



WESTERN RECORDER

November 13, 2007
Vol. 181, No. 45

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
IMB censures trustee Wade Burleson. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
KBC President Darren Gaddis cites "bright future" and challenges for state convention. *Page 3.*

Disaster relief
Larry Koch, longtime KBC disaster relief leader, announces retirement. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum
Money isn't the answer to marital bliss. *Page 4.*

Editorial
New KBC resource kits address sanctity of life & gambling. *Page 5.*

KBC business
2007 reports of the KBC Committee on Nominations and Committee on Committees. *Page 6.*

Nation
Senator probes finances of six evangelical TV ministries. *Page 8.*

IMB leaders report more than 600,000 overseas baptisms

Springfield, Ill. (BP)—God is moving in unprecedented ways around the world and Southern Baptists face the challenge of joining their missionaries in "whatever it takes" to make disciples of all peoples, Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees were told during their Nov. 6-7 meeting in Springfield, Ill.

Eighty-two new missionaries were appointed to overseas ministry in a service held in conjunction with the 100th annual meeting of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

IMB officials delivered the board's annual statistical report—an array of numbers detailing advances in overseas work during the previous year that IMB President Jerry Rankin said is surprising even for an era in which great advances already have been made.

The report showed that last year Southern Baptist overseas missionaries and their national Baptist partners:

- Saw the number of reported baptisms top 600,000 for the first time.

- Reported 25,497 churches planted, increasing the number of affiliated congregations worldwide to 157,890.

- Implemented church-planting strategies among 1,134 people groups, including 100 people groups newly engaged with the gospel.

- Engaged 567,413 new believers and 1.2 million church members in discipleship training.

- Enrolled a total of 222,604 church leaders in residential and nonresidential pastoral training programs.

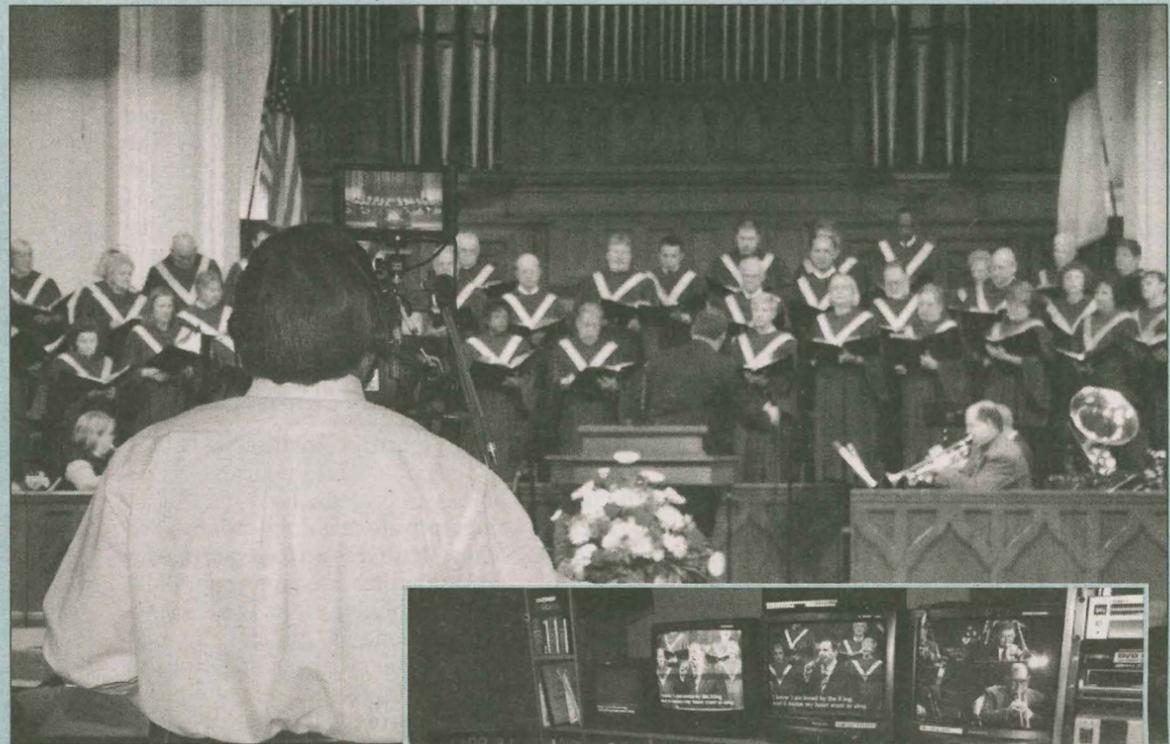
"If you put 600,000 baptisms in the context of our daily lives, that means more than 1,640 people are being baptized each day," said Chuck McAlister, chairman of the trustees' overseas committee. "Our missionaries and their national Baptist partners started more than 68 churches per day. Isn't that exciting? God is moving!"

In spite of advances, however, 6,512 people groups—more than 3.3 billion people—still have not heard the gospel. IMB leaders have challenged Southern Baptists to add almost 2,700 more missionaries to the current total of about 5,300 to address that need.

But it will require serious sacrifice—and a movement of the Holy Spirit, said A.C. Halsell, chairman of the trustees' finance committee.

"This budget is limited by parameters that are nothing more than historical trends of giving," Halsell noted. "As we give, you and I, we must pray the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts so we give in a way that busts through this artificial ceiling. If we don't, it's going to take us years to put 8,000 missionaries on the field."

Tuning in to church



■ Above: Carl Blanton runs a camera during a televised worship service at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. ■ Right: Matt Thurman (left) directs Walnut Street's live broadcast from the control room with help from Howard Eggleton. The church's television ministry is celebrating its 40th year on the air. (Photos by Drew Nichter)

KBC churches affirm benefits of putting worship 'on the air'

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Of all that happens at Walnut Street Baptist Church on Sunday mornings, Matt Thurman may have the most nerve-racking task of all. He does not need to deliver the message, give a testimony or even sing a song.

In fact, most of the congregation may never even see Thurman on a Sunday morning. But if he wasn't around, Walnut Street's television audience would surely notice.

Thurman serves as the Louisville church's interim director of media ministries and is largely responsible for the behind-the-scenes operations of Walnut Street's live television broadcast.

As Pastor Rusty Ellison paces the stage, it is Thurman's job to keep track of his every move.

"Ready two, take two," he informs his crew, as he fades from the image on camera one to the image on camera two.

To the viewers at home, it is a seamless transition. For Thurman, it's a constant dancing of the eyes from one monitor to another, trying to determine the next best camera shot to give the television audience.

Dozens of churches air taped broadcasts of their worship services across the state. But Walnut Street is one of a small number of Kentucky Baptist churches that televise its services live. It is also one of the oldest to do so, beginning its television ministry on Louisville station WLKY back in 1967.

Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church got its start one year earlier and has been broadcasting live on NBC-affiliate WLEX for the past 40 years. According to Pastor Craig Loscalzo, legend has it that Immanuel was the first church west of the Allegheny Mountains to air a live broadcast of its worship service.

Significant missions role

The television ministry has become a significant one for both churches, each one considering its broadcasts equal to that of missions.

"Our investment is a missions expenditure to and in this city," Ellison pointed out, noting that the church invests nearly \$250,000 each year in its media ministry, which now broadcasts its services on Louisville's NBC-affiliate WAVE.

Loscalzo said Immanuel views the television ministry as an "extension" of the church's outreach

"that touches quite a few people." He also noted that the church devotes nearly \$100,000 per year to keeping the live broadcast on the air.

Both pastors said their live broadcasts are seen in as many as 40,000 to 50,000 homes each Sunday and that justifies the considerable costs of staying on the air.

"Obviously, there would be no way that we could hit that target audience of 50,000 individuals ... in any other way," Loscalzo said.

Pastor Mark Hopper at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green agreed.

Relative newcomers to the television ministry, First Baptist, Bowling Green, has been broadcasting its services live on local station WBKO for more than a decade. Although Hopper has never studied the number of people watching the services, he knows they are because of telephone calls, e-mails and letters he receives every day—he is even recognized out in public.

"That happens every single week; it never ceases to amaze me," Hopper said.

All three churches televise their second service each Sunday morning. □ See *Television proves to ...* Page 7

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 14.

IMB trustee board censures Wade Burleson

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Springfield, Ill. (ABP)—In a rare move, trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board voted Nov. 6 to censure one of their own and effectively bar him from carrying out the duties of his office.

However, Oklahoma Baptist pastor Wade Burleson, a prominent Southern Baptist blogger, has vowed to continue doing the job to which his fellow Southern Baptists elected him. And he defended his right to dissent, saying he will continue to critique some IMB policies.

IMB trustees, in a closed session during a regularly scheduled meeting in Springfield, Ill., voted to censure Burleson. The trustees reported the move in a public session the morning of Nov. 7.

The resolution of censure also banned Burleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., from "active participation" in the board's work "for at least the next four" trustee meetings, which are held every other month. The board said Burleson violated two recently adopted policies barring individual trustees from criticizing actions of the board or reporting on any private conversations between trustees about IMB business.

"In the beginning, I tried to abide by those policies," Burleson said. "But what I found is those policies prohibiting dissent are the worst policies that have been published in the history of any Southern Baptist convention agency."

Only SBC can remove trustee

The board cannot fully eject Burleson from its membership—only messengers to an SBC annual meeting can do that. Two years ago, a majority of IMB trustees voted to ask messengers to do just that but later rescinded the action.

Burleson rose to prominence

across the SBC for his critique—spread mainly through his online blog—of board policies he believes are unjustifiably tightening the parameters of who may be appointed as SBC missionaries, such as the IMB guideline that rejects candidates who practice a private prayer language, a variation of speaking in tongues.



Wade Burleson

In a blog post published shortly after the board announced his censure, Burleson said he would continue serving.

"The bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention state that I am elected by the Southern Baptist Convention," he wrote. "Though I had initially intended to cease blogging about IMB and SBC issues, I will now continue blogging for the indefinite future. My wife and I will pay for my own way to the trustee meetings, and I will be present and voting at all plenary and executive session board meetings."

The censure resolution said Burleson has violated the policies because he has "repeatedly used his blog to share private communications with fellow trustees with persons who are neither trustees nor senior (IMB) staff, in violation of the Trustee Standards of Conduct" and has also used his blog and other public forums to speak "in terms that are not positive and supportive of the board when interpreting and reporting on actions by the board."

The resolution also accused Burleson of speaking "in disparaging terms about fellow trustees," and said that Burleson declined to apologize for any of his violations of the new trustee rules except for speaking in a way about fellow trustees that they found disparaging.

In a telephone interview Nov. 7, Burleson confirmed that account.

However, he added that he continues to disagree with the policies prohibiting any public critique of

board actions and barring discussions of any private conversations with fellow board members.

"I voted against it on the basis they were stifling dissent. I have intentionally continued to dissent," he said. "That's the Baptist way, if I disagree. But I'll always be supportive of our mission and our cause. And so what they wanted me to apologize for is saying that the guidelines were leading to the narrowing of the doctrinal parameters in the SBC."

IMB trustee chairman John Floyd said he was saddened by the series of events.

"Wade Burleson has shared private conversations with fellow trustees on his blog and with others who are not trustees," Floyd said in a prepared statement. "He has spoken in disparaging terms of his fellow trustees and has persisted in public criticism of board policies for missionary qualifications, adopted by the board in 2005 and reaffirmed by the board in 2007, instead of supporting our policies or, if he has nothing good to say about them, simply remaining silent on the issue."

Critic accuses Burleson of slander

The action to censure Burleson was taken shortly after one of his most outspoken critics on the board sent fellow trustees a 153-page treatise accusing Burleson of what he called "gross and habitual sin."

Jerry Corbaley, an associational director of missions from California, is a supporter of the policies that Burleson has criticized.

He claimed Burleson was "an unrepentant slanderer and an unrepentant gossip. He continues to initiate slander and gossip."

Some of Burleson's supporters have asked whether Floyd or other IMB trustee leaders will recommend censuring Corbaley for violating the trustee conduct code which bans trustees from speaking disparagingly about fellow board members.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Ark. Baptists reject communion, baptism changes

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist News

Van Buren, Ark. (BP)—By a narrow margin, messengers to the Nov. 6-7 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting rejected a proposed change to its articles of incorporation about the practices of open communion and alien immersion.

The failed proposal would have eliminated the following statement: "The Baptist Faith and Message shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion."

The change needed a two-thirds majority vote at two consecutive conventions to pass. However, since only 63 percent (383 of 608 ballots) voted for the proposal, it failed, and the 225 messengers (37 percent) who opposed the amendment prevailed. The language was added to the articles of incorporation in the early 1970s.

In presenting the amendment from the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee, Greg Addison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cabot, offered three reasons to vote for the amendment: the definition of baptism, the autonomy of

the local church and "Arkansas Baptists understand the issues" and are ready to decide.

"Baptism is not a matter of heritage, history or denomination," Addison said. "Baptism is best and only defined by Scripture." He urged relying on the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message section and Scriptures on baptism without further interpretation.

Addison said Article III—where the language concerning open communion and alien immersion are found—and Article IV of the convention's articles of incorporation are in conflict with each other and "need to be changed to reflect how we operate as Arkansas Baptists."

"Article IV states very clearly that nothing in our constitution or our convention will ever interfere with your church," he said.

Van Harness, pastor of Westside Baptist Church of Greers Ferry, opposed the change.

"Open communion is a practice that many of us do not approve of, but it does not directly affect our churches," Harness said. "That's not the case with alien immersion."

"We all agree that a valid baptism is a prerequisite for church mem-

bership," he added. "When we receive someone into our church, we want to be sure they have had a valid baptism. ... Only congregations that teach a correct doctrine of salvation and have a correct practice of baptism can authorize and administer a valid baptism."

Bill Carter, director of missions for Garland County Baptist Association, offered a motion to refer the amendment back to committee for further study and asking them to consider dealing with the two issues separately.

A vote by raised ballots on Carter's motion was determined too close to call. A subsequent ballot vote failed with 39 percent affirmative and 61 percent opposed.

Rick Hyde, pastor of First Baptist Church of England, noted messengers to the 2007 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting "overwhelmingly decided the Baptist Faith & Message, without clarifications, is sufficient grounds for cooperation, and I would love for our state convention to do the same."

Following debate, the amendment failed to gain the necessary two-thirds majority vote.

Southern Baptist funds aid flood victims in Mexico

Nashville (BP)—Southern Baptists are responding to human needs in Mexico's southern state of Tabasco after thousands of people were driven from their homes in that region's worst-ever flooding.

Water stood as deep as six feet in some areas with 19 confirmed deaths after a week of non-stop heavy rain triggered a landslide that buried the community of San Juan de Grijalva in Chiapas state Nov. 5. Nine other Chiapas communities are isolated by another large landslide, according to the AFP news agency.

At least 20,000 people in Tabasco were either stranded or refusing to leave their flooded homes for fear of looters, local authorities said.

Southern Baptists will be supporting relief efforts conducted by local Baptist churches and the National Baptist Convention of Mexico since there are no Southern Baptist field personnel in the area, said Jim Brown, Americas area director for Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international development and relief organization.

An initial grant of \$5,000 from Southern Baptist relief funds has been released to Baptist congregations in Merida, located in southern Mexico's Yucatan state, reported David Brown, Southern Baptists' regional disaster relief coordinator. Those congregations are planning a relief convoy to Tabasco once roads become passable, and the funds will be used to assemble food packets. An additional \$5,000 has been released to the Mexican convention for a relief project in Tabasco being conducted by Baptist congregations nationwide.

Officials in Tabasco's capital, Villahermosa, reported Nov. 5 that floodwaters had begun to recede and drinking water had been restored in parts of the city, according to AFP. Schools had been authorized to reopen in areas of the city that are not under water. About half of Tabasco's 2.1 million people have been affected by the flooding.

In the Dominican Republic, hard hit in late October by Tropical Storm Noel, an initial grant of \$5,000 has been released to help provide food packets for families there, according to David Brown, who arrived on the island Nov. 6 as part of an assessment team. The funds will help the national Baptist convention in undertaking short- and long-term relief strategies.

Besides food packets, initial relief efforts may focus on providing bedding and some clothing. Because so many families lost their homes, a rebuilding initiative may be undertaken there as well.

"Wade Burleson has ... spoken in disparaging terms of his fellow trustees and has persisted in public criticism of board policies."

IMB trustee chairman John Floyd

"I have intentionally continued to dissent. That's the Baptist way, if I disagree."

IMB trustee Wade Burleson

Gaddis cites both 'bright future' and challenges for KBC

By Treennis Henderson
Editor

Corbin—For most Kentucky Baptist pastors, serving as state convention president likely would be the highlight of their year. Not so for Darren Gaddis.

While serving as Kentucky Baptist Convention president is on the short list of highlights for the 38-year-old pastor, he is quick to emphasize that the top spot is reserved for the birth of his daughter, Meredith, midway through his one-year presidency.

Noting that the birth of their third child "was not an anticipated thing" when he agreed to be nominated as KBC president, Gaddis emphasized that her arrival was "the highlight for me personally."

Gaddis and his wife, Jennifer, also are the parents of 7-year-old Leah and 4-year-old Ethan.

In addition to his responsibilities at home, Gaddis has served since 2002 as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin. A former KBC vice president, he also is a trustee for Southern Baptists' GuideStone Financial Resources, a member of the KBC's High Impact Advisory Team and is pursuing a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mackey affirms Gaddis' leadership

According to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, Gaddis "has a great reputation as a father and husband."

But Mackey acknowledged that "has probably been tested during this year that he has served as convention president due to his conscientious leadership style. His wife, Jennifer, will understand that it was just for one year but his children will just be glad to have their father back."

Noting that "being convention president in Kentucky is more demanding than in most state conven-

tion due to the fact that the convention officers also serve as officers of the Mission Board," Mackey pointed out, "Darren has done an excellent job of balancing all of his responsibilities at church and home with attending all of the committee meetings and presiding at the Mission Board meetings."

Reflecting on Gaddis' year as KBC president, Mackey emphasized that Gaddis "grew up as a Kentucky Baptist and has the best interest of the Kentucky Baptist Convention ministries and the fellowship of this great convention in his heart."

"Darren is one of Kentucky's strongest advocates for support of the Cooperative Program ministries and Kentucky Baptists Connect," Mackey added. "His support, along with that of former KBC President Paul Chitwood, with the Mission Board resulted in the record gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions and the best start ever for the current state missions offering."

From Gaddis' perspective, another highlight of his year was a two-week partnership mission trip to Brazil.

"It exemplified for me all that we are about as Kentucky Baptists," Gaddis reflected. "If it were not for partnership missions, I would have found it far harder to mobilize our church membership in fulfilling the Great Commission."

Citing this week's state convention theme of "Empowering Believers in Missions," Gaddis said, "What I hope to convey through this is how being involved in missions out there will actually impact evangelism locally as people get a vision for what God can do."

Volunteers involved in partnership missions "begin to see the mission field starts right outside our doors," he added. "I hope that will resonate in the hearts of our people at this convention—that we must become missionaries in this context."

While affirming that "I really believe the future of Kentucky Baptists is very bright," Gaddis cautioned that such resources as the recent Bar-na study on the unchurched in Kentucky and the Kentucky discipleship research project that will be presented at this week's annual meeting are "indications that we have not done what we needed to do" as Kentucky Baptist congregations.

"We've got to stop just being a conversion convention (and become) a discipling convention," he declared.

Describing the lack of effective discipleship and assimilation in many Kentucky Baptist churches as "the elephant in the room," Gaddis expressed concern that "unregenerate membership typifies churches across the state."

"We've got to rethink what it means to be a Christian, to be a disciple and to help churches develop a process of moving people from being unchurched and disconnected from the Lord to choosing Christ and a deeper relationship with the Lord," he insisted. "Our assimilation rate is proving that point."

A call for integrity

Lamenting churches' "swelled-up membership rolls that are huge compared to the actual number of Kentucky Baptists in the pews on Sunday mornings," the KBC president didn't mince words. "I think it's an integrity problem, honestly, that we've got to address."

The key, Gaddis added, is helping church members gain "a complete understanding of the Great Commission. ... The main thrust of the Great Commission is not going, but making disciples."

"I think we value, at times, the wrong things," he explained. "We're looking for measures of success. We look to Sunday school attendance and baptisms. Though those are important, that does not completely re-



fect the health of our churches. I'm hoping we can find another way to mark the assimilation and spiritual growth of our people."

Acknowledging that finding an effective solution is "a can of worms," Gaddis said, "We don't hold people accountable to their church membership once they come in. We as Kentucky Baptists don't value retention. ... We think being on a roll of a Baptist church is equivalent to the Lamb's Book of Life. We've got to rethink those old paradigms."

Amid the challenges, Gaddis cited the KBC's five-year Kentucky Baptists Connect ministry strategy and "pastors who are passionate about the Cooperative Program" as bright spots in the convention's future.

"I think the greatest challenge we face is retaining our unity and cooperative mindset," he said. "We have to avoid our past of infighting. We need to remain vigilant and hold onto the value of unity we have behind Scripture and missions and our partnership as churches in our convention. If we do not remain vigilant, we could lose it."

Looking to the future, he added, "We have some of our greatest days ahead of us as long as we remain on task and focus on our strengths."

PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

KBC President Darren Gaddis speaks earlier this year during University of the Cumberlands' fall convocation.

Larry Koch, 'face of disaster relief' in Kentucky, announces retirement

By Erin Roach
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Larry Koch, who for nearly two decades has been the chief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief efforts, has announced plans to retire in January.

Koch was the state volunteer coordinator from 1989 until 1997 when he accepted a full-time position on the KBC staff as disaster relief director. He has led teams to some of the most high-profile disasters in recent history, including the World Trade Center attacks, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Andrew.

In 2004, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board gave Koch the Robert E. Dixon Award, an honor for "a lifetime of service that helped shape the course of Southern Baptist disaster relief."

"He has been the face of disaster relief for probably 15 to 20 years in Kentucky," said Randy Foster, director of the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department. "Much of the growth that has occurred has been because of his leadership."

Before coming to the KBC, Koch was a pastor for 32 years in Princeton, Ind.; Salvisa Baptist Church in Mercer County; and Lowell Avenue Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

Randy Jones, leader of the KBC's missions growth team, said Koch has been instrumental in developing a strong network of people and resources across Kentucky to respond quickly to disasters.

"He has given leadership to the local associations as they have either purchased or built a lot of their own equipment and helped with training in the use of that equipment," Jones said. "When there is a natural disaster, he has the kind of relationships where he can call up those units and they share those pieces of equipment."

Koch has spent much of his time training new disaster relief volunteers, including about 4,000 since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005. Kentucky's disaster relief database now includes more than 7,000 trained volunteers, Jones said.

"He needs to be commended for keeping a good, strong pool of volunteers because you can't just wait around for something to happen and then say, 'Oh, by the way, we need you to go,'" Jones said. "He has helped build that whole infrastructure with equipment, training and developing strategies so that when we are called up, we can respond rather quickly

and effectively."

When terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in 2001, Koch and a team of disaster relief workers from Kentucky arrived in the New York City area Sept. 13.

"We were at Edison, N.J., and we staged there. We had to stage for four days while they were trying to find a place big enough for us to set up our kitchen," Koch said. "Then we set up and began ministering under the Brooklyn Bridge. While we were there, one of our volunteers went out and led six people to Jesus on the streets of New York City."

"Then we moved over to the Floyd Bennett Air Field, and while over there one of our volunteers was able to lead a New York City police lady to faith in Jesus, and that was one of the highlights," he added. "She made a very significant statement the next year when she gave her testimony to us the next year at our Baptist Men's convention. She said, 'When I became a New York City police officer, I was sworn in as a police officer. When I came to know Jesus, I was sworn in to Jesus.' That was very meaningful to me."

When Hurricane Katrina hit, Koch and his wife, Elaine, left home Aug. 29 and



Larry Koch

didn't return until the day after Thanksgiving. During that time, they also provided relief to those affected by Hurricane Wilma in Miami, Fla.

"We sent two kitchens in immediately. Each kitchen carried 20,000 meals with it to begin the ministry," Koch recounted. "We eventually called in a third kitchen, and Kentucky Baptists prepared 795,000 meals during Katrina relief."

Despite his retirement as state coordinator, Koch said he plans to continue participating in disaster relief efforts.

"I'll do a lot of volunteer work about like I was doing beforehand," said Koch, a member Parkland Hills Baptist Church in Spencer County. "We'll probably do some volunteer work in other areas through Kentucky Changers. If the Lord opens the doors and provides the financing, we'd like to do some overseas mission trips and things like that."

Koch also will spend some time training his successor, Coy Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church in Monticello.

"God is so good," Koch said. "This job is bigger than me and bigger than anybody, and without Him it would not be possible. The volunteers, through the leadership of the Lord and their commitment, are what make this job go."

WESTERNRECORDER

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
(USPS 679-380)

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DREW NICHTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 489-3422, toll-free (866) 489-3422 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters from subscribers on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 489-3428. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors:
Chairman **Linda Polley**,
Elizabethtown;
Vice Chairman **Floyd Price**,
London;
Skip Alexander,
Campbellsville;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
David Harmon-Vaught,
Louisville;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling
Green;
Bill Marshall, Louisville;
Bill Thurman, Lexington;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

'Liberal' Peace Prize

A letter in the Oct. 30 issue of the Western Recorder, titled "Caring for creation," highlighted Al Gore's having received the Nobel Peace Prize and asked why there was no reaction on these pages.

I have to differ with the writer. Instead of this award being "internationally coveted," the Nobel Peace Prize is much more a "Man of the Year" award for world liberalism.

Recent winners have tended to have exacerbated conflicts, not bring peace, and the award committee has studiously and loudly ignored the man most responsible for ending the main threat to world peace during the second half of the 20th century, President Ronald Reagan. Without his influence, we would still be going to bed every night with the armed might of the Soviet Union aimed at our nation and her allies. Ironically, the "Peace" Prize was awarded to the last man with a chance to continue the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The writer then goes on to state that our mountains, rivers and air in Kentucky have been "destroyed." If the writer wished to actually see such destroyed resources, he would do well to tour the former Soviet states, with smoky air and landscapes where a person or animal dare not walk for fear of receiving a lethal dose of radiation. He might

even go see what's left of the Aral Sea before it completely disappears.

I am glad to see that there are more trees in the U.S.A. than ever before in her history and that we are making continued progress in cleaning up the environment. Were the Western Recorder a publication designed for pseudo-science or political activism, I am sure we would have "enjoyed" front-page coverage of oil investor and zinc miner Gore's public relations coup.

Steve Austin
Hopkinsville



Words of advice

I have been concerned for some time, especially after reaching retirement age and serving several interim pastors, about interims becoming pastors. This seldom works out good for the churches. I think it should be understood from the beginning that the interim is not available to become the pastor and stick to it.

It also seems that many search committees don't know what to do and what to ask prospective pastors. I recently was asked by a friend who is serving on a search committee what should be asked when interviewing a prospective pastor. I sent the following reply:

■ Study 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. (Note: Bishops, elders and pastors are the same.)

■ Ask about his born-again experience, scriptural baptism and call to preach.

■ Ask about his personal daily devotional time.

■ Ask about his family's commitment to Christ, the church and his ministry.

■ Ask about his priorities (Biblical: 1. God; 2. Family; 3. Ministry; 4. Church; 5. All other activities).

■ Ask if he believes the Bible is inerrant. (The original manuscripts were perfect.)

■ Ask if he accepts the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith & Message.

■ Ask if he believes in and supports missions through the Cooperative Program.

■ Ask what he thinks about church music, preaching and Sunday school.

■ Ask what his plan is in leading the church to fulfill the Great Commission.

■ Ask for a brief history of his ministry in other churches.

■ Ask how he invests his time with all of his responsibilities.

■ Ask how he sees his relation to deacons, staff, church-elected leaders and members.

■ Ask him to share how he would lead an individual who desires salvation to accept Christ.

■ Ask anything else you feel has not been covered and that the Holy Spirit impresses upon you.

Aubert Rose
Benton

Making Christ's churches houses of prayer

By Frank Page

Taylor, S.C. (BP)—During this year's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, I was part of a breakout session led by T.W. Hunt. This dear man of God has spent years seeking the face of God and teaching God's people about prayer.

Hunt called for God's people to get serious about prayer. He encouraged us to have a prayer focus, to bring our convention to a God-

centeredness. He spoke eloquently about essential qualities in the God-head.

He wants us to see the otherness of God and see that accomplished in our churches, institutions and in our convention. In other words, we are to follow the principle of our Lord Jesus who was constantly putting the needs of others before Himself. If we did so, imagine what our convention would be like.

COMMENTARY

Evaluating Kentucky Baptist baptism trends

In the research report, "Baptism Trends: An In-depth Analysis of Baptisms in Kentucky Churches from 1980-2003," by the Rainer Group, it was reported that annual baptisms for ages birth to 24 declined by 26.2 percent (4,202 people).

"We believe that the key issue in increasing baptisms in Kentucky Baptist churches is a greater and more intentional focus on reaching young persons," the report said. "The work of Rainer Research indicates that 81 percent of Americans who accept Christ do so before the age of 20. Even more noteworthy is that 75 percent of those who accept Christ do so before the age of 15."

If you compare the baptisms with the population for ages 9 to 17, the decline from 1980 to 2003 was a dramatic 38 percent. Kentucky Baptist churches are reaching fewer and fewer of those in America's most receptive group.

Key points from the research included:

■ Churches must be intention-

al about evangelizing young people. Many churches have focused on ministries that do not have a specific evangelistic influence.

■ Vacation Bible school continues to be one of the most effective means of evangelizing young people. In Kentucky in 2006, 767 churches did not report having conducted a VBS, which is 30 percent of the churches in the recent study. According to KBC and LifeWay records, White's Run Baptist Association was the only association with every church reporting a VBS. Among other associations, Allen, Casey, Central, Monroe and Ten Mile had only one church each not reporting a VBS. In two associations, more than 45 percent of the churches did not report a VBS.

■ Many church leaders avoid evangelism with this age group over concerns about true conversion. That should not prevent a church from utilizing the best approaches that are scripturally sound and with discipleship follow-up.

Instead of pushing our own agendas, what would happen if we saw others as more important than ourselves?

Hunt's call for the quality of humility is one of great need. Imagine what would happen if we quit speaking negatively of one another, but affirmed others constantly.

This call to prayer echoes what I have been saying over these past months. Jesus wanted His churches to be called "houses of prayer." Let us not disappoint our Lord.

Frank Page is president of the Southern Baptist Convention

■ Sunday school historically has been one of the most effective means of reaching young people for Christ, and I believe Sunday school deserves special emphasis for evangelistic outreach and assimilation/discipleship.

■ The research showed that "pastors are becoming less evangelistic personally. This lack of evangelistic leadership impacts all age groups, but especially the very receptive age group of young persons."

I know many pastors and churches who are doing an excellent job. The Kentucky Baptist Convention staff will be offering special assistance with VBS and outreach efforts with young people.

The Rainer report concludes that an increase in baptisms will require more people sharing the gospel with the best approaches accompanied by passionate soul winning and a broken heart for lost people. I pray that God will bring Kentucky Baptists together in a Spirit-led, intentional commitment to help connect all Kentuckians to Jesus Christ, especially the receptive young people.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Money isn't the answer to finding marital happiness

By Jeremy White

Divorced couples have revealed that money is one of the main reasons for divorce. It's not just a lack of money because many affluent couples have struggles and tension about money. I'm reminded of an interview:

Reporter: "So you are 100 years old. How did you manage to live so long?"

Elderly man: "Well, son, I got married when I was 21. The wife and I decided that if we had arguments, the loser would take a long walk to get over being mad. I suppose I have benefited most by 79 years of fresh air and exercise."

Arguments about money, not sex or household chores, are what couples between the ages of 18 and 40 fight over the most, according to a recent survey. In fact, money is such a troublesome issue that 82 percent of survey respondents say they have hidden purchases from their spouse.

God is more interested in the couple's relationship than the "correct" way to manage money and give. God doesn't need the money. He owns it all. In a marriage, it's not a matter of who's right, but submitting to one another in love.

The Bible has a lot to say about the marriage relationship. Marriage was God's idea from the beginning. He knows what works best for us. In His creativity—or perhaps it was His sense of humor—He made men and women uniquely. Bookstore shelves are full of "how-to" books from popular psychologists and other communication gurus. While they may have some good advice to offer, nothing beats the Bible:

■ Proverbs 17:1, "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet, than a house full of feasting with strife."

■ Proverbs 17:14, "Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out."

■ James 1:20, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

■ Colossians 4:6, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Such truth; such wisdom. If we practice what James says, then we will do pretty well with communicating about money. There's not much more I can add. Read it and do it—with God's strength.

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



Practice & promote thankful attitude as model for teens

Q: As we approach Thanksgiving, I'm concerned that my teenager seems to take everything for granted and truly seems thankful for nothing. Are some people "thanksgiving challenged?"

The real question is whether or not we have the choice to be thankful. Over and over the Bible enjoins us to "give thanks," not to "feel thanks." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 even tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances," so thanksgiving is not limited to good times.

PARENTING

While I am not suggesting that you are doing these things, let me remind you of some parental behaviors that may contribute to teens living thanklessly:

- Shopping almost daily for non-essentials.
- Modeling minimal giving to the church.
- Striving to provide a son or daughter with a car, cell phone and expensive designer clothes and accessories without requiring sacrifice from the teen.
- Requiring nothing at home in terms of personal chores and work that contribute to the household.
- Constant complaining about work, church, sports or relationships.
- Attributing relational, physical and financial blessings solely to hard work and personal attributes instead of to God.
- Encouraging upward comparisons and envy through building relationships only with others at or above your level of personal wealth.
- Prayer that focuses only on petition and intercession and never on praise and specifics of gratitude.

Perhaps a great exercise for all of us would be to take our teens on a regular drive through the poorest neighborhoods in town. Maybe the teens who live in a poor neighborhood could be taken for a regular visit to a hospital or nursing home. The point should be made clear: Since we are all prone to compare, we should compare ourselves with those who have less.—Scott Wigginton

Q: My daughter is planning to be married this spring. What are some good books to recommend to her and her fiancé?

Some books and authors you might consider include:

- "Boundaries in Marriage" by Henry Cloud and John Townsend.
- "The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman.
- "Why Marriages Succeed or Fail" by John Gottman.
- "His Needs, Her Needs" by Willard Harley Jr.
- "Love, Sex and Lasting Relationships" by Chip Ingram.
- "The Book of Romance" by Tommy Nelson.
- "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts" by Les and Leslie Parrott.
- "A Celebration of Sex" by Doug Rosenau.
- "The Complete Marriage Book" by David and Jan Stoop.
- "Sacred Marriage" by Gary Thomas.
- "Intended for Pleasure" by Ed Wheat.

Additional authors to consider include Gary Smalley, Greg Smalley, Scott Stanley and H. Norman Wright

There are numerous books and programs available on marriage. Some provide general education. Others focus on a specific area of the marital relationship. Some resources have quizzes within the text the couple can use to promote dialogue.

In addition to books, there are marriage preparation courses. Some courses are based on books and some have been developed based on an assessment tool such as FOCUS or Prepare/Enrich. Most resources are available online as well as in local bookstores.—Valerie Vincent

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 pastoral 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.



KBC resources address abortion, gambling

The exhibit hall typically is a popular place for messengers and guests to browse, fellowship and pick up "freebies" during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

This week, in addition to the traditional candy, pens and brochures, a significant pair of resources will be available at the KBC Committee on Public Affairs booth.

Geared primarily to pastors, the Preaching Values Kits are being offered as resources "to aid in preaching on issues related to gambling and the sanctity of human life," according to promotional material mailed to Kentucky Baptist pastors.

"In this day of moral ambiguity in our culture, it's more important than ever for churches to teach what God has to say about the important issues of our time," the material emphasizes, adding that the kits "are full of helpful information, including fact sheets, sample sermons and sermon outlines, sermon illustrations and more." The anti-gambling kit also includes a DVD that can be used to help educate congregations on the issue.

The kit addressing gambling, titled "Damaged Lives: Gambling Is No Game," highlights Jesus' words in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

In a list of frequently asked questions, a fact sheet points out that gambling "elevates materialistic gain to a dominant place in a person's life" (1 Timothy 6:10, Luke 12:15); "encourages gain at the expense of our 'neighbors'" (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:28-34); "discourages a proper work ethic" (Exodus 20:9, Ephesians 4:28); and "hurts our Christian witness to others" (Acts 10:38, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33).

The "Sanctity of Life" resource kit cites the familiar words of Psalm 139:14, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

A cover letter notes that the kit features a variety of resources about issues related to the sanctity of life, "including abortion, aging, euthanasia, stem cell research and suicide." It also includes information about alternatives to abortion as well as a list of Kentucky pregnancy counseling organizations.

Both moral issues are subjects that Kentucky Baptists repeatedly have addressed in recent years. During last year's annual meeting, the KBC Committee on Resolutions presented proposed resolutions on both topics.

Noting that "gambling violates a number of biblical principles," the proposal opposing expanded gambling called on "all of our churches to find ways to educate their congregations regarding the dangers of gambling." It also urged the governor and members of the Kentucky General Assembly to "join with Kentucky citizens in finding ways to strengthen our state's economy on sound principles of creative and innovative industrial, educational and technological developments rather than on the false hopes of gambling."

A proposed resolution on abortion and embryonic stem cell research affirmed that "the Bible teaches the sacredness of human life." It urged Kentucky Baptists "to affirm the biblical respect for life by caring for every human person from conception to the grave."

Although the lack of a quorum prevented messengers from officially adopting last year's committee report, the proposals are similar to other resolutions adopted in previous years. This year's Committee on Resolutions also is expected to submit a similar anti-gambling resolution during this week's annual meeting.

The sanctity of human life and opposition to expanded gambling have been major causes in Kentucky Baptist life for many years. With the new Preaching Values Kits available this week, pastors across the state can help educate and encourage their congregations on these key issues.

Celebrating the 'increase' as fellow laborers

By Bob Terry

In 1 Corinthians 3:6, the Apostle Paul makes his point in pithy terms. He declares, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." Dependence on God is absolutely necessary, the apostle points out. Trust in one's own labors is pure folly. God is the One who creates and preserves. He also is the One who causes human efforts to prosper or fail.

But Paul does not discount the value of his work nor the work of Apollos. Rather he acknowledges that God uses people to prepare the spiritual soil, to plant gospel seeds, to cultivate the fields through nurturing relationships, to harvest the crops through evangelism, to preserve the bounty in discipleship. Each effort is important.

The Scripture passage recognizes that God chooses to partner with His people. God expects laborers and labor in His spiritual fields and in every endeavor of life. He also expects the laborers to acknowledge their dependence on Him for the ultimate success.

This biblical principle is exemplified in the earliest annual feasts the children of Israel were instructed to observe in Exodus 23. In the Feast of Harvest and the Feast of Ingathering, the Israelites were to celebrate the increase that God gave in the harvest. This was done through offerings and thanksgiving.

But offerings and thanksgiving were no substitute for work in the

fields throughout the long growing season. The Israelites were expected to do their best through each step of the growing process and to trust God to give the increase.

Numerous biblical passages describe these annual celebrations as times of "gladness" as well as times of remembering the great acts of God. The feast celebrations were corporate acts—times when the whole community remembered the blessings of God and offered Him praise and thanksgiving.

No longer do Baptists celebrate the feast days of the Old Testament, but we do carry on the tradition of celebrating the increase that God gives. We do this in annual homecomings of local churches, in significant anniversaries, in annual associational meetings and the yearly gathering of the state convention.

A favorite activity at homecoming and anniversary celebrations is to remember those who worked in God's fields. We recall the faithfulness of brothers and sisters of faith whom God used to bless us and to bless others. Praise and thanksgiving are raised to God for honoring such faithfulness and for the increases evidenced in His church and in the lives of His children.

Associational meetings provide additional opportunities for celebrating the increase that God gives. Churches frequently report victories in the Lord's service experienced during the past year. At its core, the annual associational meeting is a

celebration of the increase God gives in a local area.

The annual meeting of the state convention also carries on the tradition of celebrating the increase God provides.

Frequently the annual meeting is described as a business meeting filled with reports, motions and debates. That hardly seems like a celebration to many Baptists.

Consider that reports from entities are simply sharing how the Lord's work is going in the part of the field assigned to those particular laborers. Convention messengers hear about the faithfulness of the laborers, about obstacles encountered, about victories won, about the increase God gives. Reports provide the stimulus for praising God and offering Him praise and thanksgiving for particular victories and increases in certain parts of the field.

And like the feast days of the Old Testament, homecomings, church anniversaries, associational meetings and the annual state convention are both corporate and personal in their impact. They are corporate celebrations because they remind us that each individual, each church belongs to a larger family of Baptists. They are private and personal experiences because individuals meet God for themselves in their praise and thanksgiving.

Baptists may not celebrate the old feast days any longer, but we do continue their traditions. We are partners with God as laborers in His fields, and we celebrate the increase that only God can give.

Bob Terry is editor of the Alabama Baptist

2007 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

SPRING REPORT KBC MISSION BOARD:

Blood River (Region 1): 2007 Unexpired Term - DeWayne Chadwick (Murray)
Boones Creek (Region 6): 2009 Unexpired Term - Art Beasley (Winchester)
Crittenden (Region 5): 2007 Unexpired Term - Bill Page (Crittenden)
Lincoln County (Region 7): 2008 Unexpired Term - Jerry Bailey (Stanford)
McCreary County (Region 7): 2007 Unexpired Term - Ron Davis (Whitley City)
Northern KY (Region 5): 2008 Unexpired Term - Jerry Hurley (Walton)
Red River (Region 8): 2009 Unexpired Term - Rebecca Townsend (Stanton)
West Kentucky (Region 1): 2007 Unexpired Term - Ben Stratton (Hickman)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)
 2008 Unexpired Terms (2): James A. Harley (Harrodsburg); Robert Drexler (Louisville)

FALL REPORT KBC MISSION BOARD:

At Large (Region 4): 2010 term - Kevin Smith (Louisville)
At Large (Region 5): 2010 term - Rick Robbins (Erlanger)
At Large (Region 6): 2010 term - Harold Best (Danville)
Allen (Region 7): 2010 term - Michael Johns (Scottsville)
Anderson (Region 6): 2010 term - Fred Knickerbocker (Lawrenceburg)
Blackford (Region 3): 2010 term - Tony Rodgers (Hawesville)
Blood River (Region 1): 2010 term - DeWayne Chadwick (Murray)
Boone's Creek (Region 6): 2010 term - Cecil Morgan (Irvine)
Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1): 2010 term - Delton Beall (Princeton)
Casey County (Region 7): 2010 term - Noel Dodson (Somerset)
Central (Region 7): 2010 term - Micah Carter (Mackville)
Christian County (Region 2): 2010 term - Keith Sanderson (Hopkinsville)
Crittenden (Region 5): 2010 term - Bill Page (Crittenden)
Daviess/McLean (Region 2): 2010 term - Thomas Pelphrey (Owensboro)
Daviess/McLean (Region 2): 2010 term - James Wedding (Owensboro)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2010 term - Paul Sisk (Lexington)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2010 term - Alex Kinchen (Lexington)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2010 term - Steve Sholar (Nicholasville)
Franklin (Region 5): 2010 term - Luke Hutcherson (Frankfort)
Grayson County (Region 3): 2010 term - Larry Harder (Leitchfield)
Green Valley (Region 2): 2010 term - Violet Hardison (Sebree)
Green Valley (Region 2): 2008 unx term - Doug Hamblin (Henderson)
Greenup (Region 8): 2010 term - Floyd Paris (Ashland)
Greenup (Region 8): 2009 unx term - Mike Blankenship (Cattlettsburg)
Knox (Region 8): 2010 term - Shane Nickell (Barbourville)
Laurel River (Region 8): 2010 term - David Taylor (London)
Liberty (Region 7): 2008 unx term - Randy Shaw (Glasgow)
Lincoln County (Region 7): 2010 term - Ben Curtis (Stanford)
Little Bethel (Region 2): 2010 term - Randall Rogers (Dawson Springs)
Logan Todd (Region 3): 2010 term - Jeff Noffsinger (Olmstead)
Long Run (Region 4): 2010 term - Charles Davis (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2010 term - T.J. Francis (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2010 term - Benny Phelps (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2010 term - Chip Pendleton (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2010 term - Barry Joslin (Louisville)
McCreary County (Region 7): 2010 term - M.A. Winchester (Stearns)
Monroe (Region 7): 2010 term - Larry Lowe (Glasgow)
Nelson (Region 3): 2010 term - Ann Stout (Mt. Washington)
Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2008 unx term - Glenn Chasteen (Butler)
Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2010 term - Pat Burkhart (Edgewood)
Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2010 term - Lee McNeely (Burlington)
Ohio County (Region 2): 2010 term - Gary Hines (Cromwell)
Oldham-Trimble (Region 5): 2010 term - Bradford Laubinger (Pendleton)
Owen County (Region 5): 2010 term - Bob Cull (Owenton)
Pulaski (Region 7): 2010 term - Michael Stacey (Somerset)
Russell County (Region 7): 2009 unx term - Phil Ellis (Jamestown)

Russell Creek (Region 7): 2009 unx term - Randall Rogers (Greensburg)
Severns Valley (Region 3): 2010 term - Chris Burton (Vine Grove)
Severns Valley (Region 3): 2010 term - Arnold Moon (Clarkson)
S. Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7): 2010 term - Jeff Crabtree (Corbin)
Tates Creek (Region 6): 2010 term - James "Butch" Tanner (Richmond)
Taylor County (Region 7): 2010 term - George Phillips (Campbellsville)
Three Forks (Region 8): 2010 term - John Williams (Whitesburg)
Warren (Region 3): 2010 term - Jerry Oakley (Bowling Green)
Warren (Region 3): 2010 term - Tom James (Bowling Green)
West Kentucky (Region 1): 2010 term - Ben Stratton (Hickman)
West Union (Region 1): 2010 term - Bettie Wright (Barlow)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Campbellsville University (Trustees)
 2011 Terms (11): John Russell Ball (Lancaster); Ivan Bennett (Russell Springs); Kenny Bennett (Campbellsville); Anna Mary Byrdwell (Louisville); Lawrence Hall (Elizabethtown); Bruce E. Heilman (Richmond, Va.); Leslie D. Hollon (Louisville); Mildred Newton (Murray); Paul Osborne (Campbellsville); Joseph L. Owens (Lexington); Mike Pope (Somerset)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)

2008 Unexpired Terms (2): Kathy Lefevers (Stoney Fork); Jay Walker (Middlesboro); 2010 Unexpired Terms (3): Julia Blocker (Shawnee, Tenn.); Ken Felty (London); John Moore (Arthur, Tenn.); 2011 Terms (8): Ken Clendaniel (Middlesboro); Kenneth Dick (Monticello); Craig Garland (Harlan); Rob Ison (Marion); John Locke (Louisville); Carl Rice (Manchester); Dale Rose (Monticello); Denny Vincent (Bremen)

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)

2008 Unexpired Term: Don Wilson (Benton); 2009 Unexpired Term: Lars Blythe (Paducah); 2010 Unexpired term: Kevin Pugh (Paducah); 2011 Terms (3): Duane Curry (Morgantown); Larry Housman (Paducah); Tim Jarm (Louisville);

Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)

2010 Terms (4): Dennis Brewer (Richmond); Cody Cowell (Sturgis); Greg Moore (Newport); Billy Perkins (Frankfort)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)

2011 Terms (4): Charles Barnes (Louisville); Travis Lee Cochran (Crestwood); Leigh A. Jones (Berea); Roy H. Keith (Elizabethtown)

Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)

2009 Unexpired Term: Fred Rogers (Manchester); 2011 Terms (6): Jeanie Haley (Elkton); Ken Hinton (Maysville); Pat Key (Central City); Dennis Raisor (Carrollton); Don Robinson (Corbin); Tim Zimmerman (Somerset)

Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)

2010 Unexpired Term: Debra Lambert (Mt. Vernon); 2011 Terms (6): Bethann Ayers (Bowling Green); Armon Henry Fetter III (Louisville); Terry Wilder (Burlington); Scott Lawless (Somerset); Stan Spees (Paducah); Larry Yonts (Greenville)

University of the Cumberland (Trustees)

2011 Terms (7): Charles Bruce Boggs II (Middlesboro); Maurice S. Byrd (Atlanta, Ga.); Oliver Keith Gannon (Mt. Sterling); Georgetta H. Gannon (Mt. Sterling); H. Ray Hammons (Louisville); J. Charles Smiddy (Knoxville, Tenn.); Lonnie D. Walden (Williamsburg)

Western Recorder (Directors)

2008 Unexpired Term: June Rice (Hager Hill); 2011 Terms (3): Dan Francis (Erlanger); Willis Polk (Lexington); Wayne Spivey (Cynthiana)

Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Hershael York (Chairperson), Adam Greenway (Vice-Chairperson), Herb Booth, Ken Brown, James Castlen, Johnnie Davis, Kevin Denton, Al Gisler, Don Mathis, Ronnie Mayes, Kevin Milburn, Carl Nelson, David Nelson, Jeff Pennington, David Prince, Nick Sandefur, Marty Shadoan, Garnetta Smith, George Smith, Nathan Whisnant, Doug Williams, Gene Wright and Bob Young.

Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Darren Gaddis

2007 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

◆ **Committee on Arrangements** - 2008 Unexpired Term - Jim Doyle (Bowling Green); 2010 Terms - Dennis Brewer (Richmond) and Mac Walls (Grand Rivers)

◆ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws** - 2010 Terms - Sarah Hancock York (Lancaster), Brandon Porter (Smith's Grove) and Ronny Raines (Cold Spring)

◆ **Committee on Credentials** - 2010 Terms - Michelle Chitwood (Mt. Washington), T. A. Prickett (Owensboro) and Mike O'Neal (Louisville)

◆ **Committee on Nominations** - 2009 Terms unless noted otherwise:
Region 1: Mike Rust (Cadiz) and Carolyn Anderson (Paducah)

Region 2: Chris Holmes (Owensboro)
Region 3: Tom James (Bowling Green) and Richard Oldham (Bowling Green)
Region 4: Jammie Vance (Shepherdsville)
Region 5: Randy Coleman (Cold Spring) and Will Langford (Independence)
Region 6: Allen Harrod (Nicholasville)
Region 7: Millie Rose (Monticello)
Region 8: Donnie Patrick (Paintsville) and Ken Felty (East Bernstadt); and 2008 Unexpired Term: Ronnie Mayes (Ashland)

◆ **Committee on Order of Business** - 2008 Unexpired Term - Kenneth Chyle (Rockfield); 2010 Terms - Rusty Ellison (Louisville) and Skip Alexander (Campbellsville)

◆ **Committee on Public Affairs** - 2010 Terms - Bob Litton (Frankfort), J. Frank Baugh (Lexington) and Butch Kiger (Ashland)

◆ **Committee on Resolutions** - 2009 Terms - Ben Stratton (Hickman) and C. Wyman Copass (Franklin)

Persons to Report - 2008

◆ **Cooperative Program** - Tim Burdon (Marion); Alternate - Floyd Paris (Ashland)

◆ **International Mission Board** - Chuck Lawless (Louisville); Alternate - Steve Hill (Elizabethtown)

◆ **North American Mission Board** - Larry Koch (Louisville); Alternate - Bill Wright (Williamsburg)

◆ **Obituaries** - Laverne Butler (Lexington); Alternate - John Dunaway (Henderson)

Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: Harold Cathey (Chairperson), Alice Lynn Kerr (Vice-Chairperson), Ed Erwin, John Dunaway, Rick Reeder, Rose Rexroat, John Mark Toby, Kevin Smith and David Daugherty
Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Darren Gaddis

Television proves to be effective ministry for Ky. churches

Continued from page 1

ing. Because of that, Immanuel and Walnut Street have made adjustments—many of them quite subtle—to their services in order to accommodate the television audience.

For example, each congregation holds its offering time at the end of the service, usually once the telecast has ended. For televised churches, this can be seen as a down time in the service. And as David Probus, director of I-Tech ministries at Immanuel, pointed out, "We constantly want to have something on the air."

"Any second that we're not producing something on the air is a second for someone to change the channel," he explained.

"Up close and personal"

The changes have been more obvious at Walnut Street. The church, which employs a blend of traditional and contemporary music styles in its worship services, also has a predominantly older TV viewership. Ellison noted that audience "does not particularly enjoy the praise music; they were raised with the old hymns."

In an effort to appeal directly to that audience, Ellison pre-records a seven-minute segment each week that is run during Walnut Street's contemporary music set. Ellison said he considers that spot the church's "effort to get up close and very personal with our television viewers and strengthen that sense of con-

nection and relationship."

For those in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, Ellison noted there is a bit of a downside to the telecast, in that some attenders may feel apprehensive about responding during the invitation.

"We do believe that the presence of cameras inhibits movement and response at the conclusion of the service," Ellison said.

He added that the ideal scenario is for the invitation time to occur after the broadcast has ended. "That's the target, but understand, it's live and I'm a preacher," Ellison remarked. "First and foremost, I'm concerned with what's going on in that sanctuary. ... Concluding at precisely the right moment, it's hard to do."

On the other hand, Hopper said he is not about to start making drastic changes to the worship service at First Baptist, Bowling Green, for the benefit of the TV audience.

"We intentionally do not plan any of our worship service geared toward the television audience," Hopper said. "Our philosophy is we're going to do worship like we would if there were no television cameras here."

That's not to say that Hopper has completely ignored the viewers at home. In his first couple of years at the church, Hopper said he would often continue preaching well after the broadcast had ended. That would elicit a flood of phone calls on

Monday morning, asking him how the message ended.

"I guess I was pretty slow to learn ... that would be frustrating for people," Hopper noted.

These days, Hopper gauges his time with lights in the balcony that indicate when he has five minutes and one minute left to preach.

Regardless of how the services appear on the air, producing a live broadcast can be hectic business.

Heading off technical glitches

According to Probus, as many as 15 people make up the crew each Sunday for Immanuel's live worship telecasts. And he pointed out that all of the technical glitches that can happen with any live broadcast can happen at Immanuel.

One way that Probus and his crew prepare for the telecast is by watching Immanuel's 9 a.m. service. He and others take detailed notes each Sunday to head off potential problems for the televised service.

"It helps us to better grasp what's going on ... to make sure that's what we're going to do" in the televised service, he explained.

Despite the chaos that may ensue during a live broadcast, each pastor maintains that the television ministry is not merely a promotional vehicle for their church. Rather, it is a ministry tool that allows each congregation to seek to meet the spiritual needs of their communities.

"It's not about a personality. It's

not about me," Hopper said. "It is about sharing the good news with people ... who have some deep spiritual needs. It's really one of the most significant things our church does."

Loscalzo said that Immanuel uses the television ministry as a way for those in Lexington who cannot make it to church to feel like they are a part of one. Also, he pointed out, it allows for younger adults to check out Immanuel without the pressure of doing so in person.

"When you have a TV ministry, people can anonymously decide whether they want to even bother seeing what you have to offer," Loscalzo said.

But, he added, the live services do not replace Immanuel's personal community outreach. "I don't think that the evangelistic results of the television ministry are as great as what I would call the good will that happens in the community from a church getting their name out," Loscalzo noted.

And as Walnut Street celebrates its 40th year on the air in Louisville, Ellison recognizes that the gratitude for the church's successful media ministry is reserved for only One.

"God has blessed us with the capacity to stay on the air for 40 years," Ellison declared. The television ministry "reminds (Louisville) and southern Indiana that Walnut Street is still a viable entity ministering in the heart of the city. That, to me, is the benefit."

"God has blessed us with the capacity to stay on the air for 40 years."

Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville

FULL College Tuition, Room and Board!
Academically qualified students urged to apply.

Parks Baptist Scholars Program

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE

The Parks Baptist Scholarship, offering full tuition, room and board, is the most prestigious scholarship that is offered by Georgetown College.

Established in 1994 to pay tribute to former trustee Dr. Paul Parks '43 and his late wife, Phyllis, the Parks Baptist Scholarship recognizes highly qualified Baptist students who pursue an undergraduate degree at Georgetown College in preparation for lifelong learning, teaching, and Christian service.

Application deadline is February 1, 2008.



GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

Live. Learn. Believe.

For more information, or to receive an application for the
Fall 2008 Parks Baptist Scholars Program, contact:

Office of Admissions • 400 East College Street • Georgetown, KY 40324 • (800) 788-9985

www.georgetowncollege.edu

House passes bill prohibiting homosexual job discrimination

Washington (ABP)—Gay-rights groups scored one of their biggest legislative victories in history Nov. 7. Some said the bill didn't go far enough, while gay-rights opponents claimed it would undermine heterosexual marriage and threaten religious freedom.

The House of Representatives passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, or ENDA, on a 235-184 vote. Thirty-five Republicans joined 200 Democrats in voting for the measure, which prohibits most employers from discriminating on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived sexual orientation.

"This is truly an historic day," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), in remarks on the House floor. "As someone who has looked forward to this day for the 20 years I have served in Congress, it is a joyous occasion."

A handful of Democrats and many gay-rights groups opposed the bill because it does not include protections for transgender people.

Many conservatives opposed the bill, saying it would create all sorts of problems.

Some religious groups said the bill threatens religious freedom. "An employer's faith, moral views, the sensitivity of their work or service, or even the nature of their clientele will be of no consequence," said an action alert sent to supporters by the Family Research Council before the bill was passed. "Private schools, daycare centers, scouting organizations and quasi-religious organizations will not be exempt. They will either accommodate these sexual behaviors or face the full weight of federal civil rights enforcement."

The bill contains broad exceptions for churches and most other religious employers, as well as small businesses and the military.

The White House had previously indicated President Bush would veto an earlier version of ENDA. It was not immediately clear whether Bush would also veto the current version.

Senator probes finances of six TV ministries

Washington—A prominent U.S. senator is seeking financial information from some of the biggest names among evangelical TV ministries following "complaints from the public" and news reports of possible money mismanagement.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the top-ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, gave the six ministries 30 days to turn over the records, according to letters sent Nov. 5.

"I'm following up on complaints from the public and news coverage regarding certain practices at six ministries," Grassley said in a statement. "The allegations involve governing boards that aren't independent and allow generous salaries and housing allowances and amenities such as private jets and Rolls Royces."

The letters were sent to Randy and Paula White of Tampa, Fla.; Benny Hinn Ministries in Grapevine, Texas; Joyce Meyer Ministries in Fenton, Mo.; Bishop Eddie Long of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga.; Creflo Dollar Ministries in College Park, Ga.; and Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Newark, Texas.

Most of these ministries are financed by individuals, who often receive material gifts such as CDs and books in return for their support. Because of their non-profit "church status," all of the ministries are tax-exempt and not required to submit

their financial information to the Internal Revenue Service.

"I don't want to conclude that there's a problem, but I have an obligation to donors and the taxpayers to find out more," Grassley explained. "People who donated should have their money spent as intended and in adherence with the tax code."

Grassley requested the preachers disclose their personal and ministry-related finances. He asked for credit card statements; lists of expenses for second and third residences used by the ministers; the cost of hotels, travel and entertainment used for board meetings; cash and non-cash gifts given by the ministries; and lists of private vehicles.

Call for transparency

Grassley's goal is to bring transparency to the donor-funded, billion-dollar industry of TV evangelism, according to his statement.

The letters follow investigations of the Whites by The Tampa Tribune and a 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch series that questioned Meyer's financial practices.

The Whites, who recently divorced, acknowledged in a statement that they received the letter.

"We find it unusual, since the IRS has separate powers to investigate religious organizations if they think it's necessary," the statement read.

Meyer's ministry posted a state-

ment on its Web site, saying that "Joyce Meyer Ministries is committed to financial transparency. We are diligently working on the presented requests and will continue to take the necessary steps to maintain our financial integrity."

Long's ministry also issued a statement saying he intends to "fully comply" with the request. "New Birth has several safeguards put in place to insure all transactions are in compliance with laws applicable to churches."

Ken Behr, president of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, called the request "quite unusual" and "almost unprecedented." He said none of the six ministries targeted are members of his Winchester, Va., organization, but he expects it will prompt others to get their houses in order.

"I think it's a wake-up call for everybody that financial accountability, transparency, proper accounting processes are important," Behr said.

Some leaders are concerned the investigation might blur lines between church and state.

"This is cause for alarm that a Senate committee would presume to directly exercise financial oversight of religious ministries," noted Richard John Neuhaus, editor of the journal *First Things*, in an interview with *Christianity Today*.

Compiled from reporting by Religion News Service and Baptist Press

CONCLAVE

A WORSHIP AND TRAINING EVENT
FOR YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

PURE AND SIMPLE

January 31-February 2, 2008
Chattanooga Convention Center

Authentic Worship :: Relevant Training
Honest Conversation :: Personal Encouragement

www.southeastconclave.org

FEATURING



Erwin McManus

Lead pastor and cultural architect,
Mosaic, Los Angeles, CA



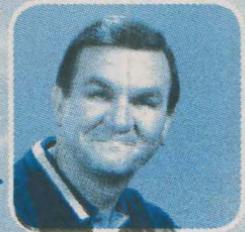
Dr. David Platt

Senior Pastor, The Church at Brook Hills,
Birmingham, AL



Mark Matlock

Speaker, Author, and
Founder of PlanetWisdom.com



Dr. Richard Ross

Youth Ministry Professor,
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary



Charlie Hall

Praise & Worship

Visit www.southeastconclave.org for registration and more info!

More than 50 breakout seminars for: All Youth Ministers • All Adult Youth Leaders • Spouses of Youth Ministers •
and Core Student Leaders (grades 9-12). Over 100 exhibitors with the latest in cutting-edge youth resources.
This is a partnership event with the state conventions of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Kentucky

Basic Math - Lesson #1

The Divinely Inspired, Inerrant Word of God

+ Creation Science (The Genesis Account)

+ The Southern Baptist Faith and Message

= **M** MID-CONTINENT UNIVERSITY

More than 1,600 Students!

*The Fastest Growing Baptist
University in America!*

*Come Learn Basic
Math at MCU!!*

LEARN HOW & WHY!!



99 Powell Road East, Mayfield, KY 42066

270.247.8521

www.midcontinent.edu

"Well done..."

MATTHEW 25:21



Visit the
GuideStone booth at
your state convention
and pick up a copy of
Dr. O.S. Hawkins' new
book, *Antology*

| Let the leader be your guide |

As a ministry organization, you're often faced with the challenge of balancing financial responsibilities with your true calling. Fortunately, you do not have to compromise your values to find top-performing financial services.

GuideStone is a leader in employee benefits. GuideStone has retirement plans with a wide variety of socially screened investment options, including the nation's only Christian-based target date investment funds. We also offer access to the largest health care provider network in the nation, with more than 85% of providers participating.

GuideStone is a leader in serving those who serve the Lord. Since 1918, GuideStone has been enhancing the financial security of Southern Baptist ministers, staff and seminary students. We understand your unique needs and are here to help you with Christian advocacy and caring, patient customer service.

Call **1-888-98-GUIDE** (1-888-984-8433) or visit our Web site at www.GuideStone.org to learn more about how you can strengthen your employee benefits plan.


GuideStone
Financial Resources

Do well. Do right.™

ENDURING INSTITUTION • SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD
SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR CHALLENGES • GUIDED BY VALUES



BREAKING NEW GROUND Leaders of Sunrise Children's Homes ceremoniously break ground at the new site of the Glen Dale Children's Home in Elizabethtown Nov. 9. Manning the shovels were (from left) Beverly Hite, Cory Samsil, Karen Hamilton, Barry Mitchell and Sunrise President Bill Smithwick. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Sunrise Children's Services breaks ground on new facility

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Elizabethtown—In an effort to modernize its current facilities, Sunrise Children's Services broke ground on the new Glen Dale Children's Home in Elizabethtown Nov. 9. The home will be relocated from its current location in Glendale about 10 miles away.

Sunrise President Bill Smithwick said the move will provide a "better location" for the facility and be "closer to medical services."

Currently, as many as 20 girls, ages 12-18, live at the existing Glen Dale campus, which has been in operation since 1915. The site has 13 buildings, which makes supervision of the young people more difficult, Smithwick noted.

"We have to really be able to watch them and monitor them at all times," he explained. "This (new) facility ... does that for us very well."

Construction on the 18,500-square-foot Glen Dale Children's Home is expected to take about one year, with an estimated cost of approximately \$4.6 million. That total also includes a new maintenance building that will be constructed on the 27-acre site. Smithwick estimated that the girls will be moved in to the facility by the winter of 2008 and noted that services will not be inter-

rupted during the relocation.

According to a press release, "sleeping, living, eating, educational, recreational and administrative space will be in one self-contained facility." The single-floor layout of the building "will significantly give the staff the facilities in which to help the kids much better," Smithwick noted.

The future of the current Glen Dale campus has yet to be determined. Smithwick pointed out that the construction of a new industrial park near the 570-acre property also precipitated the move to Elizabethtown. But while he insisted that Sunrise does not want to see the property go unused, Smithwick noted that the property may not be sold anytime soon.

"We'll just have to see it sit dormant until the time is right to sell it," he said.

The relocation of the Glen Dale Children's Home is the second such move Sunrise Children's Services has made. Last year, the organization moved its Spring Meadows Children's Home for boys from its Middletown location in Jefferson County to its current home in Mount Washington. The Ministry Support Center, the agency's administrative headquarters, was also moved to the Bullitt County site.

Cumberlands grabs NAIA playoff berth

Williamsburg—For the first time in nearly 20 years, the University of the Cumberlands football team will play in the postseason. The Patriots have earned a berth in the NAIA Football Championship Series playoffs for the first time since 1988.

Cumberlands (8-2) did what they needed to do this past Saturday by knocking off Pikeville College 42-21. The win, coupled with a Georgetown College loss, propelled the Patriots into this year's playoffs for only the second time in school history.

The playoff berth "is a great accomplishment and we are proud of our players and coaches for what they have done throughout the year," said Patriots' head coach John Bland, whose team finished the regular season ranked 17th nationally.

Cumberlands will make their return to the playoffs this Saturday with a visit to Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. The Panthers (11-0) are ranked No. 3 in the NAIA and are making their first-ever postseason appearance. Kickoff is set for 12:30 p.m.

Coach Bland called Ohio Dominican "an outstanding football team" without a "weak spot."

"ODU is the best team, offensively and defensively, that we have seen all year on film," he said.

The Patriots are sure to enter Saturday's game as the underdog, but Bland insisted that he is not worried.

"We are confident that we can beat them," the coach said. "The playoffs are always full of surprises and upsets."

Words of appreciation

Dedicated staff, volunteers make tremendous impact

As we come to the close of the conference season, there is much to be thankful for in 2007. This year has been our largest ever in total attendance. More importantly, thousands of lives have been changed through God's activity in the lives of our guests.

Beyond the numbers of people in attendance, the hours of service that have been logged by our staff and the volunteer staff are staggering. Much like restaurant statistics on some Food Channel program, we have served literally tons of food throughout the year. Thousands of hours have been spent working on the grounds, repairing buildings and in general just being there to serve guests.

While we are certainly blessed with a great staff of employees, we are equally blessed with hundreds of volunteers who come and serve on a weekly basis throughout our camp and conference season.

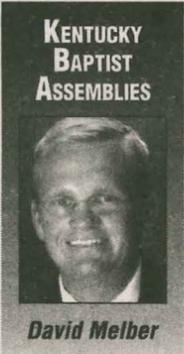
These volunteers are sometimes from just around the corner and at times they are from towns hundreds of miles away. Words simply are not enough to express our gratefulness for the count-

less hours that have been given by these people.

As this year winds down, we are even more excited about 2008. As of Oct. 25, our Crossings registration was already at 81 percent of our record 2007 attendance. With more than seven months still left to register, we expect another record year.

With such a high early registration, many weeks are full. If you are considering a Crossings camp program for 2008, I encourage you to call soon. We offer several different camp options for elementary age groups, and middle school through high school students. Programs vary in length from four to six days to accommodate your church's need and budget.

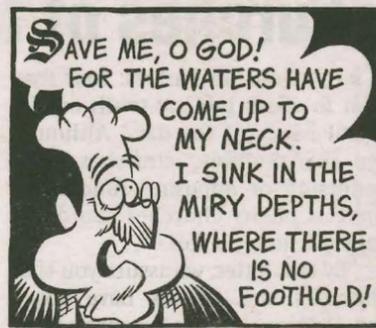
To all the staff and volunteers, thank you! As we begin to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, please know that the staff of Crossings and all the guests who visited Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek are very grateful for your service. We hope to see you again next year as it appears the needs will be even greater.



David Melber

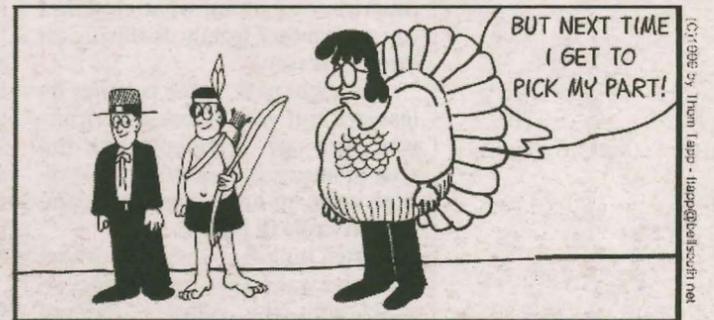
David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at Box 99918, Louisville, KY 42069-0918; phone (502) 491-7000.

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "The foundations of the wall of the city ... the tenth, a _____, the eleventh, a jacinth" (Revelation 21:19-20)
- 11 An enzyme which causes decay
- 12 "And David's two wives ... and Abigail the wife of _____ the Carmelite" (1 Samuel 30:5)
- 14 Air Force Base, abbr.
- 16 Pale and wan
- 17 Stone or soil containing metal
- 18 A flower necklace
- 19 For each
- 20 Beverage
- 21 The third letter of the alphabet
- 22 City of Angels, abbr.
- 23 The seventh tone on the musical scale
- 24 Edward and Edwin
- 25 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 27 Local magistrate able to perform marriages, abbr.
- 29 "_____ man hath seen God at any time" (John 1:18)
- 31 Prefix: twice, double
- 32 Prefix: again, once more
- 33 "The first foundation was _____" (Revelation 21:19)
- 35 Unity, agreement
- 38 National Guard, abbr.
- 39 Third day of the week, abbr.
- 40 "Out of the _____ palaces" (Psalm 45:8)
- 43 Reverence
- 44 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall _____ their strength" (Isaiah 40:31)
- 46 "And the third row a figure, an _____, and an amethyst" (Exodus 28:19)
- 47 Gold, chem. symbol
- 48 "And the fourth row a _____, and an onyx" (Exodus 28:20)

1		2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
			11						12			13
14	15			16						17		
18				19						20		
21						22				23		
24				25	26			27	28		29	30
31				32			33			34		
35			36			37						
38					39			40	41			42
			43			44	45					
					46						47	
48	49		50	51		52				53		
54										55		

- 52 KJV verb suffix
- 53 Wager
- 54 "And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a _____" (Exodus 28:18)
- 55 A washing of the body

Down

- 1 "And the foundations of the wall of the city were ... the third a _____; the fourth, an emerald" (Revelation 21:19)
- 2 "For the price of wisdom is above _____" (Job 28:18)
- 3 12 months, abbr.
- 4 "The God of Israel: and ... under his feet ... a paved work of a _____ stone" (Exodus 24:10)
- 5 "As he saith also in _____, I will call them my people" (Romans 9:25)
- 6 "And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every ... gate was of one _____" (Revelation 21:21)
- 7 "Wisdom cannot be valued with the _____" (Job 28:16)
- 8 Southern continent, abbr.
- 9 A submarine
- 10 "And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a _____ stone" (Revelation 4:3)
- 13 Man's name

- 15 "And there was an herd of many swine _____ on the mountain" (Luke 8:32)
- 26 "Come unto me, ... and I will give you _____" (Matthew 11:28)
- 27 "And the foundations of the wall of the city were ... the eleventh, a _____; the twelfth, an amethyst" (Revelation 21:19-20)
- 28 Letter addendum, abbr.
- 30 Either
- 34 "Doth the plowman _____ all day to sow?" (Isaiah 28:24)
- 36 "No man also seweth a piece of _____ cloth on an old garment" (Mark 2:21)
- 37 Swelled or heaved with great force
- 41 The symbol of victory
- 42 "My manner of life from my _____" (Acts 26:4)
- 43 Magic word: _____ - cadabra
- 45 "Take, _____; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26)
- 47 Of age, Lat. abbr.
- 48 Bachelor of Divinity, abbr.
- 49 A, _____, _____, O, U
- 50 Young Men's Christian Association, abbr.
- 51 "_____, I am with you alway" (Matthew 28:20)
- 53 Barium, chem. symbol

Last week's solution

L	O	N	G	S	U	F	F	E	R	I	N	G
A	L	O	N	A	L	B	S					
C				A	S	H	I	K	I			
R	M	S		P	A	R	E	J	O	Y		
E				Y	A	S						
M	E			C	H	B	O	H	D	O		
A	K			T	R	U	T	H				
T	N			K	S	T		O	X			
I	E			Y		G	S	A	N			
O	S			F	L							
N	S			S	L	A	V	I	S	H		
				S	C	A	R		E	K	E	S
				I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	N

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

In support of Campbellsville University, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend the Annual Convention Breakfast Wednesday, Nov. 14 7:30 a.m. at the Historic State Theater Elizabethtown, KY

The breakfast is free, but reservations are requested and may be made by calling 1-800-264-6014 ext. 5211, or via e-mail at development@campbellsville.edu.

1 University Drive • Campbellsville, KY 42718 • 800.264.6014 • 270.789.5000
development@campbellsville.edu • www.campbellsville.edu

Letter informs churches of their rights during elections

Organizations offer list of what church, pastor can do, say

By Michael Foust
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Hoping to head off potential complications for churches in the coming year, several leading Christian organizations have jointly issued a letter to pastors across America, explaining what churches can and cannot legally do during an election season.

The eight-page letter is being released a full year before Americans vote on a new president, with the goal of answering questions that always seem to arise concerning the church's role in politics.

Posted online at www.telladf.org, the letter was signed by two legal organizations—the Alliance Defense Fund and the James Madison Center for Free Speech—as well as Focus on the Family, Family Research Council and Concerned Women for America.

Protecting churches

Nearly every presidential election season includes news stories about interest groups urging the government to revoke various churches' tax-exempt status.

"The Jeffersonian 'wall of separation' doctrine has been twisted in an attempt to silence people of faith not only in the public square, but also in their churches," the letter says. "This attitude is an unofficial but outspoken bias against people of faith."

The letter is titled, "Constitution-

al Protections for Pastors: Your freedom to speak biblical truth on the moral issues of the day." Although the IRS prohibits churches from endorsing or opposing candidates, there is plenty churches can do legally, the letter states.

"By this letter, we assure you that churches and pastors have broad constitutional rights to express their views on a broad array of social issues such as marriage, abortion, and homosexual behavior," the letter reads. "Furthermore, other activities such as allowing parishioners to sign petitions in support of traditional marriage are almost undoubtedly permissible under federal tax law."

For instance, under federal law pastors and churches can, according to the letter:

- Discuss political candidates' views on issues.

"Pastors and churches are free to discuss the positions of candidates on issues—including criticizing or praising them for their positions. This is called issue advocacy," the letter reads.

The document, however, discourages pastors from endorsing or opposing candidates from the pulpit, which the IRS has emphasized is not allowed.

"The endorsement of a candidate includes any statement which uses explicit words to expressly advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, such as 'elect,'

'support,' 'defeat' or 'oppose.'"

- Hold voter registration drives.

"A church may participate in non-partisan voter registration, voter identification and get-out-the-vote activities," the letter states. "To be non-partisan, these activities may not be directed at the supporters of any particular candidate or political party. ... Furthermore, such activities will not be viewed as non-partisan if they are accompanied by literature

praising or criticizing particular candidates or political parties for their positions on issues."

- Distribute so-called "voter guides," showing where candidates stand on issues.

"Voter guides should not include an endorsement of a candidate or expressly advocate the election or defeat of any candidate," the

letter states. "Further, voter guides should not include advocacy of voting for candidates who support particular issues, i.e., single issue voting. Churches may also distribute voter guides prepared by other organizations that meet these guidelines."

The guides should cover a wide variety of topics and should not indicate a bias, the letter explains.

- Lobby for legislation.

According to the letter, a "church may discuss legislative issues, support or oppose legislation, encourage its members or the general public to support or oppose legislation

and support other organizations with their lobbying efforts. Furthermore, churches may lobby candidates on their positions on issues and distribute educational material to candidates or at political events, as long as this is being done to get out the organization's message and not to assist any candidate."

It also explicates that churches may spend an "insubstantial amount" on lobbying, generally defined as no more than 5 to 15 percent of a church's funds.

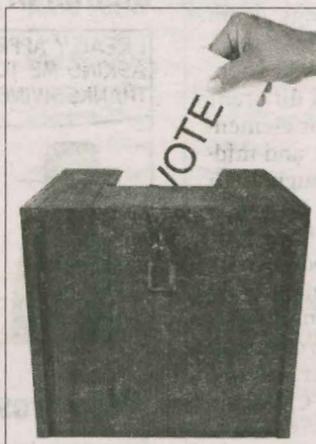
"Different hats" for pastors

Pastors have the legal right to do more than churches can do, as long as the pastor makes it clear his opinions are his, and not the church's, the letter points out.

"Individuals, such as pastors or priests, may participate in political campaigns, as long as they do so as individuals, and not in the name of the church. Any individual, including a pastor, may wear different hats at different times and, therefore, be involved in political activity, as long as they are wearing the right hat at the right time and place.

"Individual pastors can endorse political candidates so long as the endorsement is not on behalf of the church and it is not made in a way that gives the appearance that the endorsement is made in the capacity of pastor or priest."

Pastors with specific questions can obtain free legal advice by calling the Alliance Defense Fund at (800) TELL-ADF or the James Madison Center at (812) 232-2434. The letter is available online at www.telladf.org/UserDocs/PastorsGuidelinesLetter.pdf.



We couldn't do it without you

Faithful support means Oneida is there for students whose parents are not

Most of my days are really good; others may not be. Working with young people can be a rewarding blessing or a painful disappointment. I consider our students special God loans to us. I'm thankful for each one.

Working with young people—who often find themselves in challenging environments with little or no control over their lives—gives us a wonderful opportunity. The old adage, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease" is painfully true. The squeaky wheel obviously needs attention but you can't neglect the other wheels or they will squeak, too.

Our faithful friends make our ministry possible. Financial gifts, volunteer support, words of encouragement and prayer all make our work a reality. Without our friends, we could not help students such as "Julie" (not her real name) and the many others God sends our way.

A sophomore, Julie originally enrolled in our school when she was in the sixth grade. At the end of that year she decided she wanted to try her old school again. It only took two months for her to realize that she needed to be back at OBI.

Julie was in the care of a distant family member when she returned to Oneida. She and her sister had to depend on others to care for them because their parents basically walked out of their lives when Julie was just a baby and her sister was three. There has been some limited contact with the parents over the years. This is one of those times when having limited or no contact with parents is best. Even in these circumstances children often have a strong desire to have a "normal"

family—where Mom and Dad are there for you day in and day out.

Julie has been with us for five years. She has been on a full scholarship most of that time. One of the reasons she came to OBI was that her grades were not as good as they should have been. Julie never used drugs and was never in trouble at school except for the marginal grades. Since being at Oneida her grades have improved. She has been on the honor roll several times. She was just

a few percentage points short of being on the honor roll this past quarter. Julie gets along well with the girls in the dorm and never is in trouble. If you can live in a dormitory full of girls and get along, you are doing pretty well.

Julie found her niche in our farm program. She has been involved on our farm and in FFA almost the entire time she has been here. Farm work is just as hard for girls as it is for boys, and the work is a little smelly sometimes but Julie doesn't complain. If there ever has been a conflict between her and the farm staff, I've never heard about it. Additionally, she is very active in our school choir and is a cheerleader.

I stated that most of my days are good and one of the reasons why is the opportunity to work with students such as Julie. She nearly always brings a smile to my face as I think how blessed we are to have her. She needed the stability, support, love and attention Oneida provides. If you have all the love in the world, but don't have anyone to share it with, it does not do you much good.

To all the friends of this ministry who make it possible for us to share a little love: Thank you.

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

Still helping

Former paramedic takes training in spiritual first aid

As a former paramedic, first-year student Dan Haggerty has an obvious desire to help people. Until a few years ago, he said he always thought that the medical profession would be his life.

"I always had an urge to continue my education in the medical field," Haggerty said. "I tried medical school, to be trained as a physician's assistant, but it just did not work out. It got to the point where I was really frustrated in my life.

"I was saved at age six in vacation Bible school," he added. "I accepted Jesus as my Savior but all through high school and growing up, I didn't have Christ as Lord of my life. A few years ago I realized that doing it 'my way' was not working.

"I truly surrendered to what God wanted me to do with my life and started doing things His way. I then realized that God wanted me to continue my education to train for Christian ministry."

Haggerty said he discovered, "It is a lot easier letting the Lord have control."

He is studying on the pastoral track and said, "one of my favorite classes this semester is Evangelism

in Acts." He said he enjoys learning "how evangelism took place in the early church and ... that the same principles are still applicable today through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit."

Dan's wife, Shannon, works in Clear Creek's development office. The Haggertys have been married seven years and are enjoying their

time together on campus.

"Having the two of us here on campus is a blessing in itself," Haggerty noted. "It's nice when I come home and tell her about certain things that have happened; she knows what I am talking about."

Alumnus Gordon Christian and his wife, Donna, were instrumental in pointing Dan and Shannon to Clear Creek. "Donna Christian worked with Shannon at our church in Johnson City, Tenn.," Haggerty said.

"They both mentored and nurtured us while talking to us about Clear Creek," he said. "We visited other colleges but when we visited here, the Lord told us this is where He wanted us to be."

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



Donnie Fox

LifeWay store staff eyes mission field in Salt Lake City

By Chris Turner
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Salt Lake City—The sun peeks over the Rockies and rushes across the valley floor until it strikes the golden statue of the angel Moroni, fixed high atop Salt Lake Temple's towering eastern spire. The brilliant light flashes off his trumpet, raised to the ready, waiting to herald the arrival of a kingdom yet to come.

Far beneath Moroni, employees of the 12 million-plus member Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints scurry along flower-lined sidewalks to a tall, governmental-looking office building that houses the church's world headquarters.

The efforts of more than 52,000 worldwide Mormon missionaries are directed from the heart of Salt Lake City, a city established in 1847 when Brigham Young led a caravan of followers from Missouri to the Utah Territory. The temple's site was established four days after his arrival, took 40 years to build and is an influential location in the lives of Mormons. The weight of Mormonism blankets this valley and its teachings shape the lives of a majority of Salt Lake City's residents.

Almost 10 miles due south of Temple Square on State Street is an oasis whose mission is to provide biblical resources that spiritually transform lives and cultures. The Salt Lake City LifeWay Christian Store, which recently relocated to the corner of State and Winchester, is welcomed and much needed, said one area minister.

"Oasis of truth"

"Given the dominance of the LDS church in this area this bookstore is an oasis of truth," noted Dan Walker, director of missions for Salt Lake Baptist Association. "There are a number of bookstores here, both secular and Mormon, but I know if one of our churches sends someone over (to the LifeWay store) looking for help with something, they are not only going to find something based on the true gospel of Jesus Christ, they are going to be helped by someone who sees their job as a ministry."

Store manager Robert Romney echoes Walker's observation. Although Romney grew up in a Christian home, his parents were former Mormons. He sees the LifeWay Christian Store as an opportunity to support churches, minister to Christians and witness to the Mormons who do come into the store.

"We had a woman
come

in from Provo, which is heavily Mormon and a long drive from here," he said. "She just burst into tears. It was some time before she was able to collect herself and she finally said it was such a relief to just be in a place where people loved Jesus. We have people drive all the way from Wyoming and Idaho just to shop at this store. ... We realize how important our opportunity to minister to our customers is."

Walker said there are 32 Southern Baptist churches in Salt Lake Association; 29 of them have about 100 members or less. He said the pressure and persecution these churches are under can be intense at times. To help them, the store stocks additional resources on world religions and Mormonism.

"We do have a larger section on Mormonism than other LifeWay stores do but that is because churches will come in looking for books to do training on how to witness to Mormons," Romney said. "We see it as an opportunity to help equip the church to reach people for Christ."

Blurring the lines

Walker said a challenge Christians face is how Mormons have tried to blur the distinction in doctrines—with some success—between Mormonism and historical Christianity. However, even a cursory examination of the two reveals significant differences.

Robert Bowman, an apologetics specialist with the North American Mission Board, writes in a summary on Mormonism found on NAMB's Web site, "Mormonism is not faithfully or soundly Christian because it deviates from historic, biblical standards of orthodox Christianity. For example, Mormonism teaches that God the Father is an exalted Man, that Jesus, angels and human beings were all the literal spirit offspring of our 'heavenly Father and Mother,' and that the ultimate goal of the Christian life is to become exalted to Godhood ourselves."

Romney said his staff understands those differences and conventional witnessing approaches do not work with Mormons.

"When we have a Mormon come into the store and we start talking with them we know that we can't use words like salvation, atonement, accepting Christ and others," he explained. "They use those same words and they have different meanings for them."

Alofa Vaa, a customer from Ogden, deals with Mormon wordplay daily. Vaa works in a juvenile detention facility

The Bible vs. Mormon beliefs: A side-by-side comparison



What the Bible says about Jesus:

■ He is the virgin-born Son of God, conceived by the Holy Ghost (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34-35).

What the Bible says about the Holy Spirit

■ The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the triune Godhead (Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19-20).

What the Bible says about Satan:

■ Satan is a created—and fallen—angel (Isaiah 14:12).

What the Bible says about the doctrine of sin:

■ All men are sinners by nature and by volition (Romans 3:23, 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

What the Bible says about the gospel of Jesus Christ:

■ Christ's death on Calvary paid man's sin debt and purchased salvation so that everlasting life is received by grace through faith in the Person and work of Jesus (John 3:16, 5:24; Romans 4:4-5; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

What Mormonism says about Jesus:

■ When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten Him in His own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is the Father? He is the first of the human family (Adam)" (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. I, p. 50).



What Mormonism says about the Holy Spirit:

■ Joseph Smith taught that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit "constitute three distinct personages and three Gods" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 370).

What Mormonism says about Satan:

■ "Lucifer—this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind" (Milton Hunter of the First Council of Seventy, The Gospel Through the Ages, p. 15).

What Mormonism says about the doctrine of sin:

■ There is no such thing as original sin. All men are gods in embryo. "God and man are of the same race, differing only in their degrees of advancement" (Apostle John Widtsoe, Rational Theology, p. 61).

What Mormonism says about the gospel of Jesus Christ:

■ Through the atonement of Christ "all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel" (Article of Faith #3 by Joseph Smith). "There is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (Bruce McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 670).

Compiled by Rob Phillips, LifeWay Christian Resources

Romney sees LifeWay store as Christian ministry oasis

Salt Lake City—Robert Romney has heard the question before: "Are you related to (Republican presidential candidate) Mitt Romney?"

The answer is yes, he is.

Romney, manager of the LifeWay Christian Store in Salt Lake City, is related through his father, who was Mitt Romney's cousin and childhood playmate. But while the presidential hopeful is firmly entrenched in his Mormon beliefs, Robert grew up in a Christian home.

"My mother was loosely Protestant," he said. "She came here for school and was hit with Mormon theology. It was presented to her as just another Christian denomination. She fell into that and met my dad who was already quite involved in the LDS church."

Romney's mother and father married but soon his father moved to take a job several hours away, leaving his new wife in Salt Lake City. Romney said God used that time of separation to grow his parents together.

"My mom began reading the Bible and she and my dad would sometimes talk for hours about what she'd read," he recalled. "By the time that job ended they'd decided that (Mormonism) wasn't right and they needed to get out of it."

Romney's parents soon began attending a Protestant church. The transition didn't sit well with their extended family, who saw it as a betrayal. The couple soon learned that faith in Jesus Christ—not just believing the Bible—was necessary for salvation. As a result, Romney accepted Christ himself as a junior high school student.

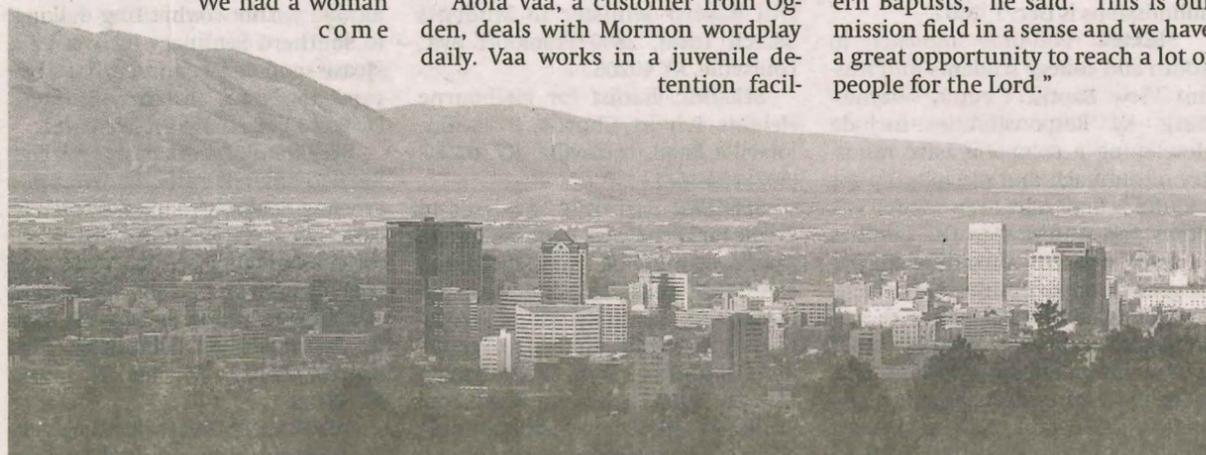
Growing up in Salt Lake City and not being a member of the LDS church comes with pressure, and Romney experienced ostracism from other kids in his neighborhood.

"Since Mormonism is so dominant here, you can become excluded pretty quickly," he explained.

Romney's parents sent him to a private Christian school which he said helped "quite a bit."

Romney has been a LifeWay Christian Store employee for nine years and manager for three. He believes his opportunity to guide Salt Lake City's LifeWay Store is more than a job.

"I see this first as an oasis in the desert for the Christians here," he said. "It isn't easy to be a Christian (in this area) and we have the opportunity to support them in their faith."



SALT LAKE SUNRISE Salt Lake City is the hub of Mormon operations and activities. Currently, approximately 56,000 Mormon missionaries are at work around the world. Christians without a clear understanding of the Mormon religion are easily confused by their message, cloaked with biblical backing. (Photo by Russ Rankin)

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Mission Service Corps Missionary Shirley Cox of Mount Vernon. Cox serves as a missions photojournalist, writing stories about how God is working in Kentucky through missionaries and ministries. Pray that God will reveal Himself through the stories and her Web site at www.kystories.org. Pray that He will extend His movement in Kentucky throughout the nation and world.

Jail ministry of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Williamstown. Leland Kellam coordinates this ministry to the 350 inmates at the Grant County Detention Center. The ministry's goal is to share Christ with the inmates through worship services, Bible distribution, daily Bible studies, weekly "Experiencing God" classes and evangelistic visits. Pray for strength and spiritual discernment for the volunteers who faithfully serve. Praise God for the victories they already have experienced and pray that He will continue to manifest Himself through the ministry.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **FLIPPIN**—Indian Creek Church will honor pastor **Ty Clenney** for 50 years in ministry Dec. 2, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

■ **HENDERSON**—Calvary Church recently called **Larry Jennings** as pastor.

Watson Lane Church recently called **Brad Harrison** as pastor.

■ **LaGRANGE**—Buckner Church ordained **Craig Pettitt** as a deacon Nov. 4. **Lynn Traylor** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—New Liberty Church recently called **Don Farmer** as pastor.

Primera Iglesia Hispana recently called **Jaime Masso** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Beulah Hill Church ordained **Tom Fuller** as a deacon Nov. 11.

■ **STRUNK**—Calvary Church ordained **Justin Cox** as a deacon Nov. 11. **Rick Cox** is pastor.

■ **WATER VALLEY**—Pilot Oak Church recently called **Jimmy Brown** as pastor.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church will

Spotlight on ...

Hawesville



Hawesville Church will host the **Crossmen Quartet** in concert Nov. 18, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 927-8787. **Mark Williams** is pastor.

hold revival services Nov. 18-20 with **Troy Doster** as evangelist. For more information, call (502) 220-0745.

What's going on?

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

Ky. schools among top Christian colleges

Georgetown—Two Kentucky Baptist colleges have been recognized among "America's Best Christian Colleges."

Georgetown College and Campbellsville University each made the list of 137 schools nationwide as part of the National College Survey conducted by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc.

Georgetown also was cited as one of IR&E's "100 Best College Buys" and "America's Best Private Colleges."

This is the 17th year that IR&E has conducted the survey. Each year, the company publishes reports recognizing the best colleges and universities

in several different categories.

In order to qualify as one of "America's Best Christian Colleges," an institution must be an accredited four-year school offering bachelor degrees, full residential facilities, have a 2006 freshman class with GPA and ACT or SAT scores above or equal to the national average, and be affiliated with a recognized Christian denomination.

Detailing qualifications for the "100 Best College Buys" list, IR&E President Lewis Lindsey said the list includes "institutions that are academically demanding, but lower in cost than the national average."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

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.

31-Feb. 2 Southeast Conclave, Chattanooga, Tenn.

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

Sunrise purchases facilities and programs in Danville, Henderson

Danville—The directors of Sunrise Children's Services have signed an agreement with Christian Care Communities to purchase Christian Care's Children and Families Program, based in Danville and Henderson, effective Nov. 1.

The purchase includes 25 acres of property and buildings on the Woodlawn campus and the Impact Plus services in Henderson.

Officials said the acquisition is part of the overall vision of both organizations. Sunrise currently operates six regions of therapeutic foster care, seven residential treatment centers, adoption services and family counseling centers throughout the commonwealth.

Christian Care's decision was based on a strategic plan to focus its mission and resources on expanding its ministries to older adults.

"We are very pleased to have the Woodlawn staff join us in our passion to serve victims of abuse and neglect from every corner of Kentucky," said Sunrise President Bill Smithwick. "This acquisition helps Sunrise serve children by expanding our continuum of care as well as increasing our existing services.

"This will be a seamless transition that does not interrupt the care of the kids but gradually and deliberately enhances it," he added. "Our vision is to be the provider of the highest quality care for at-risk children from an unapologetically faith-based perspective."

While there will be some renovations to the buildings on the Woodlawn campus, there are no immediate plans to change staffing patterns for the approximately 80 employees on the Woodlawn campus.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for FBC Ft. Thomas, Ky. Send resumé to Miriam Fuller, deacon chair, 600 N Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY 41075; or mirm.ful@att.net.

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

SEEKING: Part-time minister to students. Contact Maple Grove, 5911 East Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40219; or e-mail mgbcc@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader (lead three services a week) for Shively Heights Baptist Church. Please call Bro. Mark, (502) 727-4320.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Warren Association of Baptists. For more information about WAB, visit www.wab-gateway.com. Please send resumé to Rev. Steve Hussung, Search Committee chair, Rich Pond Baptist Church, 200 Brad Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104. Deadline for submissions is Dec. 1, 2007.

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

SEEKING: Music/youth minister and minister of pastoral care. Send to First Baptist Church, PO Box 577, Grayson, KY 41143; or fbccgray@uti-online.net.

SEEKING: Pianist for three services a week for Shively Heights Baptist Church. Please call Bro. Mark, (502) 727-4320.

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 resumé 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: Full-time associate pastor/education director with passion for SS. Send resumé to Vicki Brantly at vnbrantly@hotmail.com; or East Side Baptist Church, 718 E 9th St., Mountain Home, AR 72653.

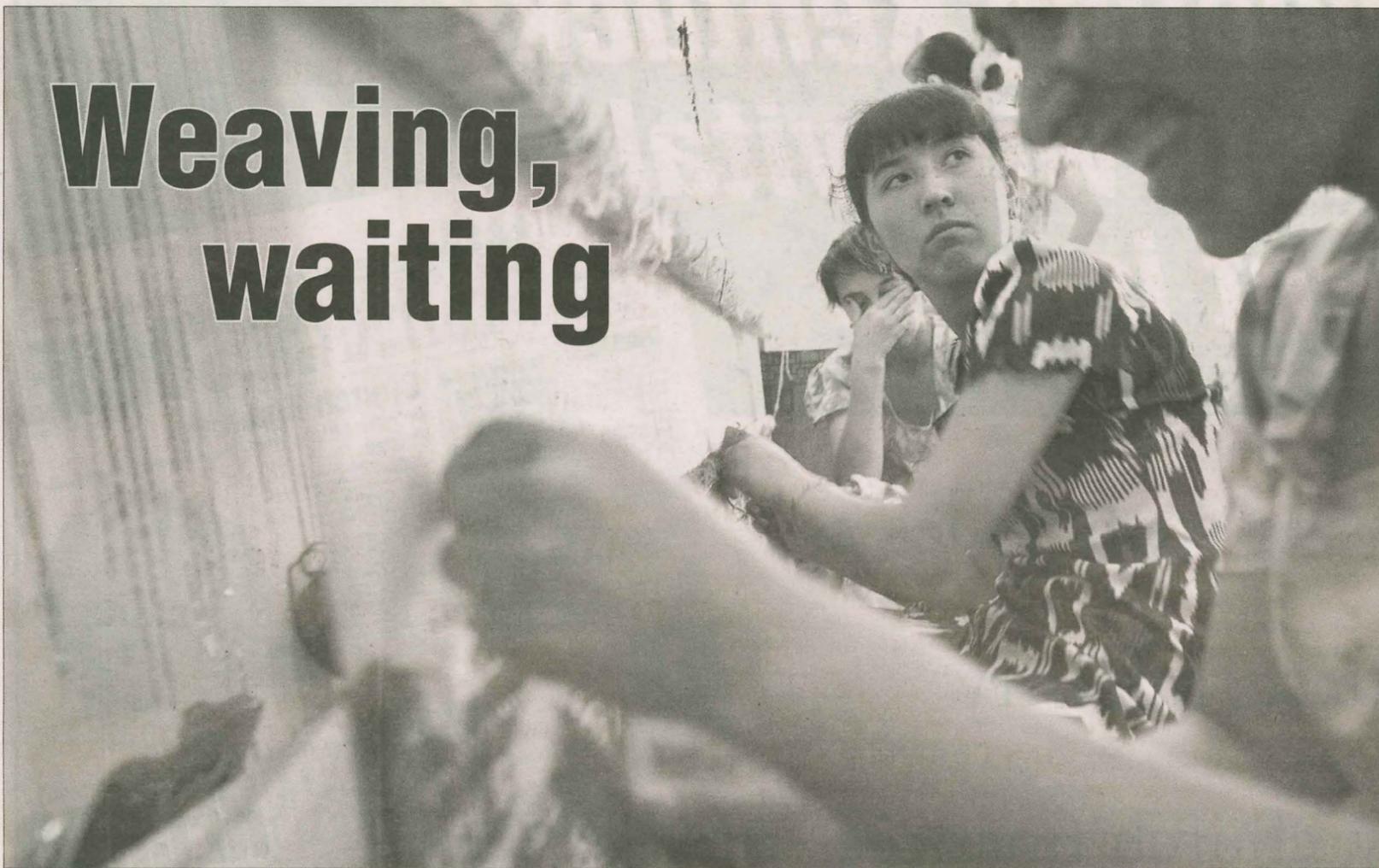
SEEKING: Minister of music and minister of youth (or combination of the two) for Great Crossing Baptist Church. Send resumé to 1061 Stamping Ground Road, Georgetown, KY 40324.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for established, growing church, 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: 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. 25, 2007, to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362.

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

Weaving, waiting



Women weave intricate designs into carpets at the Samarkand Bukhara Silk Carpet Workshop in Uzbekistan. Residents of this former Soviet country experienced new freedoms following the collapse of communism in 1991 but the new Uzbekistan government grew suspicious of organized religion, viewing it as a potential voice of dissent. Uzbek believers pray and wait for complete religious freedom. (IMB photos)

Despite initial freedoms, Uzbek people live under 'increasingly paranoid' government

By Michael Logan
SBC International Mission Board

Uzbekistan (BP)—There was a time when Maksud's* heart raced with each telephone ring. He recalls gripping the receiver and working up the courage simply to say "Allo?" He said he felt exposed and at risk even behind the locked door of his Uzbekistan home.

Usually, within a heartbeat, a friend's voice on the line cut the tension. Yet Maksud had to steady his own voice to sound casual and normal as he talked into the telephone.

What is "normal" for a Christian living under an increasingly paranoid government? In the current political climate, anyone who has religious convictions—Christian or Islamic—often is tagged as a threat to the government.

Uzbekistan became an independent nation in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union. Flags and state symbols changed but the mindset of the ruling elite did not. Immediately after independence some political controls eased but soon the nation's freedoms began to erode. In recent years that erosion has increased, and for some believers, state intimidation now has replaced the short-lived freedoms.

"My heart would pump like crazy each time I picked up the phone or answered a knock at the door," Maksud said. "When I knew it was a friend, I would just praise God."

For this believer, the world took a dark turn several years ago when local police took him from his home and began questioning him about his faith in Jesus Christ.

"There is no law that says you can't be a Christian," Maksud explained, "but the police will say that

when a person becomes a Christian, he brings dissension to the family, and this is wrong."

Police held Maksud for a day, questioning him about friends, family, faith and other Christians in the area.

"They let me go, but for more than three months, there was such fear in my heart," he said. The police never visited again, and in time, Maksud adjusted to his new status of living under state suspicion.

Maksud's story is not unique. Uzbekistan has become one of the most repressive new independent states, according to a 1999 U.S. State Department human rights report.

"Only in Uzbekistan has the state formally criminalized religious dissent," the report said. "Uzbekistan explicitly prohibits any kind of communal activity by such a group, even a Bible study in one of its members' apartments."

Yet, this has not stopped the spread of the gospel, said Ryan Stewart,* a Southern Baptist International Mission Board worker who, with his wife, Lauren,* lives in Central Asia and works among the Uzbeks.

"Despite the crackdown, there continues to be growth in the church," Stewart said. "The growth is not in waves like it once was, but this is still an exciting time for the body of Christ in Uzbekistan."

In the early 1990s, the IMB launched a major initiative to help take the gospel to newly created nations in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. This push included a focus on Uzbekistan where nearly 99 percent of the population are Muslim.

"We were seeing advancement in the early '90s, but between 1995 and 1997 we saw very strong growth for the churches," Stewart said.

Today, Southern Baptists working with the Uzbek church estimate there are between 4,000 and 5,000 Uzbek Christians worldwide.

"Things slowed down toward the turn of the century, but now we see several different kinds of growth," Stewart said. The couple and their team have seen people come to Jesus Christ after literally years of witnessing efforts.

"In a recent month, we saw one man decide to follow Jesus after being witnessed to for 14 years," Lauren said. "About a week later, a woman believed after 12 years of witnessing, and then another man after nine years."

"It was as if God let it all happen at once to let us see we needed to just hang in there," she said.

The team also has seen church leaders go to a deeper level of trust in Jesus, which has deepened trust in one another.

"We've seen (Uzbek) friends be tested and come through," she said. "The continuing loss of freedom makes it harder now, but we are more hopeful. We've seen some of these leaders take a stand for our Lord. ... The church has seen the same thing happen in China. It's not easy, but if they can make it through, they will be stronger."

Lauren Stewart points to a new spirit of cooperation among believers. She explains this has been a focus of prayer by supporters of the Uzbek team for more than five years.

"We longed to see churches look to each other for support, but that has not always happened," she said. "It is difficult for Uzbeks, even Christians, to trust one another."

Ryan Stewart noted that a new wave of leadership is emerging. "These men are stepping away from



FOLLOWERS OF ISLAM The Southern Baptist International Mission Board estimates that 99 percent of Uzbeks are Muslim.

old ways that depended on a heavy-handed leader. These leaders want to work together more and encourage one another. That just didn't happen. There is a new spirit of unity among our fellowships."

The Stewarts' team often calls on Ephesians 5:8: "For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light."

"As believers we need to be light," Maksud agrees. "If we live as honest and righteous people in the sight of God, this proclaims to our community the worth of our God."

It may be a while until most Uzbek communities are free to consider openly the worth of God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ, but Maksud said he believes the time will come. He uses the collapse of the Soviet Union as an example.

"God was in the changes of the Soviet Union," he said. "Has God changed since those days? No. It's the same God and He's raising up from my people those who will serve and worship Him."

* Names changed for security reasons.

Pray, promote & give to this year's Christmas offering

The theme for this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is "Tell Me the Story of Jesus." Already telling the story are more than 5,200 missionaries serving around the world; 100 percent of the offering provides direct support to those missionaries.

The week of prayer in Southern Baptist churches on behalf of international missions is Dec. 2-9. National Woman's Missionary Union has selected the former Soviet nation of Moldova for this year's international missions study.

Promotional materials are available at www.wmu.com and www.imb.org. Many resources are free and available for immediate download from the Web sites.

Connecting Kentucky Baptists with vital current issues

Addressing such issues as child abuse, ministry strategy, church finances and global missions, the award-winning Western Recorder provides readers 50 issues a year packed with useful news and features.

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER
www.WesternRecorder.org

