you stay connected during conflict or how can you reconnect after conflict?
- How do you share your faith journey with each other?

Add to these questions. Focused dialogue on your marriage directs your attention to the relationship. It helps you evaluate and celebrate your marriage. It also helps you both keep tabs on any trouble spots so that you can quickly give them the attention needed.—Valerie Vincent

Q: As a parent, I have not taken lightly my decision to separate from my husband. It is for the protection of my children that I had to make this decision. His addictions and abuse were getting to the point of putting my children, as well as myself, in danger. How do I answer my church friends who seem intent that we should reconsider no matter what, even in the midst of what I consider imminent danger?

You already have articulated a good answer. God always wills wholeness for His people, to live in love and under His calling. In a sense, your husband has left you for his addictions and his abusive tendencies, and you are allowing God to be strong for you through the actions you are taking.

It is common in churches for well-meaning people to try to intervene to save a marriage. When there is not abuse as you have described, it might even be possible. It is a good thing for people to offer help. But wanting something and having the tools to acquire what you want are not necessarily the same thing.

I always refer to the old Native American proverb that you don't really know someone else's experience until you have walked a mile in their moccasins. Some people will never understand no matter what you say. Practice your boundaries, practice your "I'm sorry, this is difficult, thank you for caring" but do not let people manipulate you for their own feelings and purposes. Other people are not the judge and jury of your life. You are accountable to God. If you have made up your mind through prayerful, careful deliberation based on your own experiences and a heart fully devoted to the Lord, that is all anyone can ask.

Of course, that doesn't mean you're not open to future changes if God shows over time and personal experience that your husband has changed and is doing all that needs to take place to show that change. But if you are not hanging tough, it could be that there is nothing in place to cause him to be motivated to change. Other people often do not understand that.

What you are getting from your friends has to be received as if it is being given in love and with the best of intentions. Your answer to them also can be given in love and appreciation, without an obligation to follow through on what they suggest.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

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

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



Thanksgiving plans? Count your blessings

"Count your blessings, name them one by one ... and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done," the familiar 19th century hymn declares.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, the holiday's annual emphasis on giving thanks is an ideal time to pause and count our many blessings in life. Unfortunately, many of us tend to take life's blessings for granted and seldom take time to truly express appreciation for all that God has graciously done for us.

This past weekend, I even ran across a radio station already playing Christmas tunes non-stop. It seems that society increasingly rushes right past Thanksgiving in an effort to maximize the commercial aspects of Christmas. People typically end up stressing out over giving and receiving more stuff that we don't really need and we once again fail to make sincere thanks a priority.

Where does the cycle end? How can we reclaim the focus on Thanksgiving before checking it off the list?

One starting point is to compile a personal list of blessings to reflect on during the Thanksgiving season. Among possible items to include on your blessings list are:

Family. Whether it's your spouse, children, parents, siblings or other family members, make a point to express heartfelt thanks to them for what they mean to you. We sometimes fail to affirm those who are most important to us, assuming that they know how we feel. Thanksgiving is a great time to write a brief note of appreciation to individuals who have blessed you during the past year.

Faith. The opportunity to freely express our faith is among the major blessings of life in our society. Even more significant is the incredible privilege of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Take time to thank God for the blessing of your Christian faith and the joy of eternal life in Christ.

Freedom. We don't need to look any further than recent news reports about turmoil in Pakistan, Myanmar, Sudan and other hotspots around the globe to be reminded of the tremendous blessing of political freedom we enjoy here in the U.S. While the presidential campaign and other political battles sharply divide many Americans, we will elect a new president next year and witness a constitutional transfer of leadership without a single shot being fired. That and the accompanying freedoms of life in our democracy make a tremendous daily impact on our quality of life that we should never take for granted.

Fortune. We are privileged to live in the most financially blessed nation in history. While there is poverty, unemployment and even homelessness in many parts of our state and nation, most of us have more than enough to meet our needs and share with others. As you enjoy the abundance associated with most Thanksgiving celebrations, don't forget to find ways to assist and encourage those around you who are less fortunate.

Friends. In addition to the joy of family fellowship at Thanksgiving, this season is an opportunity to express thanks for the blessings of friendship. Neighbors, co-workers, classmates, fellow church members and others who touch your life in countless ways are among the special blessings of life. Seek them out and let them know how much they mean to you.

Family, faith, freedom, fortune and friends are among the highlights on my list of blessings. What about for you? Perhaps some of those same blessings appear on your list. Of course, you likely can think of many additional blessings you have received in recent months.

As you consider the rich blessings of life, take time this Thanksgiving season to consciously "count your blessings, name them one by one."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Taking a seat at the grown-up table

One of my memories of Thanksgivings is waiting for the day I finally got to eat at the adult table. It was a long time in coming, and took a lot longer than I thought it should.

My cousins and I spent years banished to the children's tables and patiently—well maybe not so patiently—waited our turn to be at the grown-up table. One by one, my older cousins would take their place, and just when I thought it had to be my year, an older cousin would get married and their spouse would automatically inherit a spot, or an out-of-town relative would come in and delay my advancement to the grown-up table.

So what does this have to do with youth ministry? I am glad you asked. If we want to be taken serious as ministers, we have to be willing to move to the grown-up table. One of the recurring themes I hear as I travel the state is that youth ministers want to be respected and want to feel that their ministry matters—that they are no longer banished to the kiddie table. A move to the grown-up table for youth ministry is twofold:

1. The church. As a body of believers, we must make youth ministry a priority. We are losing ground when it comes to reaching students and we have to be willing to do whatever it takes to reach them. We have to expect more from the people we hire

to do youth ministry than to be glorified baby sitters.

We also have to be willing to let the students be part of corporate church life. There is no excuse for students not leading in worship and teaching classes. They are taking advanced calculus in high school, so I know they are capable of far more than we allow them to do.

We also need to provide quality facilities and equipment for them. This is the age of technology. We need to recognize this and take the necessary steps to provide resources that meet their educational needs. We need to make sure that buses and vans are in good shape and will not break down every time they leave the city. Our budgets reflect our priorities.

2. Youth ministers. We cannot place all the blame on the church, the pastor or the parents for us not being invited to the grown-up table. At times we are our own worst enemy. We need to have details in place. Parents want to know that their children are well taken care of, and the more details we can give them the more they will believe that we know what we are doing. I know it is a whole lot more fun to hang out with students than to be in the office planning the logistics of trips and events, but those details give our church leaders and parents the

assurance that we know what we are doing.

Be an example "both in word and deed." Pick up after yourself or get volunteers to help you. If you are the senior adults are using the van in the morning, or that it will be used to pick up people for church, then clean it. Take time to speak to parents after the meeting. Straighten the youth room; don't leave it for the custodian to clean up your mess.

Be a good steward of the resources given you. Your budget will never have enough money in it. CD players will break, resources will disappear and there always will be students who cannot afford to go. The wiser we are with spending what we are given, the more we will be seen as leaders.

Keep your pastor informed. He can be your strongest ally. It is a lot easier for him to deflect detractors if he knows what you are planning in advance. You can be an advocate for you and possibly defuse sticky situations. Otherwise, he has to come find you and talk through what happened while the church member or parent is fuming.

I could go on for a lot longer. It is time youth ministry got a seat at the grown-up table and time for it not to be seen as a stepping stone to "real ministry." It will take real work from all parties involved for that to happen. Save us a place at the table.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

Churches' parking lots become Halloween mission fields

Continued from page 1

"It takes a holiday that Satan uses and flips it around," said Travis Vaughan, Rineyville's student minister. Trunk or Treat provides church members a way "to love on these children and let them know they can have ... fun coming here."

Contact information is requested from visitors so church members can stay in touch. "We had several kids come to (vacation Bible school) as a direct result of Trunk or Treat," Vaughan said.

This year an inflatable slide and "bounce house" added to the fun for visitors, and a vehicle-decorating contest encouraged members to get creative.

One family had its own "fog machine" to add atmosphere to the back of their van. Peggy Swift borrowed an iron "cauldron" from her mother-in-law to fill with candy and Play-Doh.

Rodney and Jaimie Bright decided to give children an authentic trick-or-treat experience by out-

fitting the truck they use in their furniture business with carpet, a sofa, lamps and dinette set. They set up a mailbox, welcome mat and bright yellow hardy mums by the loading ramp. "Visitors" could meet the Brights' two dogs, pick up their treats and even watch a few minutes of a Disney movie with the couple who were dressed in pajamas.

Dottie O'Keefe coordinates Trunk or Treat at Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort. Previously the congregation hosted a fall festival "but it wasn't what I would call an outreach event," she said, noting that most of the families who attended already were church members.

Last year the congregation was ready to try something new. The promise of trick-or-treating drew unchurched families, and when inclement weather forced Trunk or Treat indoors, there was an unexpected benefit, O'Keefe said.

"It got families into our church and then the kids would see where they would go to Sunday school," she said.

This year's weather was ideal but Crestwood still offered some indoor activities. In one of the Sunday school rooms, a photographer offered families complimentary photos of trick-or-treaters. The pictures are sent by mail so church members receive contact information on many of their visitors.

Usually on Wednesday nights,



SWEET TREASURE Rachel Puckett offers candy to a friendly pirate attending Rineyville Baptist Church's Trunk or Treat event. This year church members rented an inflatable slide and "bounce house" to attract more visitors.



WELCOME WAGON Jamie Coppersmith attaches a Halloween banner to the family vehicle for Trunk or Treat at Rineyville Baptist Church. (Photos by Dannah Prather)



PRINCESS CALLING Kerrisan Koeman selects two colors of Play-Doh as her "treat."

the Crestwood congregation gathers for fellowship supper and prayer meeting, O'Keefe said, but on Oct. 31 church members "were really putting their efforts into making Trunk or Treat work." O'Keefe said she is confident the event has caught on. "We're already looking forward to next year."

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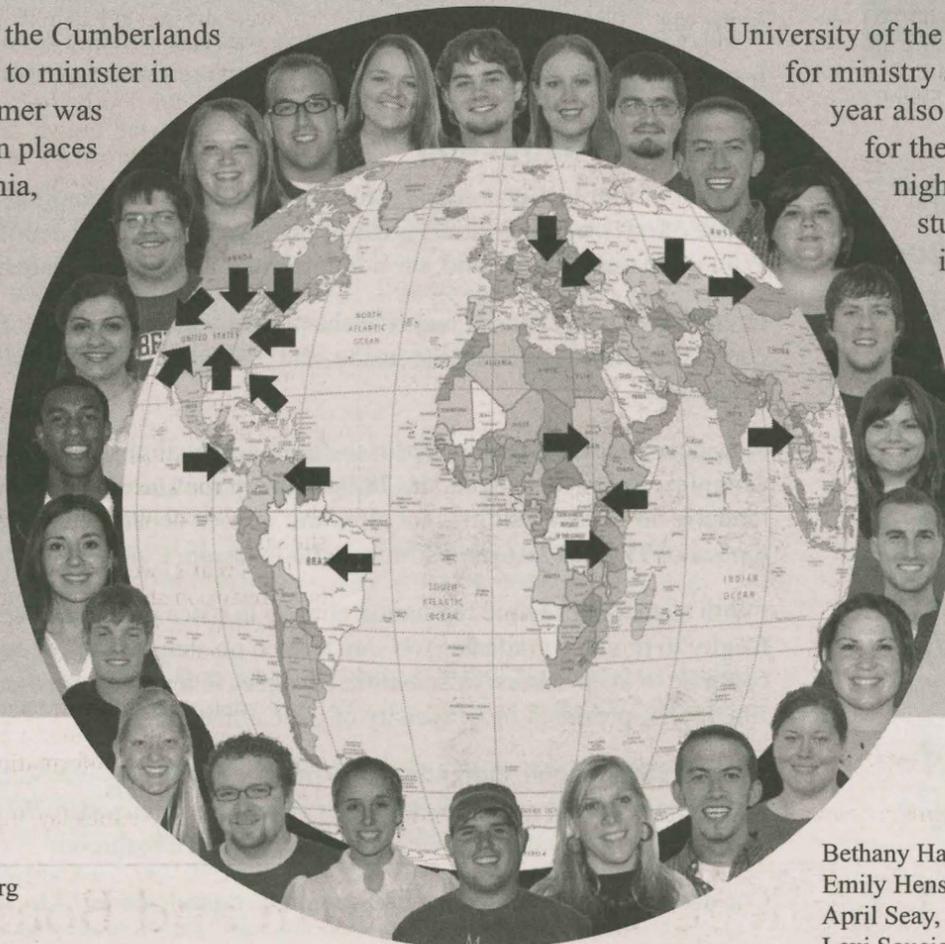
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Empowering Believers in Mission...

University of the Cumberlands on Mission: Students Serve Around the World

Every summer the University of the Cumberlands sends students out near and far to minister in the name of Jesus Christ. This summer was no different with students serving in places as exotic as Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, East Asia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Venezuela, and Costa Rica, and as familiar as Mountain Outreach and Appalachian Ministries in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Students worked with children, built homes, taught English as a second language, and ministered in camps and other settings. Plans are already underway for ministry opportunities for the 2007-2008 academic year.



University of the Cumberlands students find outlets for ministry and worship through the academic year also. Ignite is a weekly worship service for the entire campus meeting Monday nights. Through Appalachian Ministries, students work with area children in a backyard Bible club setting. Students working with Mountain Outreach repair homes and distribute clothing and necessities to impoverished families. Weekend worship teams lead worship in churches throughout Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. During Fall Break, Christmas Break, and Spring Break, teams travel all over the country serving God in a wide variety of ways.

Whitley County

Brad Bell, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg
Hannah Benton, Appalachian Ministries
Ranessa Capps, Mountain Outreach
Adam Chaplin, Mountain Outreach
Marcella Chiromo, Appalachian Ministries
Forrest Coleman, Appalachian Ministries
Sandra Freshour, Mountain Outreach
Alicia Hasty, Mountain Outreach
Patrick Hendy, Appalachian Ministries
Matt Henson, Mountain Outreach
Victoria Kirby, Appalachian Ministries
Brittani Newnan, Mountain Outreach
Brittany Philpot, Appalachian Ministries
Josh Prewitt, Appalachian Ministries
Amy Shemwell, Mountain Outreach
Kathy Stienbarger, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg
Emily Sturgill, Mountain Outreach
Chris Tucker, Mountain Outreach

Kentucky

Kelly Baldrige, Mtn. Comm. Fellowship, Paintsville
Jennifer Belcher, Camp Mission and Action
Maureen Carlson, Good News Health Care

Shelby Crawford, Crossings, Cedarmore
Genna Cummins, Laurel Lake Baptist Church
Allison Day, First Baptist Church, Whitesburg
Tosha Farris, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp
Brent Foley, Jonathan Creek
Stuart Mack, Jonathan Creek
Lucas Matlock, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp
Kati Reager, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp
John Steely, Jonathan Creek
Sarah Wasson, Boones Creek Bapt. Camp, Winchester

United States

Charlotte Abel, New York
Laura Bradford, Michigan
Amanda Jo Combs, Florida
Clark Embree, Indiana
Katie Faison, Ohio
Amanda Foutch, South Dakota

Bethany Harris, California
Emily Henson, California
April Seay, South Dakota
Lexi Soucie, Arizona

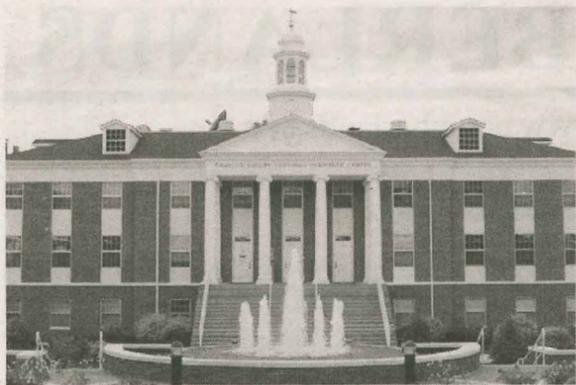
International

Adam Cox, Brazil
Sandra Freshour, Uganda
Holly Gibbs, Brazil
Casey Hamm, Romania
Cam Hyde, Sudan
Brett Martin, Tanzania
Andrew Morrison, Tanzania
Olivia Neeley, East Asia
Shane Peek, Thailand
Joshua Pollitt, Kazakhstan
Daniel Riddle, Thailand
Johnathan Sliski, Thailand
Sarah Whitaker, Venezuela
Paul Wilkes, Thailand
Tim Wix, Costa Rica
Jason Yancey, Poland

Last summer University of the Cumberlands students traveled to minister all over the world in the name of Jesus Christ, including Africa (photos left) and Venezuela (photos right).



The Display of Progress



“With a strong academic reputation already in place in the science fields, this building will allow our faculty to produce graduates who are trained on state-of-the-art equipment and who are prepared to continue to keep abreast of scientific advances in a rapidly changing technological environment,” said Dr. Jim Taylor, president of University of the Cumberlands.



When stepping onto University of the Cumberlands’ picturesque, colonial campus, you will see many changes from last year. For one, this fall boasts the highest registration numbers since 1992. It wouldn’t be unusual to bump into students from Nepal, Nigeria or South Korea among students from Kentucky or Tennessee. In fact, the school has had a recent influx of international students. Twenty-nine international students are part of the 481 freshmen who fill the dormitories and classrooms.

These new students, along with their fellow upperclassmen, navigate a campus filled with unique sights and sounds: bulldozers pushing ground into a large dirt mound in order to level a construction site, blow torches squealing once touching a structure’s metal frame, and cranes moving over-sized beams fifty feet in the air.

It is the display of progress.

Campus Construction

One out of four of Cumberlands students is majoring or minoring in biology, chemistry, physics, math or one of our pre-professional areas of pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or engineering. With these statistics in hand, the administration set out to update the facilities that serve these students.

In 2005 and 2006, Phase I and II of the project were completed. The former science building has been completely transformed on the inside, and it also has seen the addition of three state-of-the-art chemistry laboratories.

Now construction is underway for the third and final phase of the Ward and Regina Correll Science Complex. Once completed, the 78,000 square foot, \$20 million project will provide adequate space and modern, up-to-date facilities for all of the science departments; the exterior of this addition is to be a replica of Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello mansion. Classes in the complex will begin in January of 2009.

“With a strong academic reputation already in place in the science fields, this building will allow our faculty to produce graduates who are trained on state-of-the-art equipment and who are prepared to continue to keep abreast of scientific advances in a rapidly changing technological environment,” said Dr. Jim Taylor, president of University of the Cumberlands.

Another construction, currently in progress, is a women’s residence hall. When completed, this dormitory will contain 25,842 square feet of floor space to accommodate 96 female students in 12 suites. Each suite will contain four bedrooms, a commons room and a bathroom.

Construction for the residence hall should be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Academics

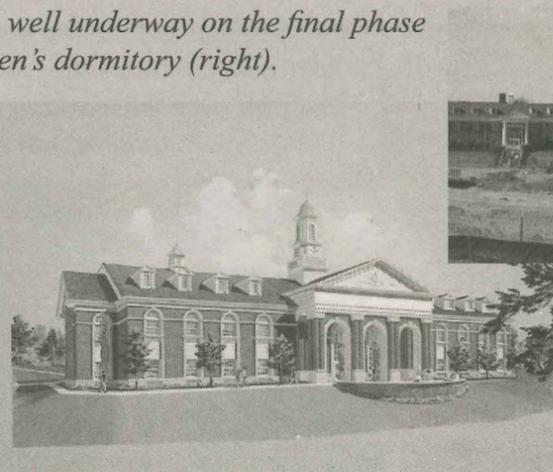
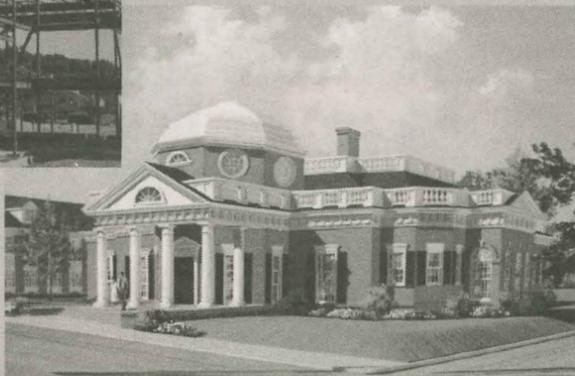
Though you cannot see the University’s reputation for strong academics, you can definitely hear or read about it. University of the Cumberlands is listed in the 2008 edition of U.S. News and World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” as one of the top institutions of higher learning in the South. The rankings were released in the August 27 issue of the weekly magazine.

U.S. News looked at more than 320 schools in the Baccalaureate Colleges category, and Cumberlands was listed as a “Top School.” It was ranked 26th in the South.

In addition, Cumberlands was recognized for awarding a large amount of need-based financial aid. Eighty-five percent of undergraduate students were determined to have a financial need, and 95 percent of the average student’s demonstrated need was met during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Other accolades extend to the University’s Upsilon-Upsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta which recently won the historical honor society’s Best Chapter Award for 2007. In addition, it received the Nels A. Cleven Award for Division I, which is reserved for schools that have won the Best Chapter Award five or more times. Upsilon-Upsilon has been named Best Chapter 30 times and has won the Nels A. Cleven Award every year of that award’s existence.

Thanks to generous contributions, construction is well underway on the final phase of the science complex (left) and women’s dormitory (right).



The Upsilon-Upsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has been established at University of the Cumberland since 1974 and was the 500th chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. It annually sponsors the oldest continuous lecture series on campus and recently published the 18th edition of *The Upsilonian*, a journal that has won the outstanding journal award for schools with less than 150 majors. The chapter has also received the honor of hosting the regional conference four times.

Cumberlands speech and debate team, coached by Jay Bourne, regularly achieves numerous awards. Recently, the team competed in the tenth annual National Christian College Forensics Association Tournament. Out of twenty competing schools, the team received First Place in Division Three Individual Events Sweepstakes.

"Our students performed exceptionally well and represented the University of the Cumberland admirably," said Bourne. "This is also the second time in three years that we have won individual event sweepstakes at Christian Nationals, and this is the third year in a row that we have had individual national champions."

Stewardship

For the fiscal year ending June 30, University of the Cumberland experienced the greatest gift income in the institution's history. Contributions include Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Trout's gift to establish an endowment for University of the Cumberland's Mountain Outreach (MO) program. The announcement was made last year, during a dedication service held at a MO home in Whitley County. The house was built during the 2006 summer by Mountain Outreach student volunteers due to the Trouts' financial support.

The Trouts dedicated the endowment to the honor of Dr. Trout's high school Latin, English, math and gym teachers, without whom, Trout said, "I would never have gone on to college."

Since the program's start in 1982, Mountain Outreach has constructed 126 homes for members of the surrounding communities. The ministry also distributes from its warehouse donated clothing and household items for those in need.

Students and others also volunteer their time to repair homes and to construct handicap access ramps for those in need. While three homes were built this past summer, over 20 other projects were also completed.

"Mountain Outreach is not a handout but a hand up," said Marc Hensley, Mountain Outreach director. "The family members work alongside Mountain Outreach volunteers and students to complete every home we build. We want recipients to have pride in what is being done for them, and we want them to have a stake in the process and appreciate the work and dedication it takes to build these homes."

Other contributions included gifts for the science building, the new dormitory, the Smiddy Fountain, scholarship and workshop opportunities for our students, as well as gifts for general support. More recently, the University has received a gift to sponsor the school's Dean of Chapel and related activities such as convocation and ministry in the classrooms and dormitories, in the Mountain Outreach program, and in the International Studies program.

The University's steady progress is one that the administration hopes will continue. Our goal is to provide the means to empower students to leave our University as servant leaders, thus impacting the world. Whether one of our clubs wins an award, our campus expands to accommodate our students, or our school receives a gracious gift, University of the Cumberland remains committed to its students and their aspirations.



Mountain Outreach student volunteer, Ranessa Warwick, works during Spring Break to repair the roof of a local family.

"Mountain Outreach is not a handout but a hand up," said Marc Hensley, Mountain Outreach director.

"The family members work alongside Mountain Outreach volunteers and students to complete every home we build."

New Academic Programs Offered at Cumberland

University of the Cumberland has expanded its biology, communication arts, and health, exercise and sport science departments. Beginning in the fall semester, the biology department is offering an ecology conservation studies track, the communication arts department will include a new minor in journalism and health, exercise and sport science will offer a major in fitness and sport management.

"We are really excited to offer our students more variety in our programs," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Larry Cockrum. "It will give them the opportunity to seek new avenues for a rewarding career."

The ecology conservation studies track is the first of several to be added to the biology department. "This is an important addition to the department since it is projected that the job market will see a large growth in employment opportunities for this field of study in the next ten years," said Cockrum.

The communication arts minor in journalism offers courses to prepare students in such areas as interviewing, writing in a professional environment, writing in Associated Press style, as well as writing features, entertainment news and sports articles. The minor also

includes a practicum that focuses on writing and editing stories by involving the class in the publication of the campus newspaper. The practicum offers valuable experience in photography and publication design.

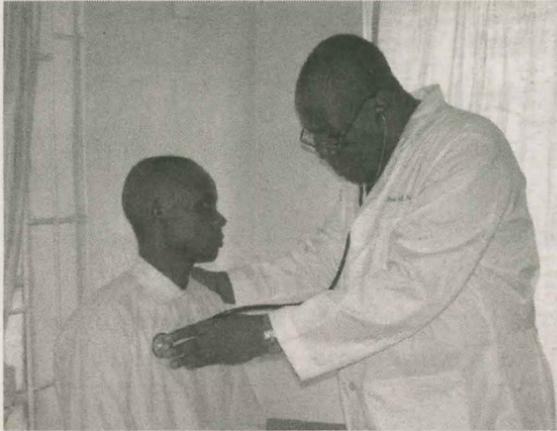
The health, exercise and sport science department major in fitness and sport management is an interdisciplinary major with the business department. Students will be prepared for jobs in health and wellness, corporate fitness, sport and athletic administration and community recreation. Students will have the option to take an exam for national certification in the fitness and sport management field.

"This major will be of great benefit to our students since the fitness and sport management field is rapidly growing and is a vital factor in the well-being of our community and nation," said Cindi Norton, department chair.

Cockrum added, "As in the past, University of the Cumberland will continue to seek out new programs of study that encourage students to think critically and creatively as well as prepare them for lives of responsible service and leadership."

Cumberlands Graduates in Medical Service

Dr. Jimmy Kamso-Pratt: A life dedicated to service



Dr. Pratt in Sierra Leone

Though Dr. Jimmy Kamso-Pratt knew he wanted to serve in some capacity, he didn't always know he wanted to be a doctor.

"If I didn't have the opportunity to go to University of the Cumberlands, I wouldn't be sitting here today," Pratt says. "My life would be quite different."

"I knew I wanted to do something in the healthcare field because of what has happened to my family. My mother gave birth to 11 children. Out of those 11, six died in childbirth, so I knew I wanted to do something in healthcare, because I always asked the questions, 'Why did my brother die? Why did my sister die?'" he says.

"The compassion that I saw at Cumberland prepared me to do the kind of medicine that I do. You don't have to be a rich person to receive treatment here at this clinic [East Jackson Medical Center in Jackson, Tenn.] or in my clinics at Sierra Leone," he says.

Pratt has been working for West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation for over 11 years. He divides his time between the clinic in Tennessee and his mission

work in Sierra Leone. His projects include Hands to Hearts: Project Africa and Toys for Africa: Project Africa. He, along with West Tennessee Healthcare's President, started Hands to Hearts seven years ago after visiting Sierra Leone to see what could be done. Hands to Hearts provides free medicine and healthcare services to those in need and educates the country's less privileged children, while Toys for Africa collects toys and clothing to be distributed amongst the people in Sierra Leone.

Besides working at his free health clinic and distributing toys and clothing, Pratt also volunteers with a Christian health organization.

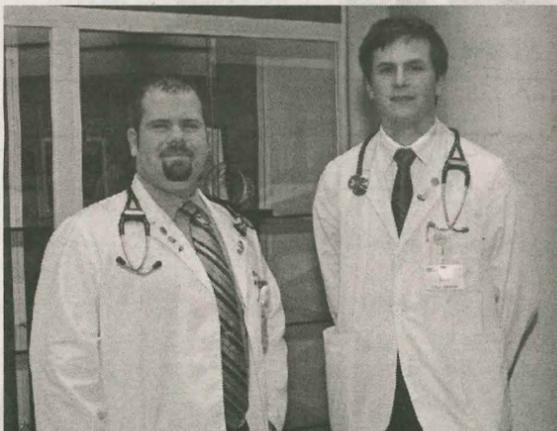
"The organization has about 200 hospitals in Sierra Leone. The country is about the size of Kentucky. They have hospitals, but they don't have doctors because most of them left because of the civil war," he said.

"In Africa, we're behind in every area. Education, I know, is what will help us out, because look at me," he says.

Currently, Pratt says his organization needs medicine, clothing, toys, volunteers and more importantly, funding. The financial burden rests primarily on Pratt, though West Tennessee Healthcare does give him allowances for medicine and other supplies.

"I know I can't help everybody, but I'm trying my best to help as many people as I can so that people can have the same opportunities I've had. That's why I'm trying to help so they can live a better life than they're living now," Pratt says. "Without an education, I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing now. So, you see, education helps a lot," he says. "You don't know where you'll be able to serve."

Morris and Wilson selected for medical honor society



Chase Wilson (left) and Brent Morris

University of the Cumberlands graduates, Brent Morris and Chase Wilson, fourth year students at University of Kentucky College of Medicine, have recently been selected as members of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society (AOA).

Out of approximately 100 in their class of 2008, only five were chosen for this honor. For selection to

AOA, students must be in the top 25% of their class and to show exceptional performance inside and outside the classroom.

"I was humbled to receive the award," said Morris. "My education and values I received at University of the Cumberlands have been monumental to what I've achieved in medical school. It was the best decision I could have made to go to Cumberlands."

Morris is the widower of Cumberlands alumna Madison Wright Morris of London, and son of Lonnie and Cathy Morris of Clay City. He competed for University of the Cumberlands Patriot Golf team and graduated in 2004 with a B.S. in chemistry and biology. Morris plans to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery.

"I feel fortunate and blessed to be given this opportunity and abilities," said Wilson. "I would not change my Cumberlands' background academically, socially or culturally. It helped me to be the person I am."

Wilson is the husband of Nicole Stacy Wilson, also a Cumberlands graduate and a 3rd year pharmacy student at UK, and son of the late Grover and Vicki Wilson of Pine Knot. He was so confident in the pre-med program offered at University of the Cumberlands, it was the only school he applied to. Wilson's wish is to serve his rural, home-town community as a family physician.

Dr. Charles Griffith, M.D., councilor for the University of Kentucky College of Medicine's AOA chapter said, "This is a high, high honor and achievement. It is not just grades that is considered, but excellence in service, class leadership, research and professionalism."

Both Morris and Wilson exemplify the motto of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, which is "Worthy to Serve the Suffering". For more information about AOA, visit their Web site, www.alphaomegaalpha.org.

Cumberlands Continues Mission to Service

100 percent of University of the Cumberlands students complete a minimum of forty hours of community service prior to graduation.

Since Cumberlands was founded to serve the educational needs of area Appalachian students, it continues this servant mentality through its students. All enrolled students are required to complete a minimum of forty hours of community service prior to graduation. Community service teaches students to become selfless, committed, and hard working. These character building traits will not only help the students to become better, more well-rounded individuals, but it will also aid in their future career pursuits. One of the most popular volunteer organizations is Mountain Outreach, which like the college, was founded to serve the area's needs. In addition to community service, a large percentage of Cumberlands' students help pay for their education through workstudy in over 650 different positions. In the last 11 years, 2,531 students have volunteered 375,174 hours of community service. If equated to a 40 hour work week this amounts to over 180 years of community service with a value of \$2,194,767.90 (at minimum wage).

Mills encourages Kentucky Baptists to live missions

Continued from page 1

In February of 2003 Oneida Baptist Institute President W.F. "Bud" Underwood and the school's choir visited Bruner's Chapel.

As Underwood spoke, Mills thought, "I would like to do something like that."

Sensing he needed to be available for whatever God wanted, that April Mills put the family's home on the market.

Three months later, the Christian Appalachian Project approached him about becoming its president.

Those who have worked with Mills say he has made a major difference by introducing new vision and strategic planning.

Bob Hutchinson, a member of CAP's board of directors for 16 years, said Mills has increased volunteer involvement.

This year, more than 60 long-term and nearly 100 short-term volunteers have worked with the agency.

"I think the big change is his emphasis on putting volunteers first," Hutchinson said. "By putting volunteers first and helping them, we have been able to get more volunteers."

Before Chris Wood departed from Mission West Virginia a year ago, he signed a cooperative agreement with the Kentucky-based ministry to establish an "Operation Sharing" in that state.

As a result, the non-profit organization distributed \$2.5 million worth of goods across West Virginia over a 14-month period ending Aug. 31.

"I think (CAP) has become more effective," said Wood, an officer at a Baptist college in North Carolina. "Bill has brought some management skills and experience from the for-profit world that has been beneficial."

Passion for missions

"He's got a passion for what he does," Wood added. "He works from a faith perspective and what Bill does he sees as his ministry. When you're working out of your passion, you're going to be more effective."

Missions doesn't just occupy Mills' attention during the day. After work, he serves as an elder of Mountain Community Fellowship.

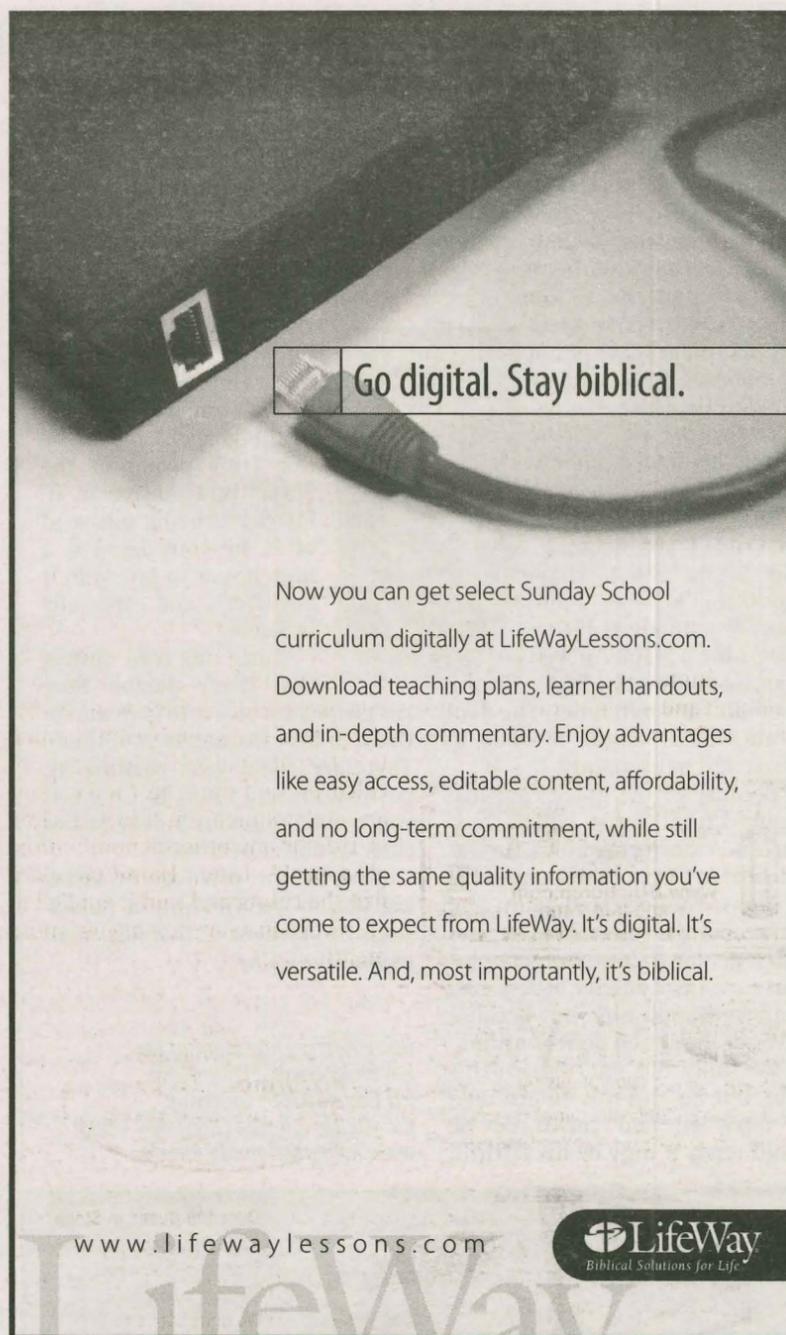
One of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's newest High Impact churches, the Paintsville church held its launch in August of 2006.

The congregation originated with home Bible studies started by Mills, Harold Underwood—the ministry's manager of volunteers—and their wives.

Mills would like to see Mountain Community become a host church for mission groups who want to help improve living conditions in the region.

The CAP president also hopes to see more Kentucky Baptists working with the Christian Appalachian Project, which plans to develop a church partnership strategy to strengthen its missions emphasis.

"The Lord said we'd always have the poor with us," Mills noted. "We've been called to help, not change everything."



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What's your excuse?

There is never a shortage of reasons to short-change Christian causes

By Michael Spencer, assistant to the president

Like many people, I'm a resident of the online world almost as much as I am of the real world. Recently I came across a wonderful resource called "Generous Giving." It can be found at www.generousgiving.org.

"Generous Giving" is a ministry that promotes Christian giving. The site provides free resources for ministries that want to promote biblical stewardship.

One of the resources that got my attention was called "Common Excuses." It was a long list of common reasons Christians don't give to God's work. Each excuse was linked to an excellent "pro-giving" response. Here are a few examples:

"My giving is a private matter between God and me, no one else."

"The Bible says that each man should give what he has decided in his own heart to give. I am free to give as much or as little as I choose, even not at all."

"Giving would deplete my savings and that would be bad stewardship. There's a good chance my donation would be misappropriated or wasted."

"I am up to my ears in debt. I cannot give now. I am in the lower or middle-income bracket. Giving is really the responsibility of wealthy people."

"I already tithe; that's all God requires me to give."

"I've already given more than enough in the form of taxes. I've already maxed out my tax deductions for this year. My gifts won't count until next year, so I'll give then."

"If I were to give to the church, it would only contribute further to the greed and corruption among church leaders."

I found 52 different excuses at the site. Fifty-two! It's certainly true that there never will be a shortage of excuses for anything worthwhile.

While I love the idea of this Web site, I realized that it was missing one thing: the specifics of ministries that a person might give to. When believers give, we almost always give to something, whether it is a large cause or a small ministry. Knowing where our giving goes and how it is used is an important part of good stewardship.

A person is right to ask questions about giving, stewardship and the management of money and resources by a ministry. As Christians, our giving should be shaped by God's Word and His grace shown to us in Jesus Christ. It also should be influenced by the "Kingdom values" of the ministries we support.

There is a difference between giving to feed the poor and giving to buy a church jet. While Christians are free to give where they believe money is needed, the needs of God's Kingdom work are obvious because they resemble what Jesus taught us about the Kingdom of God.

This is one of many reasons we invite you to come to Oneida Baptist Institute, to hear our story and see what we are doing. Consider if this is a "Kingdom outpost" where "Kingdom people" can give knowing that their financial gifts are being used in a way that exalts Jesus. Oneida is about the work of compassionate, Christian education "for Time and Eternity."

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



W.F. Underwood

His father's pastor

Roles are reversed for this Clear Creek father and son

Second-year student Jason Whicker is filling a role that not many young pastors get to experience; he is his father's pastor.

Jason is pastor of Old Salem Baptist Church in London. "For years it was the other way around," Jason said. "Dad was always my pastor growing up. It is pretty special to have the roles reversed and be his pastor now."

Jason's dad, Mark, is a 1992 graduate of Clear Creek, so Jason knew where God wanted him to prepare for the ministry. "We moved to Clear Creek when I was about seven years-old so I knew about Clear Creek," Jason said. "I'm glad God has brought me back here to study just like He did my dad."

While this is Jason's second year of study, he actually started at Clear Creek a few years ago but his studies were interrupted. "I had to leave school because I got deployed overseas," he said. "I was stationed in Belgium and served in the NATO headquarters there. I was put in an atmosphere where things were not very good for me. ... I love Clear Creek, it is a very special place to me," he said. "It's a great place to be around godly people who love the

Lord and have common ground in Jesus Christ while I am studying God's Word. It's a totally different atmosphere from where I was before. I am blessed to be here."

The excellent classroom preparation Jason is getting enhances his practical ministry training he receives as pastor of a local church. "I am studying on the pastoral

track while I am here. I really appreciate my Old Testament classes with Dr. John Ditty. He really makes God's Word come alive to us as we study."

Jason also finds himself in the same family role his father filled when he was a student here. He lives on campus with his wife, Crystal; 2-year-old daughter, Autumn; and 11-month-old son, Caleb. "Crystal works at the Child Development Center on campus," Jason said. "She recently got involved with the campus women's ministry and attended one of their conferences on campus. She feels God calling her to some type of missions work," Jason said. "We are praying that God will continue to lead in that area."

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; e-mail: dfox@ccbcc.edu



Donnie Fox

Court reverses ban on sectarian prayer in Indiana House

Indianapolis (BP)—An appeals court panel apparently has given the OK for prayers mentioning Jesus' name in the Indiana state legislature to return, tossing out a lawsuit Oct. 30 that garnered national attention two years ago when the prayers were ruled unconstitutional.

The 2-1 decision by the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals is a victory for social conservatives, although the justices avoided dealing directly with whether the prayers violate the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, as the lower court had ruled.

Instead, the majority ruled that the four Indiana residents who brought the lawsuit lacked standing because they had "not shown that the legislature has extracted from them tax dollars for the establishment and implantation" of a program that supposedly violates the Es-

tablishment Clause.

Glen Lavy, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, applauded the ruling. ADF filed a friend-of-the-court brief asking the judges to reinstate the prayer practice.

"Those who oppose Christian invocations are essentially saying that the founders were violating the Constitution as they were writing it," Lavy said. "People of all religions have always had an equal opportunity to offer prayer before Indiana legislative sessions, and this ruling ensures that those who offer prayers in the name of Jesus will not lose that opportunity either."

Lawsuit history

The lawsuit was brought against the speaker of the state House of Representatives by the Indiana affiliate of the ACLU, which won the initial round in November 2005 when U.S. District Judge David Hamilton ruled prayers must be "non-sectarian" and not mention "Christ's name or title or any other denominational appeal." Later, Hamilton clarified the ruling and said it applied to all sectarian prayers, not just those mentioning Christ.

Of the prayers offered during the 2005 legislative session, a majority were Christian in nature, mentioning "Jesus" or "Christ." Hamilton ruled that individuals do not have a right to "use an official platform like the Speaker's podium at the opening of a House session to express their own religious faiths."

But the Seventh Circuit Court panel ruled that the four citizens did not have standing to bring the case, in part because the House prayer program "is not mandated by statute" but is simply a rule the House has adopted on its own. Previous Supreme Court cases—including this year's ruling in *Hein v. Freedom from Religion Foundation*—allow for such a distinction, the majority said.

The lawsuit was brought against then-House Majority Leader Brian Bosma, a Republican. When Democrats took charge, new Majority Leader Patrick Bauer decided to continue with the appeal of the lower court's ruling. Bauer has been reading non-sectarian prayers in order to abide by the ruling, the Indianapolis Star reported.

After the panel's decision, Bau-

er released a statement saying he was "delighted that the court has left alone a tradition that has been a part of House proceedings for nearly 190 years." He did not say, though, whether more Christian-oriented prayers would be allowed to return.

Ruling reaction

"I am honestly elated that the Seventh Circuit has protected the rights of individuals to speak openly and freely in every way before the crucible of free speech, the state legislature," Bosma, now minority leader, said, according to the Star.

Mathew Staver, founder of the religious liberty organization Liberty Counsel, said the rightward shift on the Supreme Court is having an impact on lower courts. Liberty Counsel filed a friend-of-the-court brief asking that the prayer practice be left alone.

"The U.S. Supreme Court's decision handed down earlier this year is already beginning to close the door on lawsuits that seek to eliminate public acknowledgment of God and religion," Staver said. "Mere offense at the mention of God does not give the right to file a lawsuit."

Poll shows most voters don't want religious pitches from candidates

Washington (RNS)—More than two-thirds of Americans think presidential candidates should not use their religious beliefs to sway voters, according to a new poll.

The survey, conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research for the Interfaith Alliance in October, asked 1,000 adults if they agreed or disagreed with the statement that presidential candidates "should not use their religion or faith to influence voters to support them." Sixty-eight percent said they agreed.

Even regular churchgoers indicated they think presidential hopefuls should not use their faith as a campaign tool: Nearly 60 percent of survey respondents who regularly attend religious services agreed with the statement.

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HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Larry Baker

Language is so interesting to me. I have studied language all of my life. First, at birth I began my lifelong journey with English. Later, as a preschooler in Europe with my military family, I learned German. This was followed by high school Latin, seminary Greek and Hebrew, and Spanish and Quechua as a missionary. I learned how important language is in communication.

How do we use language to communicate what is necessary to have a right relationship with God? We often use words and phrases like salvation, being saved, being born again, justification, regeneration, reconciliation, righteousness and other terms that express significant ways to understand rightness with God.

But how do we enter this right relationship with God? What words can we use to communicate the correct response to the gospel?

I believe there are three key words that express a person's response to the gospel that will put him or her in a right relationship with God:

Repentance. In order to be right with God, you must recognize your sin, ask forgiveness for your sin and make a conscience decision to turn from sin and turn to God (Mark 1:15).

Belief. Accept by faith the historical Jesus, His birth, death, burial and resurrection, and the salvation that Jesus made possible on the cross (John 1:12).

Lordship. The abandonment of self to God involves taking self off the throne of your life and allowing Jesus to be your King (Romans 10:8-10).

These three elements, expressed to God in prayer (language), will deliver you to the very presence of God and make you right with Him.

Larry Baker is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new work and associational missions department

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEAVER DAM**—Independence Church recently ordained **Earl Daniel Ashby, J.L. Decker** and **Norman Payton** as deacons.

■ **CLINTON**—Green Valley Church ordained **Leroy Fitts** to the gospel ministry Nov. 4. **Eugene McDonald** is pastor.

■ **FULTON**—First Church ordained **Cam Kenimer** as a deacon Oct. 7. **Jack Acree** is pastor.

■ **KEVIL**—Cane Creek Church recently called **Steve Turner** as pastor.

■ **KINGS MOUNTAIN**—Pond Church will hold revival services Nov. 11-13 with **C.E. Jacobs** as evangelist.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Sand Spring Church will host a "Love and Respect" videoconference featuring **Emerson Eggerichs** Nov. 16-17. For more information, call (502) 839-3415.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Gardenside Church will hold revival services Nov. 9 and 10, 7 p.m., and Nov. 11, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., with **Don Walton** as evangelist and **Ron Wilburn** as music evangelist. **John Landon** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Hawk Creek Church will host **Michael Franzese**, a former mob boss and author of "Blood Cov-

Spotlight on ...

Glendale



Gilead Church will host the **Watoto Children's Choir** from Kampala, Uganda, in a free concert Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (270) 369-7868.

enant," who will share his Christian testimony Nov. 17, 7 p.m., at the London Community Center. He also will speak in both Sunday morning worship services Nov. 18. For more information, call (606) 224-2703. **Trevor Barton** is pastor.

Joe Arnold, pastor of Slate Hill Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry Oct. 14 at New Salem Church in London.

■ **MANITOU**—Manitou Church will commission its pastor, **Sam Beeny Sr.**, as a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board chaplain



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

12 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministers Association Fall Meeting, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

12 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Severns Valley 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.

December

10-11 KBC Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville.

January

17-19 Shepherding the Shepherd, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington.

24 Pastor/Staff Forum, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

24-25 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Hartford Baptist Church.

25-26 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Lakeside Baptist Church, Louisville.

25-26 Regional Women on Mission Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.

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

Nov. 11, 11 a.m. **Bob Morrison**, director of missions for Little Bethel Association, will preach the commissioning message.

■ **NEBO**—Silent Run Church recently called **Neil Kolodey** as pastor.

■ **OLATON**—Olaton Church recently called **Bobby Renfrow** as pastor.

What's going on?

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FREE: Single-copy cassette tape duplicators (one Telex and one Recordex), approximately 100 90-minute blank tapes, a few hundred poly boxes and 50-plus six-space cassette albums. Contact David Acher, associate pastor of worship, media and arts, First Baptist Church, Leitchfield, at (270) 259-4076, ext. 208; or davidacher@fbcleitchfield.com.

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

SEEKING: Part-time secretary (20-25 hours per week), Palestine Baptist Church in Campbellsville, Ky. Call the church at (270) 789-0765 for a job description; or send resumé to: Secretary Search Committee, Palestine Baptist Church, 80 Church Lane, Campbellsville, KY 42718; or e-mail to thebbc@alltel.net.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to students for Crescent Hill Baptist Church, an ABC/CBF-affiliated, mission-oriented congregation. Submit your resumé, faith story and view of missions to crescenthillbapt@bellsouth.net; or mail to Crescent Hill Baptist Minister to Students Search Team, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206.

SEEKING: Pianist for Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220. (502) 454-4681.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Applicant must be experienced and excellent musician and worship leader and exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Send resumés to: Personnel Committee, Fern Creek Baptist Church, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; or e-mail to linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumés will be received through Nov. 30. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor; Jim Cordell, interim minister of music.

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.

SEEKING: Minister of music and minister of youth (or combination of the two) for Great Crossing Baptist Church. Send resumés to 1061 Stamping Ground Road, Georgetown, KY 40324.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. We are a growing Southern Baptist church located in central Kentucky with an average attendance of 240. Please send your resumé and a DVD, CD or tape of a recent sermon by Nov. 15, 2007, to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362.

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@ceciliabaptist.com.

SEEKING: Minister to students for Crestwood Baptist Church. For more information, visit www.crestwoodbaptist.org. E-mail resumé to Bill Ellis at bill@crestwoodbaptist.org.

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: Minister of administration for Crestwood Baptist Church. For more information, visit www.crestwoodbaptist.org. E-mail resumé to Bill Ellis at bill@crestwoodbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for established, growing church in Brown County, Ind. This position offers a monthly housing allowance and is located within commuting distance to Southern Seminary in Louisville. Please send letter of interest and resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1340, Nashville, IN 47448.

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.

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The Wright stuff

Cleveland running back Jason Wright makes most of opportunities on field

By Joshua Cooley
Baptist Press

Cleveland (BP)—For every showboating, jabberjawing player in the NFL, there should be a Jason Wright.

After all, how many players have you heard with this perspective: "I've started at the bottom of the ladder every time," said Wright, the Cleveland Browns' third-year running back out of Northwestern University. "All of us have issues with pride, but I think I'm much worse than the average guy. It's God's grace that that has happened."

Inhale deeply. In a profession that worships fame and self, Wright is a breath of unpretentiously fresh air. He is nothing if not candid. Ask for his testimony and he will happily open the vault on a dark past, eager to illustrate the regenerative power of Christ.

A star at Diamond Bar High School in Southern California, Wright arrived at college dripping with conceit. But all his prior claims to fame—namely football and academics—got lost in the crowd at Northwestern. As he tried to fit in socially, he turned to drug abuse and sex.

At first, several bold Christians in his dorm tried and failed to make a dent in Wright's callous shell.

"I blew them off all the time," he recalled. "There was this former fellow pre-med student who approached me and said, 'Hey, we've got a Bible study tonight. Want to come?' I said, 'No, you go ahead. I'm going to party all night.' Then when I got a better grade on a test the next day, I'd wave it in their faces. That's the type of guy I was."

Soon, though, Wright began to feel the hopelessness of worldly indulgence. And when teammate Ra-

shidi Wheeler collapsed and died during a preseason workout in August 2001—shortly before Wright's sophomore season—it rattled him.

"God used that to show me how empty I really was, how broken I was, the miserable state I was in," he said. "I remember one night in my dorm room, I was weeping and bitter. Something was so wrong. I called my parents, and I was hysterical with my mom. I hit my knees and said, 'God, help me.'"

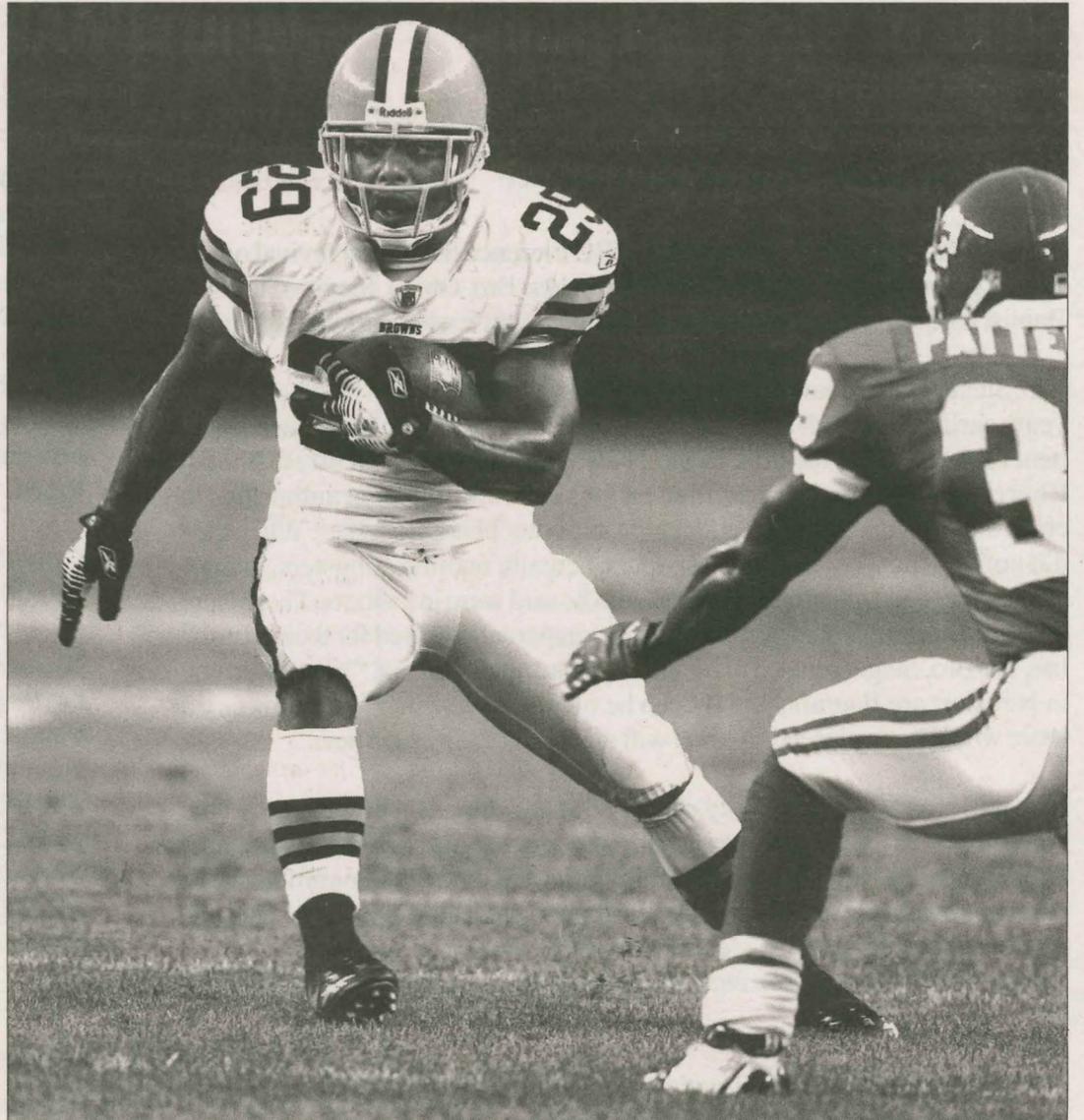
True conversion was yet to come. As Wright learned more about Christianity—attending a local church and Northwestern's Fellowship of Christian Athletes group—he continued to dabble in sin.

"I'd put on this face," he said. "I'd walk around with a Bible so Christians would think I was holy. It was the pinnacle of hypocrisy. I'd finish spending the night with my girlfriend and then go to church with Bible in hand."

Through the continued influence of godly friends in FCA, Wright finally stopped straddling the fence in the spring of 2003, his junior year, and accepted Christ.

"He is very transparent about his past," said longtime Browns chaplain Tom Petersburg. "He finds that very freeing. Last spring, I was at a large men's breakfast with him. At the end, he opened it up for questions and was very transparent. He just oozes God's grace."

Wright finished among the all-time leaders at Northwestern in rushing yards, all-purpose yards and points. But that didn't translate into immediate NFL success. He went undrafted in 2004, was signed and cut by San Francisco and Atlanta, and finally signed with Cleveland in Sep-



tember 2005.

After spending most of that season on the practice squad, he earned a roster spot last year.

This year started much like 2006, with Wright getting a combined four carries in Cleveland's first four games. But when starter Jamal Lewis suffered a foot injury in Week 5, Wright was the beneficiary. In the next two games he rushed for 118 yards and a touchdown.

Lewis eventually returned to ac-

tion forcing Wright into a backup role again. But he pointed out that his biggest concern these days is not his professional aspirations, but his spiritual well-being.

"If that's right, whatever happens, happens," Wright noted. "I'm content to be wherever He wants me to be on the depth chart. If being a perennial Pro Bowler and a 1,000-yard rusher causes me to build my own kingdom, then I'll thank God for that."

ALL-OUT EFFORT

Cleveland Browns running back Jason Wright is more concerned with his spiritual welfare than his playing time. (BP photo by Cleveland Browns)

One year later, church reflects on impact of 'Facing the Giants'

By Norm Miller
Baptist Press

Albany, Ga. (BP)—Like "the little engine that could," it was last fall's little movie that could, chugging over the mountain of Hollywood releases with an all-volunteer cast and only one camera.

"Facing the Giants" eventually ran for 17 weeks in more than 1,000 theaters. It took in \$10 million in its first three months, a paltry sum by Hollywood standards.

But Facing the Giants was not about Hollywood's standards. Instead, the film championed family values and Christian virtues—all on a \$100,000 budget.

The movie chronicles a Christian high school football coach's struggle to overcome obstacles by trusting and honoring God in all circumstances. While he and his wife face infertility and his football team faces yet another losing season, they learn to trust God.

"Most people hear the movie made \$10 million at the box office and think we're rolling in the dough," said Michael Catt, senior pastor of Sherwood Baptist, whose media department wrote and produced the film.

"The movie didn't make any money theatrically," said Catt, who will serve as president of the 2008 Southern Baptist

Pastors' Conference in Indianapolis. "We are, if you will, the last people on the food chain." More than \$5 million was spent on post production, promotional screenings and advertising, Catt recalled, and local theaters received 50 to 60 percent of all monies from ticket sales.

"Our goal was never to make money. Our goal was to get the gospel out," Catt declared.

That goal is being met.

Worldwide interest

"Now that the movie is in 57 countries, 10 languages and on every continent, we're hearing from Russia, Iraq, Australia, South America, China. Every day we're getting e-mails," Catt said. "The movie has been shown on the Disney Cruise Line and on the Turkish airlines."

"The overwhelming majority of responses have been positive," the pastor noted. In the 10,000-plus e-mails received to date, "people have thanked us for making the movie, told us of answered prayers and given us their story of how God used the movie in their own spiritual pilgrimage."

"We've heard from more than 3,000 people who have come to Christ because of the movie," Catt added.

"Facing the Giants" has garnered national and international exposure on dozens of news media outlets. And interviews with Catt and Jim McBride, Sherwood Baptist's executive pastor who had a role in the movie, recently aired on television in India.

Undergirding the motive to share the gospel through films was research from a national poll showing that movies influenced culture more than churches. That's when Sherwood Baptist leaders founded Sherwood Pictures and began producing family and faith-friendly movies.

"Facing the Giants" was the church's second film, following 2003's "Flywheel," the story of a crooked used car salesman who surrenders his life to Christ. The movie cost \$20,000 to produce and, like "Facing the Giants," was filmed with one camera and was edited on a Macintosh computer. "Flywheel" played for six weeks and outran 12 Hollywood movies in the local Albany theater. And for four years the film has generated weekly e-mails from those impacted by it.

Both movies involved numerous Sherwood Baptist members. The crew for "Facing the Giants" was 500 strong, consisting of homeschooled students, stay-at-home moms and retired senior adult

men who volunteered their labor during the six-week shoot. All actors were church members except for University of Georgia head football coach Mark Richt who volunteered his time for a cameo appearance.

"Position of influence"

Associate Pastor Alex Kendrick said one of the most important elements in producing "Facing the Giants" was prayer. "We bathed everything we did in prayer."

As a result of the movie, Catt said, Sherwood Baptist is "entrusted with a blessing and a responsibility. As in the parables of the 10 talents, when you are faithful with the talents you have, you are given more responsibility. We're blessed to be in a position of influence. This is something we take very seriously."

As for future projects, the church is working on a film titled "Fireproof." It is the story of a couple headed for divorce and how faith in Christ heals their marriage.

"We're responsible to be true to our audience as we continue to make movies," Catt said. "We want to be distinctively Christian. We don't want to tell people to be good; we want to encourage people to be righteous. We will not—we cannot—compromise the gospel to be successful."

Kentucky Baptist Heritage

Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

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OBIE J. STEGER OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

Providentially perhaps, in June 1924, FBC Florence held a tent revival on the church grounds which lasted about three weeks. Bro. Obie J. Steger of Latonia Baptist Church did the bulk of the preaching, with Pastor Barker assisting.

Bro. Steger had become something of a celebrity in Northern Kentucky a few years earlier as an old-fashioned preacher and a feisty, no-nonsense opponent of vice and corruption. In the 1920's, as pastor of Fifth Street Baptist Church in Newport, he had called on local law enforcement authorities to crack down on underworld bootlegging and other liberal activities. When they did nothing, he went to the newspapers, actually naming gangsters, judges, police chiefs and other city officials, who he said were in cahoots. There were times when members of his congregation, apparently, feared for their pastor's life, but Bro. Steger refused to be silent. At one point, he said, "Vice and crime in Newport are flagrant, and if I can be of any service in making this city a more wholesome place to live in, I will gladly make any sacrifice."

Newport was at the beginning of its "Sin City" hey day, however, and the corruption was too deeply entrenched to be ferreted out so easily. Eventually, Bro. Steger left Newport for Latonia Baptist and during the summers was a popular traveling evangelist. He never stopped preaching against sin and corruption wherever he saw it—especially in Newport.

[From *The History of Florence Baptist Church*, Michael Capek, 2006, p. 97]

O. J. Steger went to Latonia Baptist Church in 1923 from the Brighton Street Baptist Church in Newport. A native of Grant County, he attended Georgetown

College, University of Cincinnati, and Lane Seminary. He and his wife Edith had two sons. Under Bro. Steger's energetic leadership, the Latonia Church called its first assistant pastor, M. F. Bagby. The number of active deacons increased from 7 to 14 and property behind the church was purchased for expansion. In 1924 another mission effort was launched in Decoursey.

In the Sunday evening service of March 30, 1924, the pastor delivered a scathing attack on local lawlessness. A city policeman in the audience denied his relationship to a pint of bootleg whiskey which the pastor held aloft for all to see.

Growth under Bro. Steger's direction led to a record budget in 1926 of \$20,000. Enrollment topped 700, and the pastor baptized more than 300 persons in less than three years. However, he felt a strong sense of unfinished business at his previous pastorate, and resigned April 7, 1926 to again lead the Brighton Street Baptist Church. He later served as pastor of Southside Baptist Church. In 1947 he planned to return to his Grant County farm but in November was called as interim pastor to First Baptist Church, Newport. The following March he became regular pastor and served more than four years. During his retirement years he lived on the farm and continued to preach when called, sometimes from a chair in the pulpit. He died at age 73 on June 22, 1963.

[Source: *Latonia Baptist Church History*, n.d.]

CHURCH HISTORY WORKSHOP

KBC Archivist Cheryl Doty is available for church history workshops. Workshop topics include: beginning an archives, preservation, writing a history and celebrating. Contact her by email at archives@kybaptist.org or call (502) 245-4101

WORK-STUDY PROGRAM/CAMPBELLVILLE INDUSTRIES

Condensed from J. Chester Badgett,
History of Campbellsville University, 1906-2006
Harmony House Publishers, 2005, pp. 138-142

The idea of a work-study program on the Berea College model has a long history at Campbellsville. In October 1913 it was recommended that an industrial department at Russell Creek Academy be added as soon as financially possible so that students from low income families could work their way through school. In 1917 an eight-room house for girls was purchased for this use but never used. While John M. Carter was college dean, the student work-study program was re-established in August 1947. The program began as a small wood-working plant that grew to become the major corporation of Campbellsville Industries.

Students could take classes either two or three days a week and work three or two days a week including the summer term. At the end of two years, a student could complete 64 hours of credit. John Wall, pastor of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church, with twenty years experience in the wood-working industry, supervised operations while he attended classes. The plant made chair frames, refinished furniture, and manufactured cherry and mahogany communion trays. The first building was erected with steel girders from a scrap yard. Wall was able to operate on a shoe-string and make something out of nothing.

In May 1955, former student Herb Keeton (1951) was recruited to manage the work-study program. A foundry was purchased and toolmaker Fred Freyberger hired to manage it. In October 1955, an additional industry building was erected on campus, with a wing added in June 1956. Truck tops were manufactured for one year. The industry struggled until a contract for 300 display racks was signed with Union Underwear Company. College trustees approved the articles of incorporation of Campbellsville Industries in September 1965 as a separate entity from the college. More than 450 students had been helped by the employment offered by the industry.

With the financial assistance of Jack Goldfarb, owner of Union Underwear, a 5.59 acre site in the Industrial Park was purchased and donated to the college. Two buildings were soon erected. In 1969 Herb Keeton bought half the land and Building # 1; in 1972-73 he bought the remainder of the property. Jerry Bennett became president in 1979 when he and three other employees purchased the company. Campbellsville Industries continues as a major manufacturer of steeples, cupolas, domes, dormers, cornices, clocks, clock towers, and canopies for institutional and commercial buildings throughout America and many foreign countries.

AMBIGUOUS VERB

When I was pastor of the Stanford, Kentucky, Presbyterian Church, I usually answered the phone at the church by saying, "May I help you?"

One morning I was studying Corinthians 13 in preparation for Sunday's sermon. The phone rang. Without thinking, I picked it up and said, "May I love you?"

At first, no one responded. Then I heard someone clearing her throat, and it turned out to be one of the pillars of the church. She was eighty-three years old, and she forgot why she called. After I thought about it, I decided it was good theology.

Rev. Dan Clark, Nicholasville, Kentucky (Loyal Jones & Billy Edd Wheeler, *More Laughter in Appalachia Southern Mountain Humor*, August House Publishers, 1995, p. 117)