



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## Longtime Baptist statesman Wayne Dehoney dies at 89

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Louisville—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Wayne Dehoney, longtime pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, died Nov. 15. He was 89.



Wayne Dehoney

Dehoney, who served at Walnut Street from 1967 to 1985, was SBC president in 1964-66. He also served on the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Tennessee Baptist Convention executive boards as well as on the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee and as chairman of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees.

"Dr. Dehoney was one of the great pastoral leadership giants of his generation of Baptists,"

recalled Rusty Ellison, current pastor of Walnut Street Church. "Known across the country and even around the world, ... he had a God-led capacity to see what could be and what could happen in the life of a church or in a person when they followed God's direction."

Noting that Dehoney "was a major influence in my life and ministry," Ellison added, "His contagious love of all people, his energy to pursue the vision God gave him and his capacity to lead will remain a major influence on my leadership."

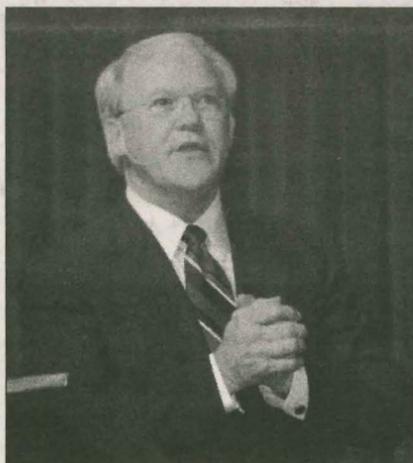
Delivering his 1965 SBC presidential address in Dallas, Dehoney told messengers, "The single overriding life-or-death issue now facing our convention is: Are Southern Baptists going to get to the main task, the main business, of reaching people for Jesus Christ?"

In a message still current more than 40 years later, Dehoney lamented that "Southern Baptists are less effective today in winning people to Jesus Christ than any of our less privileged forefathers."

"Shall we spend our energies maintaining institutions or penetrating the world with the gospel of Christ?" he asked. "Shall we measure our success by the statistics of church membership or by the unsaved multitudes yet to be reached?"

□ See Dehoney, former SBC president ... Page 2

## Missions focus



Highlighting the theme, "Empowering Believers in Missions," Kentucky Baptists from throughout the commonwealth gathered Nov. 13-14 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown for the 170th Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. ■ Above: The host church's praise team and choir led in worship during the meeting's Tuesday evening session. ■ Left: Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., was the keynote speaker during the Tuesday evening session. He challenged Kentucky Baptists to remember that "you're here for a purpose and that is to bring glory to God." (See related article on page 7.) Messengers also heard a report from Scott McConnell of LifeWay Research about the state of spiritual maturity and discipleship among Kentucky Baptists. He warned that "troubling" survey findings indicate "there are people quietly misunderstanding or quietly choosing not to believe some of the truths in the Word of God." (See related article on page 3.)

## Quiet KBC gathering attracts small crowd, uncontested business



**ANNUAL MEETING** Messengers and guests to last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting enjoyed the spacious new facilities of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The Nov. 13-14 meeting attracted 942 registered messengers, the lowest messenger turnout in more than 30 years. Church members and guests increased the total attendance to 1,217. During a convention business session, messengers voted to conduct all business on one day, beginning with next year's annual meeting Nov. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Elizabethtown—Kentucky Baptists' annual business meeting involved a lot more meeting than business last week.

The 170th Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, held Nov. 13-14 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, included no ballot votes and no miscellaneous business introduced from the floor.

All five convention officers, including President Bill Henard, were elected by acclamation and five resolutions, including one opposing expanded gambling, were adopted without debate. Even the Cooperative Program budget goal of \$24 million for the 2008-09 fiscal year is unchanged from the current goal.

Outgoing KBC President Darren Gaddis noted that convention officials believe "this is the first time we've had a convention without at least one ballot vote."

With no contested elections, the number of registered messengers also dipped dramatically, from more

than 1,400 last year and 1,800-plus the previous year to 942 this year. It was the first time messenger registration has dropped below 1,000 since 1974.

One major business item that was approved was a proposal from the Committee on Order of Business to conduct all convention business on one day with the option of a second day for workshops or other events as needed. It was approved by voice vote with scattered opposition.

"The committee has been considering this for a period of time," explained committee chairman Charles Barnes, "and we feel this is the way we should recommend future conventions to you."

Barnes said the reason for the change was a lack of attendance during Wednesday morning sessions in recent years. The convention was unable to conduct business on its final day two of the past three years due to the lack of a quorum. KBC bylaws require that at least 25 percent of registered messengers must attend a session to constitute a quorum.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 21.

**"The desire of both parties was that the Tennessee Baptist Convention as well as the Belmont University family would both experience a win-win situation."**

Jerry Massey, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

## Belmont, Tenn. Baptists reach settlement

**Kingsport, Tenn. (BP)**—Belmont University will pay the Tennessee Baptist Convention \$11 million over the next 40 years under the terms of a settlement announced Nov. 13 at the TBC annual meeting.

The settlement calls for Belmont to pay \$1 million up front, followed by an additional \$250,000 per year for the next 40 years. The agreement ends the 56-year relationship between Belmont and the state convention.

The money from Belmont will go into an endowment that will remain untouched until the end of the 40-year period. Proceeds from the endowment will go into the TBC's annual Cooperative Program budget and be dispersed according to funding formulas already in place.

Belmont and the TBC have been embroiled for months in a legal battle for control of the institution. In November 2005, Belmont's trustees voted to change the university's

charter and become a self-perpetuating board. Previously, the TBC elected the university's trustees.

The TBC had challenged the legality of Belmont's charter amendment without TBC approval. In addition, when the TBC began its relationship with Belmont in 1951, the two entities signed a contract that contained language indicating that if Belmont ever passed from Baptist control, its property—given to it by the TBC—would revert to the possession of the TBC Executive Board.

Belmont contended that the contract was no longer valid.

### Belmont to pay TBC \$11 million

In May 2006, messengers to a special session of the TBC rejected an initial settlement offer from Belmont, in which the university would have paid \$5 million over three years. Instead, messengers at that meeting empowered a special Belmont Study Committee to "car-

ry out all rights, powers, actions and remedies of the convention" with respect to Belmont University.

After months of negotiating with representatives from Belmont, formal mediation and other legal wrangling, two representatives from each side reached a tentative agreement for the \$11 million settlement.

"From the very onset of the meeting, there was no pride from anyone demonstrated nor felt in that room," said TBC Executive Board President Jerry Massey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paris, Tenn.

"The attitudes were positive," Massey continued. "The discussions were open and frank, genuine and firm. The desire of both parties was that the Tennessee Baptist Convention as well as the Belmont University family would both experience a win-win situation."

Messengers overwhelmingly approved a motion offering their support for the settlement

## N.C. Baptists revise major ministry relationships

**Greensboro, N.C. (ABP)**—Messengers changed the structure of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Nov. 12-14, loosening ties to its colleges and retirement home, cutting funding to North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union and expelling a church that accepts homosexuals in leadership positions.

During the three-day meeting in Greensboro, messengers adopted a 2008-09 budget that includes no allocation WMU, accepted the recommendations of a study committee whose chairman said "Baptist Retirement Homes will no longer be a ministry of the convention," approved the first of two steps required to relinquish trustee selection of its colleges, and rejected an appeal from gay-affirming Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte to remain a member of the convention.

Messengers later responded to an altar call to "give up negativism, back biting and sniping at each other." The plea came from Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church of

Charlotte, in the convention sermon. When he issued an altar call, hundreds of men and women poured from their seats to kneel at the front and pray for a new day in North Carolina Baptist life—described as a rare response in a convention recently wracked by division.

"Nothing worthwhile is going to happen in the Baptist State Convention until North Carolina Baptists die to themselves," Harris said.

WMU, an auxiliary which has worked among North Carolina Baptist churches since 1888, has been the single largest recipient of funds through the state mission offering.

Prior to the annual session, WMU voted to vacate offices it has shared with Baptist State Convention staff since 1947 and give up convention-funded logistical support of \$400,000 annually.

While WMU was budgeted to receive \$865,000 of a \$2.5 million offering goal in 2007, convention leaders dropped the 2008 goal to \$2 million, with nothing for WMU—even

though WMU has traditionally taken the lead in promoting the offering.

Meanwhile, the proposal from the colleges, brought by the Council on Christian Higher Education, offered to give up funding from North Carolina Baptists in exchange for electing their own trustees. The schools are Chowan University in Murfreesboro, Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, Mars Hill College in Mars Hill and Wingate University in Wingate. Wake Forest University and Meredith College split from the convention years ago.

North Carolina Baptists expelled Myers Park Baptist Church from convention membership. By Myers Park's own admission, its acceptance of homosexuals into positions of church leadership places the congregation in opposition to the state convention's constitution, which says any church that affirms or blesses homosexual behavior is "not in friendly cooperation" with the convention.

## Florida Baptists approve alcohol abstinence policy

**Daytona Beach, Fla. (BP)**—Messengers to the Florida Baptist Convention annual meeting overwhelmingly approved a by-law revision requiring all trustee nominees to "agree to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages and using any other recreational drugs."

The bylaw revision—proposed by the Florida State Board of Missions—amended an existing bylaw stipulating that nominees must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, be a member in a Cooperative Program-giving church for at least one year, demonstrate good stewardship and support the Baptist Faith and Message. Individuals nominated for leadership roles are required to sign a document stating their support of the doctrinal statement.

The abstinence provision resulted from a pledge announced by Florida Baptist Convention Executive Director John Sullivan at the convention's 2006 annual meeting. Responding to a prolonged debate at the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention meeting over the use of beverage alcohol, Sullivan said he was "embarrassed" by the discussion and wanted to clarify Florida Baptists' position on the issue.

Messengers approved a 2008 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$41 million giving. The budget will continue to allocate 60 percent of CP gifts for Florida Baptist ministries and 40 percent to Southern Baptist causes.

Joel Breidenbaugh, pastor of CornerStone Baptist Church in Panama City Beach, urged Florida Baptists to adopt a 50/50 split between the national and state allocations. But the 60/40 budget plan was approved with only his dissenting vote.

## BCA leader Keith Beene dies unexpectedly

**Murfreesboro, Tenn. (ABP)**—Keith Beene, the 40-year-old administrator of Baptist Communicators Association, died unexpectedly in the early hours of Nov. 16, according to the group's president.

Beene's widow, Ellen, said he simply "didn't wake up this morning," David Winfrey wrote in an e-mail to his fellow BCA officers. Winfrey, a marketing consultant in Louisville and former news director for the Western Recorder, encouraged his colleagues to pray for Ellen Beene and their two children, Erik, 9, and Miranda, 5.

Beene worked part-time as the association's only paid employee. BCA is a professional development organization for public relations professionals, journalists, designers and other communicators who work with Baptist organizations. Beene helped the group maintain its website and mailing lists, arrange a annual workshop and awards competition, administer a scholarship program and arrange other professional development and networking events.

Winfrey said Beene, who worked from his home in Murfreesboro, Tenn., was also a freelance writer and stay-at-home father to his two young children. His wife is employed by LifeWay

Christian Resources.

"Keith had a servant's heart," Winfrey noted. "Each year, new (BCA) officers didn't have to 're-invent the wheel' because he provided both resources and institutional knowledge about BCA. He helped the group operate at its peak capacity."

"Keith is well-loved by all who worked alongside him," Winfrey added, "and he will be sorely missed."

Philip Poole, director of communications for Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., served as BCA president as Beene began his work in 1994.

"Keith was eager to learn about the organization's structure and operation and was very quick to offer suggestions for how we could improve our association," Poole noted. "He had a very gentle but firm way of prodding me along to make sure things were getting done. Through the years, his tireless efforts made BCA a better organization."

Beene, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. Memorial gifts may be made to Calvary Church's Big Daddy Memorial Fund.

## Dehoney, former SBC president and Walnut Street pastor, dies

*Continued from page 1*

In addition to serving as pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Dehoney was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah and First Baptist Church of Pineville as well as churches in Alabama and Tennessee.

Dehoney was co-founder of Dehoney Travel, which specializes in travel to the Holy Land. In 1998, he was presented Israel's 50th anniversary Travel & Tourism Award in honor of his efforts to help build tourism to the Holy Land.

Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville presented Dehoney its 2001 Clarence Jordan Award in honor of a life that exemplifies practical application of the gospel. He also was named a senior professor at Southern Seminary in 1985 by former President Roy Honeycutt.

Dehoney was a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Southern Seminary and held honorary de-

grees from Campbellsville University, Union University and Atlanta Law School. He also was a chaplain for the University of Louisville football team.

Dehoney's wife of 63 years, Lealice, preceded him in death Oct. 23 at age 82.

"I think that's why he passed 23 days later. It was just too hard without her," their daughter, Kathy Evitts, told the Louisville Courier-Journal. "They were so interconnected. It was a true partnership in ministry."

In addition to Evitts, Dehoney is survived by one other daughter, Rebecca Richardson; one son, William Dehoney; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

His memorial service was held Nov. 19 at Walnut Street Baptist Church. Memorial gifts may be given to Walnut Street's Children's Ministries Renewal or to the Baptist World Alliance's Wayne & Lealice Dehoney Fund for Middle East Peace.

## Henard, four other KBC officers elected by acclamation

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers elected all five state convention officers by acclamation during last week's KBC annual meeting in Elizabethtown.

Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, was elected KBC president. It marked the first time since 2002 that a Kentucky Baptist president has been elected without opposition.

Other officers include Jim Castlen, first vice president; Rick Reeder, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, secretary; and Mike Melloan, assistant secretary.

Henard, who has served the past three years as chairman of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee, also is a part-time assistant professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and chairman of LifeWay Christian Resources' board of trustees.

Former KBC President Hershael York, also a Southern Seminary professor and associate dean, nominated Henard for the KBC presidency.

York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, described Henard as a "humble, meek and godly man."

Noting that Henard's congregation "has been a perennial leader in our state in baptisms, in missions and in Cooperative Program giving," York said Henard will "keep us working together to reach our state and our world with the glorious gospel



**KBC OFFICERS** State convention officers elected last week by acclamation are (from left) Mike Melloan, assistant secretary; Wilma Simmons, secretary; Bill Henard, president; Jim Castlen, first vice president; and Rick Reeder, second vice president. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

of Jesus Christ."

During a post-election press conference, Henard said his goals for the year include calling churches to revival and spiritual awakening and encouraging increased baptisms and Cooperative Program support.

"I want to see our churches experience real spiritual awakening from within," he emphasized. "That would be my top priority."

### Presidency is "incredible honor"

Reflecting on his election by acclamation four years after failing to be elected KBC president, Henard told reporters that serving as state convention president "hasn't been a career goal for me but it is an incredible honor."

He said he hopes his election "is

because every side would see that as president, I want to be president for everybody. .... I hope people have seen my heart and my passions and recognize that I would represent them well."

As the third Southern Seminary faculty member elected KBC president in four years, Henard said, "It's an interesting connection between Kentucky Baptists and Southern Seminary. ... I don't think it's a conspiracy by any means."

"I've never had anyone from Southern Seminary ever try to tell me what I should do," he added. "They've always asked: 'How can we help?' and 'How can we be more involved with what is happening in the Kentucky Baptist Convention?' I've been pleased with that."

In other elections, Jim Castlen was nominated as first vice president by Alan Dodson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

Dodson said Castlen, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association, "would bring a beautiful spirit and a unique perspective as a Kentucky Baptist leader."

Noting that Castlen "has a proven passion for the local church," Dodson described him as "a man who humbly walks with God."

Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, was nominated as second vice president by Delton Beall, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton.

Declaring that Reeder "loves pastors and the local church," Beall said he "is the right man with the right stuff to serve our convention."

Echoing last week's convention theme, Beall said Reeder's election would help "move our convention forward in empowering believers in missions."

### Longtime secretaries re-elected

Messengers also re-elected Wilma Simmons as secretary and Mike Melloan as assistant secretary.

Simmons, a member of Big Spring Baptist Church in Vine Grove, has served as KBC secretary since 1991. Melloan, a member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, has served as assistant secretary since 2003.

## Smith elected to preach 2008 KBC sermon

**Elizabethtown**—Kevin Smith, outgoing Kentucky Baptist Convention first vice president, was elected to preach the 2008 convention sermon at next year's KBC annual meeting Nov. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, also is an assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Messengers approved former KBC President Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, as the alternate to preach the annual sermon.

## KBC discipleship study reveals 'troubling' results

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Warning that "we have a long way to go in discipleship," Scott McConnell of LifeWay Research presented a detailed study of "Spiritual Maturity among Southern Baptists in Kentucky" in the closing session of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

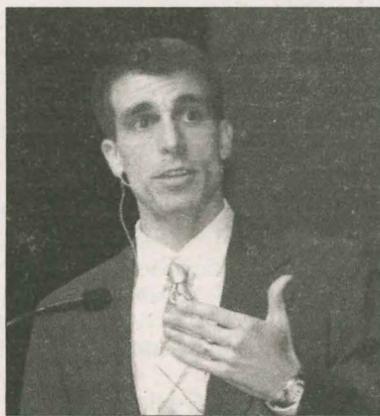
McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, presented the research findings from a representative sample of 223 Kentucky Baptists.

While affirming that 40 percent of Kentucky Baptists surveyed indicated strong spiritual maturity and discipleship, he noted that another 35 percent "have quite a bit to do in terms of their discipleship journey."

Warning that some of the findings in the area of doctrinal issues and beliefs are "troubling," McConnell said only 49 percent of respondents disagreed with the "heretical statement" that "Christians must continually work toward their salvation or risk losing it" and only 45 percent disagreed with the statement that "if a person is sincerely seeking God, he or she can obtain eternal life through religions other than Christianity."

"These are not issues we can solve by simply talking louder," McConnell emphasized. "We need to acknowledge the fact there are people quietly misunderstanding or quietly choosing not to believe some of the truths in the Word of God."

McConnell said other areas of concern related to the basics of the Christian life, including the findings



**SURVEY RESULTS** Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, told Kentucky Baptists last week that a survey of discipleship in Kentucky Baptist churches indicates "there are folks who are struggling with some of the truths we are sharing with them." (Photo by Drew Nichter)

that only 46 percent of respondents read the Bible a few times a week or more and only 49 percent volunteer their time to serve in any role within their church.

McConnell said the survey also showed that only 31 percent of respondents claimed to have intentionally spent time building friendships with non-Christians for the purpose of sharing Christ with them.

While 87 percent agreed that it is every Christian's responsibility to share the gospel with non-Christians, McConnell added that "one out of eight do not believe they have that personal responsibility to share Christ with others, possibly forgetting that it was somebody who shared Christ with them to get them

to that point in the first place."

Among other findings:

- Ninety-four percent agreed that "Jesus died on the cross and was physically resurrected from the dead."

- Eighty percent agreed that "I express praise and gratitude to God even in difficult circumstances."

- Seventy-nine percent agreed that "with reference to my values and priorities, I can honestly say that I try to put God first in my life."

- Seventy percent agreed that "I have developed significant relationship with people at my church."

- Sixty-two percent agreed that "the Bible teaches that participation in a local church is a necessity for any believer who desires to be truly obedient to God."

- Only 49 percent disagreed with the statement that "often during the worship part of the church service (singing or prayer), I find myself just 'going through the motions.'"

Urging churches to "invest in your discipleship process," McConnell added, "There are folks who are struggling with some of the truths we are sharing with them. We need to give them opportunities to share some of those disagreements so we can help them along in their faith journey."

Referring to McConnell's report, KBC President Darren Gaddis told messengers, "Sobering information, is it not? Folks, we really need to turn our attention to these concerns. ... We have a lot of work that we need to do to turn this around."

With additional reporting by KBC communications staff

## Mackey reminds messengers Kentucky is a mission field

**Elizabethtown**—Kentucky Baptists are beginning to realize that the commonwealth "is a mission field in itself," Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey told state convention messengers last week.

Delivering the KBC Mission Board staff report, Mackey cited the Glenmary Research Center's 2000 study of religious affiliation that revealed more than 66 percent of Kentuckians are spiritually lost. He noted that Kentucky Baptists have an "unprecedented opportunity to reach our communities for Christ."

One of the ways Mackey challenged Kentucky Baptists to do that was by increasing participation in vacation Bible school at local churches. He noted that more than 700 Kentucky Baptists did not conduct VBS this year.

Mackey also indicated that a crucial mission for Kentucky Baptists in the coming year is to stand united against the push for expanded gambling in the commonwealth.

"It's going to take every one of us working together to counter the expansion of gambling in Kentucky," Mackey said, prompting loud applause. "Families are going to be hurt if expanded gambling is approved."

He urged everyone in attendance to contact their state senator in an effort to keep expanded gambling off the 2008 ballot.

Mackey also cited the ongoing challenge of missions support, urging churches to "increase or maintain giving to the Cooperative Program." He noted that an increase of 0.25 percent in CP gifts would result in \$700,000 in additional funds.

Among other items Mackey noted were:

- A record number of people participated in KBC's Super Saturday events in August and September, with more than 3,800 people involved.

- More than 1,900 college students participated in short-term missions projects during the year, resulting in 350 people coming to faith in Christ.

- Forty-five churches were launched this year in Kentucky, 18 of which were Hispanic, a point of emphasis for the KBC.

"Jesus is journeying with us," Mackey emphasized. "May God enable us to move to new levels of commitment."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Evangelism with guns and bulls

By Keith Manuel

Alexandria, La. (BP)—Niche marketing is not just a business term. Creative pastors are finding ways to discover a niche to reach their communities for Christ.

One pastor, Stan Wyant, discovered a niche in his community.

In his state of Louisiana, everyone born after Sept. 1, 1969, is required to take a hunter's safety course before hunting. In a state known as the "Sportsman's Paradise," Stan found a need his church could meet, and the congregation began plans to host a two-day course.

In the end, 90 people not affiliated with the church, Lismore Baptist, came to the course. That's nearly as many people as attend Sunday school any given week at the small Baptist congregation. In fact, the course was in such demand some of the participants drove more than an hour to be there.

## Intentional gospel focus

At the conclusion of the course, the church sponsored a skeet shoot and an archery contest. As the participants ate lunch, a guest speaker

presented the gospel. Church members gave Bibles and gospel tracts to everyone who attended.

Dwayne Rodgers is another pastor who discovered a niche. The cowboys and ranchers of his community were not attending a traditional church. Knowing that someone needed to reach this group of folks, Rodgers led his church to start the Cross Branded Cowboy Church. The new fellowship meets for events such as team roping at a local riding club.

My 7-year-old daughter and I attended one of the events. She loved the horses and said the bulls were so pretty. (My daughter is definitely a city girl.) Soon we were meeting other parents with children and making new friends. As the action began, children and adults alike were laughing and enjoying themselves while cheering for the cowboys and cowgirls on a humid, central Louisiana evening.

After the first round of roping was over, the gates were opened and a pickup with a flatbed trailer in tow pulled in front of the bleachers. The Cross Branded Cowboy band played

ing them to the doorway.

Outside and inside signs were well-placed for easy navigation throughout the building. The kitchen service was superb, with box lunches and other concessions available; these could be enjoyed while keeping up with the goings-on of the convention in the worship center on several large-screen TVs on the atrium walls. The easily-reached restrooms are spacious and in keeping with the supreme quality of the rest of the building, with no standing in line for long.

It was obvious that Severns Valley left no stones unturned in extending hospitality for our state convention's annual meeting. This type

## Gracious KBC hosts

Strong thanks are felt for the pastor, staff and members of Severns Valley Baptist Church for the remarkable ways in which they shared their facilities with 1,200-plus Kentucky Baptists last week. The new structure is a monument to Severns Valley's determination to provide spiritual, educational, recreational and worship experiences to those who enter its doors.

Guests were met by golf-cart chauffeurs in the parking lots, who drove their passengers to the foyer entrance. Greeters met and assisted passengers as they arrived from the carts or from their vehicles, escort-



## Inspirational KBC annual meeting

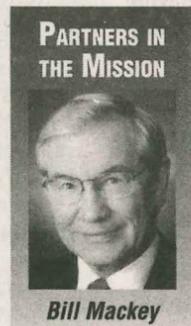
This year's Kentucky Baptist Convention, held last week in Elizabethtown, was one of the most inspirational and informative annual meetings I have attended.

The stage was set by the excellent preparation by the Committee on Order of Business, convention officers, the KBC staff and the host Severns Valley Baptist Church.

The church had made extensive preparations and provided outstanding service. More than 300 volunteers assisted the messengers and other guests.

The newly relocated church facilities are a model in design for ministry. It was obvious that the church was pleased to host the convention and to introduce the messengers to the new facilities.

The Pastors' Conference provided high inspiration with messages by Kentucky pastors as well as by three out-of-state preachers: Fred Wolfe, Richard Land and Steve Gaines. Musicians Clay and Renee Crosse also shared out of their personal experience of Clay's recovery from pornog-



Bill Mackey

raphy addiction.

Inspiration continued during the convention with great music by choirs from Central Baptist Church, Corbin; Severns Valley Baptist Church; Clear Creek Baptist Bible College; and the Kentucky Baptist Men's Choral.

High inspiration was also provided by an outstanding message by KBC President Darren Gaddis. The convention reports, theme interpretations, prayer times and the convention sermon were informative and inspirational.

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., brought a timely and challenging message on the dangers of uselessness based on Luke 13:1-9.

The presentation of a LifeWay Research study on spiritual maturity among Kentucky Baptists was sobering. Obviously, we have much work to do in the area of assimilation and discipleship. Steve Rice, our discipleship and assimilation department director, will be providing more in-

a few songs and then Pastor Dwayne presented the gospel.

Both of these pastors discovered something important. Evangelism doesn't happen by accident—it must be intentional. There is a place for "touch" events, where the community is invited to attend with no other purpose than to get people to take the first step to come on our church grounds.

## Gifts, talents and resources

But if we get to the place where all we do is touch events, without a mechanism for sharing the gospel, then we have lost our focus.

Both of these pastors evaluated the gifts, talents and resources of their church members and utilized them to meet a need in their community.

Evangelism doesn't have to be boring. Sometimes it can be quite loud and spectacular.

If churches will see a need, be moved with compassion to meet that need and apply their resources to it, God will change lives through them. In fact, God can even take a gun or a bull and use it for His glory.

Keith Manuel serves as an evangelism associate on the Louisiana Baptist Convention's evangelism & church growth team

of hosting does not just happen; it requires much planning by detailed thinkers, much work, some revised planning perhaps, more work and competent implementation. All of this was delivered with graciousness and smiles.

As with entertaining in a home, there is work involved after the guests have departed. Severns Valley had more work yet to be done in order to get their facility back to its routine use.

Thank you, Severns Valley Baptist Church, for sharing your church structure with us, and for the spirit and brilliance in which your membership made it such a pleasing experience.

Elaine Armstrong  
Beaver Dam

formation about the survey and strategies church leaders can utilize in developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

During the KBC Mission Board meeting held the day before the annual meeting, I asked that the Mission Board members assist with a focus on reaching Kentucky for Christ. The two major foci of Kentucky Baptists Connect are reaching people for Jesus Christ and developing them as fully devoted followers.

It will require intentional effort by every KBC entity, association, church and believer, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to exceed 20,000 baptisms in 2007-08 and to reach toward 25,000 the following year.

I am asking all Kentucky Baptists to give priority to "making disciples" in your devotional life, church ministries, Sunday school classes, small groups and personal contacts.

Every person in your neighborhood, and every acquaintance, deserves to hear the gospel in an understandable way, and to have an opportunity to experience a personal relationship to God through Jesus Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how you can help today.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## GIVING

## Creative options support church's capital campaign

By Laurie Valentine

Church building campaigns can provide a great opportunity for making the kind of gift you never would have dreamed possible.



The challenge is to develop a plan that allows you to give "above and beyond" your tithes and offerings, without feeling you have placed yourself in a cash crunch.

Bill and Sue Anderson were in just this situation recently. Their church was in a capital campaign to raise funds for a family life center. The Andersons wanted to do all they could to meet the stewardship challenge presented by the campaign committee. As they began to prayerfully consider what they could give, they thought of the two rental houses they had owned for many years. As a result of Bill's recent retirement, the Andersons were planning to do a lot of traveling in the next few years. They had decided to sell the houses to free themselves from real estate management responsibilities and provide funds for travel. Their concern with this plan was the large capital gains tax they would have to pay when they sold the houses.

An alternative for the Andersons would be an outright gift of a one-tenth interest in the two houses to the church for the building campaign and a gift of the remaining nine-tenths interest in the building to a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) that will pay the Andersons a 10 percent unitrust payment each year for the next 15 years, with the remainder designated for the church at the end of the 15-year trust term.

If the two houses have a current market value of \$120,000, the Andersons will be entitled to a \$12,000 charitable contribution deduction for the one-tenth outright gift, a \$23,500 contribution deduction for the gift to the CRUT, and they avoid the capital gains taxes they would have incurred if they sold the property. Over the next 15 years, they will receive a total of approximately \$124,500 in payments from the CRUT (assuming a 7.6 percent average annual total return).

The church receives an immediate gift for the building campaign of one-tenth of the sales proceeds when the two houses are sold. It will also receive the remainder of the CRUT to fund an endowment for the upkeep and maintenance of the church facilities at the end of the 15-year trust term.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

## Being intentional & specific among keys to thankfulness

**Q: As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, what are some specific ways I can help teach my child to be thankful?**

The Apostle Paul constantly encouraged the early Christians to be thankful. In the same way, parents encourage thankful attitudes in their children. Here's an idea for Thanksgiving 2007:

### PARENTING

Pastor Les Hollon of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville likes to say that love is not credible until it is specific. The same might also be said of thanksgiving. Saying "thank you" to others and even to God often comes in the form of blanket statements that are akin to shooting with a shotgun rather than a rifle. Learning to be specific can add meaning to your thanksgiving.

Johnson Oatman Jr. captured this idea when he wrote the words to the famous hymn, "Count Your Blessings." The lyrics encourage us to name our blessings "one by one." When we do, we may be surprised at all God and others have done for us.

As the Thanksgiving holidays approach, challenge your child to find specific things for which to be thankful. Show your child the words to the hymn and explain what they mean. Then help your youngster make a written list. Add to the list each day. You might even want to make one big list that the entire family can contribute to.

Look for ways to be specific when giving or saying thanks. For example, when you pray at mealtime, instead of saying, "Thank you for our food," say something like, "Thank you for this chicken that smells so good, thank you for the crunchy apples, thank you for the cold milk," etc.

Make sure your children notice and do not take for granted gifts of health, home and basic happiness that many people do not enjoy. As you go through the day, ask God to help you be alert to sights and sounds that can trigger specific expressions of thanksgiving.—David Garrard

**Q: My wife often accuses me of staring at other women. Frequently she is mistaken, but sometimes she is right and sometimes I even fantasize about these women. Is this natural?**

While most men are tempted sexually through the "eye-gate," the commonness of the temptation should not constitute a justification for sexual sin. It is clear that entertaining sexual fantasies about someone other than one's spouse is sin. Jesus said, "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

According to Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker in "Every Man's Battle," Christian men need to aim for obedience, not excellence. Excellence, in the business world, often does not aim for perfection because it is too costly; instead, the business world discovers how to "stop short" while at the same time "seeming perfect."

"How far can we go and still seem perfect?" is the wrong question for the Christian man because it suggests the veneer of godliness without the substance. To aim for obedience to Christ is to set one's sights, through the power of the Holy Spirit, on perfection.

Pay attention to the opening line of Job 31, "I have made a covenant with my eyes." Rather than giving in to a prime temptation of "maleness," resolve to employ the strategy of "bouncing your eyes" away from attractive women and sensual images. This might include certain advertising in the newspaper, female athletes in tight or revealing clothing, television commercials, billboards or even a soloist in church on Sunday morning. Secondly, work on starving your eyes from situations and materials that cause you to hunger for anyone other than your wife. In military terms, set up a strong perimeter!—Scott Wigginton

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## Does routine KBC meeting equal harmony?

All five state convention officers elected by acclamation. Five resolutions adopted without discussion or opposition. No miscellaneous business items introduced from the floor of the convention. The lowest messenger turnout in more than three decades.

It was, to say the least, a rather quiet, low-key Baptist gathering.

Several people asked me during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Elizabethtown, "So what are you going to write about?" Good question.

But even with no floor debate and no ballot votes, messengers addressed a number of key issues, including resolutions opposing expanded gambling and child sexual abuse as well as celebrating the convention's focus on "Empowering Believers in Missions."

One of the biggest agenda items came in the opening session when messengers voted to switch the annual meeting from a two-day event to one day beginning next year. While convention officials kept open the option of scheduling workshops or other events the day after the convention, the lack of a quorum (25 percent of registered messengers) on the convention's second day prohibited business being conducted two of the previous three years.

Rather than continuing to try to cope with dwindling second-day attendance, convention leaders opted to condense the annual business meeting to a single day.

Another significant presentation was a Wednesday morning overview of a recent survey on "Spiritual Maturity among Southern Baptists in Kentucky." Presented by Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, the study found that fewer than half of Kentucky Baptist respondents disagreed with such "heretical statements" as "Christians must continually work toward their salvation or risk losing it" and "if a person is sincerely seeking God, he or she can obtain eternal life through religions other than Christianity."

## Church signs can enhance outreach

By Woody Murray

**Nashville (BP)**—One of the most effective ways to promote your church's ministries is a church message sign.

Why? Your best prospects probably live close to the church. They likely pass by it every day. They're on the way to and from work, going to the grocery store or running other errands. Many of them probably go by your church more than once a day.

If you don't have a church message sign, you need to get one. If you do have one, you need to make sure the messages are inviting and that they stay fresh. That is where many churches make a crucial mistake—they don't devote enough time to their messages.

Each church needs someone—or maybe even a few people—who will take on the sign as their ministry for the congregation. If you have a publicity committee or communications committee in your church, your sign should be an integral part of their work.

If you have a sign that requires the letters to be changed by hand, you might want to have one person write the messages and another person make the physical sign changes. If you have an electronic sign, you should be making message changes frequently so there is always something new to catch the eye of prospects. The people preparing your sign should be kept informed of special services and events happening

With eternal security of the believer and the sole sufficiency of Christ for salvation among bedrock Baptist doctrines, McConnell warned that such "troubling" survey results indicate "there are folks who are struggling with some of the truths we are sharing with them."

As a result, Kentucky Baptist leaders were challenged to invest in the discipleship process and lead by example.

In the midst of an otherwise routine annual meeting, outgoing KBC President Darren Gaddis told messengers at the close of the meeting's opening day, "I want to thank you for this good and peaceful and unified day."

While this year's convention gathering definitely was peaceful, does the absence of contested elections and floor debate equal long-term unity in Kentucky Baptist life?

While some observers would say the proceedings were a sign of convention harmony, others would suggest that those who don't feel as included in state convention life these days simply chose not to attend.

The registration numbers indicate something significant changed this year. After averaging nearly 1,600 messengers the past three years and topping 2,100 messengers as recently as 2000, you have to go all the way back to 1974 to find a registration total lower than this year's messenger count of 942.

The lack of a contested presidential election for the first time in five years likely contributed to the low attendance. But a drop of more than 480 messengers from last year and more than 870 from two years ago—as well as the low second-day attendance the past few years—suggests that many Kentucky Baptists are choosing not to make KBC business a top priority these days.

Whatever the reasons for this year's decreased attendance, there remains much work to do in Kentucky Baptist life as leaders seek to address such vital issues as discipleship, cooperation and "empowering believers in missions."

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

words on your sign. You run a greater risk of turning off people to your church with a "fire and brimstone" message on your sign. Use your sign to invite them to your church, and let God's message on Sunday change their hearts.

Think twice about humorous signs, too. Remember, once you've heard a joke, you don't want to hear it again. Unless you plan on changing your humorous messages every few days, you may lose the attention of your prospects. Also, what's funny to one person may offend another. The last thing you want to do is drive someone away from your church.

Another important point to remember is being brief with your sign wording. The goal is not to fill every inch of the sign with words. People can't read a long message in the second or two it takes to pass the church. Put too many words on your sign, and folks won't even take a look. The rule of thumb is to say what you need to say in seven to 10 words—even fewer if possible.

If your church is located on a main thoroughfare, try to have the best sign you can budget. You will be amazed at how many people in your church's community can be reached.

Your church sign should be a primary ministry touch-point that encourages people to visit your church.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Woody Murray is a church communications specialist based in Nashville

at your church—well ahead of time—to get the messages up on the sign well in advance of the event.

What about the content of the messages? Decide first on some key messages that should be posted frequently. These would include your

### COMMENTARY

worship times, your church Web site address, and most importantly, an invitation to join you in worship. In fact, a message as simple as the following can be much more effective than any humorous or clever saying: Join us .this Sunday for worship: 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.

People respond to invitations. We see it every Sunday at the close of the service. The Lord pulls at their hearts. The Lord can do the same with your church sign.

Other important messages to post are special worship services, such as Special Friday and Christmas Eve. We know that many people come to church just for special holidays, so remind them that your church has the holiday services they seek. Again, include the day and time. Such information is useful for those who visit infrequently.

I feel a little uncomfortable saying this, but be cautious in how you use Scripture on your sign. Some churches use Scripture—or messages related to certain Scriptures—with the intention of frightening people into coming to church. While a 30-minute Sunday sermon might hit home with a person who needs to change his life, it is unlikely you will have the same results with just a few

## Kentucky Baptists affirm missions impact

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Elizabethtown**—God has empowered Christians to share the gospel, baptize new believers and equip them to serve in His name, Kentucky Baptists were reminded during an "Empowering Believers in Missions" emphasis.

Church starts, literacy missions and prison ministries were among the approaches highlighted during the Tuesday evening emphasis that echoed the state convention's theme.

The presentation also provided another venue to mark the 300th anniversary of Baptist association in America. Through videotaped interviews, pastors of new churches thanked local Baptist associations for their support.

"Without (Northern Kentucky Baptist Association's) help, we would not have our trailer where the church materials are maintained," said Mike Osborne, pastor of Journey, a congregation that launched last year. The trailer houses materials needed to set up Bible study worship services each week in a rented reception hall in Florence.

As Journey members have received assistance, they also are obe-

dient to help others, Osborne noted. In its first month, the congregation sent a mission team to the Gulf Coast and collected dozens of pairs of shoes for needy children.

Leaders of individual churches, Elkhorn Baptist Association and the KBC "provide to me many, many resources in terms of material resources (and also) spiritual resources," said Claudio Toro, pastor of Cardinal Valley Iglesia in Lexington.

He said he appreciates the encouraging phone calls he receives regularly from people asking, "What do you need? How can we support you?"

Other ways Kentucky Baptists serve in their Jerusalems and Judeas include literacy missions. Trained tutors from Kentucky Baptist churches assist children, adults and non-English speakers in reading and writing. Tutors use teaching materials that incorporate Bible stories and scriptural truths.

Eric Allen, director of KBC mission service and ministries, said 67 people made professions of faith in Christ last year as a result of Kentucky Baptists' literacy ministry.

One of those new believers is Antonio Gutierrez who took English as a Second Language classes at a church in Bowling Green. "It really changed my life," Gutierrez told annual meeting participants.

"God is so important in my life," Gutierrez added, describing himself as "more quiet and calm" after accepting Christ as Savior. A double blessing is that "now I can read and speak English."

Allen Barnett of Pewee Valley, a former state and federal prison inmate, expressed his gratitude to Kentucky Baptists for their work in prison ministry. He credits the efforts of prison ministry leaders and volunteers for leading him to a personal

relationship with Christ.

Barnett said his mother was a believer "and tried to teach me the right from the wrong (but) ... I was greedy. I loved money."

His 15 years in prison—twice in state prison and three times in federal—were for "organizing bank robberies," he said. Eventually he focused on education, taking correspondence courses from the University of Pennsylvania. He was released from prison 15 years ago and has not re-offended. Today he collects writings from inmates and edits a newsletter for prisoners.

Barnett said his message to inmates is simple: "God helped me, and God can help you."

Following the reports and video presentations, former KBC President Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, encouraged Kentucky Baptists to take a moment for introspection.

"The King has said He would be pleased if we would visit those in the prison," Chitwood said. "There are tens of thousands (of people) in the prisons in our state. How many prisoners do we know?"

"We are to follow Him, obediently caring for the least among us," Chitwood added. "There are over 700,000 Kentuckians who live below the poverty level. How many do you know?"

The Bible says God wants His children to be kind to "strangers." For Kentucky Baptists, Chitwood said the scripture means, in part, internationals living in Kentucky.

In Acts 1:8, Christ tells His followers, "You will receive power to be my witnesses." The power has come to all who have accepted Christ as Savior, Chitwood said, but believers must take the next step.

"There are over 2 million lost people in Kentucky," he said. "How many do you know?"

## Messengers adopt measures opposing gambling, abuse

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Confronting the issues of gambling and child sexual abuse, Kentucky Baptist messengers adopted a pair of strongly-worded resolutions on those topics.

Warning that "gambling violates a number of biblical principles," the anti-gambling resolution notes that "expanded gambling in the commonwealth will further encourage gambling addictions, crime, family destruction, personal irresponsibility and the corruption of government."

Urging church leaders "to be deliberate in educating their congregations regarding the dangers of gambling," the measure calls on "the governor and all members of the Kentucky General Assembly to take a stand in support of Kentucky's families and businesses by pledging to oppose the expansion of gambling in our commonwealth."

A resolution "on abuse and the protection of children" emphasizes that "recent years have seen numerous examples exposed where ministers and church leaders have abused their positions within churches to abuse children, teenagers and other vulnerable persons within the church."

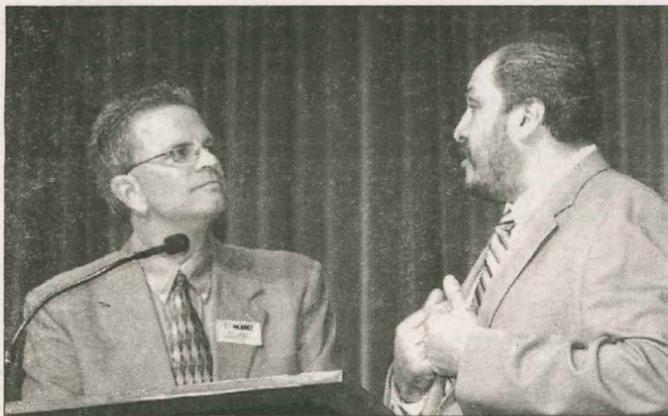
Noting that "sexual infidelity and other violations of ministerial integrity always have tragic consequences for those who are victimized and for others indirectly impacted by those transgressions," the resolution calls on churches to "implement appropriate measures to enhance the safety and security of children, teenagers and other vulnerable persons within their ministries."

Calling for initiatives ranging from rigorous background checks for prospective employees and volunteers to policies for appropriate Internet use on church computers, the measure urges churches "to show no tolerance for any mistreatment or abuse, thoroughly investigating and punishing abusers through both biblical church discipline (1 Corinthians 5:1-13) and through the handing over to the civil authorities who stand in the place of God to punish evildoers (Romans 13:1-7)."

Messengers also adopted resolutions on the Great Commission and commending Bill Whittaker for his service as former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Noting that "our Lord Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations," the resolution on the Great Commission emphasizes that "our cooperative missions efforts are dependent on a Great Commission outlook in our churches that encompasses compassion and action both locally and globally."

**MORE THAN WORDS**  
Antonio Gutierrez (right), discusses how an English as a Second Language course helped him understand and accept the gospel. Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries, interviewed Gutierrez during the Tuesday evening emphasis on "Empowering Believers in Missions."



## KBC leaders sound alarm on expanded gambling

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Elizabethtown**—At last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting marked by an absence of controversy, alarm bells rang out for an issue of statewide debate: expanded gambling.

Just days after Kentuckians elected a new governor who supports casino-style gambling as a revenue source for the commonwealth, KBC leaders wasted no time rallying messengers to prepare for battle.

Don Cole, president of the Kentucky Ethics League board of trustees, warned it is certain that the 2008 Kentucky General Assembly will consider placing on a statewide ballot a proposed constitutional amendment seeking to legalize casino gambling at some Kentucky thoroughbred racetracks.

Based on pre-election polls, if the question reaches a referendum, it likely will pass, Cole noted. If it does, he added, reversing the decision could prove impossible.

"If casinos come in, they will more than likely be here when Jesus comes again," Cole declared. "Is this the kind of welcome we want in our state for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ?"

He noted that studies show gam-

bling is an unreliable method of funding and that gambling addictions lead to financial ruin, divorce, suicide and other tragedies.

John Chowning, vice chairman of the KBC Committee on Public Affairs, echoed Cole's concern, telling Kentucky Baptists that the best opportunity to defeat the measure is to persuade Kentucky legislators to keep it off the ballot.

Whether it is a scratch-off lottery ticket, slot machine or a roll of the dice in a plush casino, gambling "is a regressive form of taxation and it hits the poorest the hardest," said Chowning, pastor of Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville. Expanded gaming also means "an expansion of corruption and outside influences."

Arguments that casinos will create jobs and revenue will not stand up to scrutiny, Chowning said. It is estimated that in order to create \$500 million in revenue, Kentuckians must gamble \$1.5 billion. Chowning said the revenue predictions could be as low as \$200 million per \$1.5 billion wagered.

"This is a very poor form of economic development," he insisted.

In addition to contacting legislators by letter, e-mail or phone to express opposition to the constitution-

al amendment, Cole, Chowning and KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey urged Kentucky Baptists to fight the issue from their pulpits, newsletters, Web sites and other venues.

The Committee on Public Affairs has "Preaching Values Kits" available to help pastors and other leaders share the facts about gambling and other moral issues. For details, visit [www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs](http://www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs) or call (800) 266-6477.

Members of the Kentucky Ethics League are available for speaking engagements and can direct problem gamblers and others affected by gambling addictions to professional counseling and assistance. For details, visit [www.kentuckyleague.org](http://www.kentuckyleague.org) or call (502) 635-0002.

Cole added that Kentucky Baptists also should be aware that legislation seeking to expand alcohol sales might also be introduced when the Kentucky General Assembly convenes in January. Proposals may include selling alcohol in convenience stores, at state parks and on Election Day.

Kentuckians can visit [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov) to identify their local legislators and obtain their e-mail addresses. The legislator message line is (800) 372-7181. The 2008 Kentucky General Assembly convenes Jan. 8.

## KBC sermon: 'Go forward in God's power'

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Elizabethtown**—For believers to become empowered to share the gospel around the world, they must ask for God's help, wait for His answer—and when He speaks, obey without reservation, Allen Harrod declared.

Delivering the convention sermon at the annual meeting of Kentucky Baptists, Harrod, pastor of Nicholasville Baptist Church, referenced King David's second battle against the Philistines to illustrate those truths. The account is recorded in 2 Samuel 5:17-25.

Harrod noted that David asked God, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?" and then waited for God's answer, "I will certainly give the Philistines into your hands," before acting.

"There is no higher calling to the child of God than to know and do His will," Harrod insisted.

In some circumstances, such as those King David faced in battle, God asks His children to do things that perhaps seem odd or outside His character, Harrod said. Specifically, the Lord instructed David to circle behind the Philistines instead of making a frontal assault. He told David not to attack until he heard "marching in the mulberry trees."

Harrod admitted that as a young pastor, he left a congregation before receiving direction from God. His new post "was the deadest, most troubled church that I've ever pastored in my life," he added. "This was the most terrible experience in my life ... because I didn't listen to the marching in the mulberry trees."

Harrod urged church leaders not to focus on the few, if vocal, voices of dissent; listen for God before changing direction.

"We're all ministers of the Lord. ... There will be people who will resist your leadership and try to put you down," he warned. "Shall we go forth in our strength, our ability, our intelligence or shall we go in the power and presence and providence



Allen Harrod

of God?"

The king's response to the threat of the Philistines was admirable, Harrod noted. "David didn't reason this question; he prayed about it. He didn't count his soldiers, consult advisors or take an opinion poll."

A skill all Christians should master is casting burdens upon the Lord, Harrod said. "It took me about 40 years to learn that my problems are not my problems, they are the Lord's."

Harrod said rather than worrying, he has learned to say, "Lord, you've got a problem today." This approach doesn't relieve believers of the responsibility of acting as God instructs, he said, but "we let God do the work (so) God gets the glory."

Even the most mature Christians often admit that waiting on God to answer or to act is extremely difficult. Harrod admitted he struggles with this too. He encouraged messengers and guests to remember that "it's not just about waiting; it's about waiting on the Lord." His direction is worth believers' patience.

After David defeated the Philistines, his army discovered that their opponents had abandoned their idols as they fled. "They left their tokens of trust," Harrod pointed out. The Israelite army then carried the idols away.

"There will come a day when you will destroy your enemy's idols," Harrod said. "If we wait on the Lord,

He will vindicate His name. It's not about validating us."

A mission trip to Russia drove this point home for Harrod, he recounted. More than \$3,700 was stolen from his hotel room. The money was to hire translators and purchase Russian-language Bibles.

As the mission team prayed for direction, Harrod said God spoke to his heart, telling him that "we would get the money back." Then, Harrod said, God instructed him to share this message with his fellow team members.

The pastor admitted that it was a word from God he really did not want to share because he was afraid of the implications if God did not follow through. He thought it would be embarrassing for himself and for God.

Despite his reservations, when the prayer time was over, Harrod said he was obedient to the direction God provided. He told his fellow missionaries that the Lord assured him they would get the money back.

Still, Harrod said, "I figured the Lord needed my help" in the quest. Team members slept in shifts hoping to catch the thief returning to the scene of the crime.

As they ministered in the city, they met two Americans hungering for news from home. As they shared a meal, the men told Harrod that they were staying in the same hotel and had heard about the theft.

Prior to an evening Bible study, the men invited Harrod and another member of the team for a visit. When Harrod arrived, one of the men said God had instructed him to replace the funds that were stolen.

Harrod said he is convinced that had he not shared God's word with his fellow missionaries, God would not have replaced the funds. The entire experience, the pastor said, was a test of faith and obedience.

"Once we've heard the marching in the mulberry trees," Harrod told Kentucky Baptists, "we must go forward in God's power. These are our marching orders."

## Page challenges believers to avoid uselessness

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Challenging Kentucky Baptists to avoid the sin of uselessness, Southern Baptist Convention Frank Page was the keynote speaker during the Tuesday evening session of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Highlighting Jesus' parable of the fig tree recorded in Luke 13:1-9, Page warned messengers, "There is a sin that will destroy us all and that is the sin of uselessness."

"Kentucky Baptists, God has you in a place where He can use you for His honor and His glory," he insisted. "You're here for a purpose and that is to bring glory to God."

Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., recounted that Jesus told His followers that Galileans killed by Pilate and others who died in the collapse of a tower in Siloam were not being punished because they were worse sinners

than other people.

However, Jesus added, "Unless you repent, you too will all perish."

"The first thing Jesus wanted to do was to correct some false thinking" based on the philosophy, "Where there was much suffering, there must be much sin," Page explained.

Instead, he said, "sometimes we suffer not because of our own unrighteousness, but because of our righteousness."

Despite that assurance, Page said uselessness remains a sin that destroys people today.

"God planted you where you are so that you might bring forth fruit," he emphasized. "God comes every day saying, 'I designed you to bear forth fruit for My Kingdom's glory.'"

Lamenting that "many people on our church rolls have become useless," Page declared that Satan "has destroyed the usefulness of so many churches, of so many pastors, of so many believers. He's imparted

in many of us a true belief that revival will never come to this nation as long as we live and in our honest moments, we still believe that, don't we?"

Many church also "have quickly moved from being objects of uselessness to objects of hindrance," he added. "If you want to find something wrong with church, you don't have to look far because we're all flawed. We are sinful people trying to serve a perfect Savior."

Although "we deserve to be cut down and cast out because our sin is repugnant against the Lord," he said the reality of grace means Christ continues to intercede on behalf of His followers today as "our prophetically predicted, virgin-born, pure living, vicarious dying, bodily resurrected, gloriously ascended, presently interceding Son of God."

"I will not believe that the best days are behind us," he concluded. "I believe God wants to give us a new day. I believe God wants us to experience revival and renewal. ... He is not through with us yet."

## Gaddis underscores urgency of missions at home, abroad

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Elizabethtown**—Kentucky Baptist Convention President Darren Gaddis challenged fellow believers during his presidential address to be on mission both in Kentucky and around the world.



Darren Gaddis

"Missions begins at home," Gaddis declared, adding that one likely reason baptisms in Kentucky Baptist churches have tapered off is that Kentucky Baptists do not focus enough on the unchurched in their own communities.

"We just don't see our state as a mission field," he acknowledged. "Folks, the commonwealth of Kentucky is a mission field."

Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, noted that the Kentucky Baptists

Connect goal of increasing baptisms each year through 2010 has fallen short, with preliminary statistics indicating there may be a decrease in baptisms again this year.

He also cited statistics that show 41 percent of Kentuckians do not claim to be affiliated with any religion. Gaddis challenged Kentucky Baptists to "change how we're thinking," emphasizing the command that Jesus gave His followers in Luke 24:47 to preach in His name to all nations.

"We must be proclaiming His name to the nations, which means we must be proclaiming His name to Kentucky," Gaddis said.

Illustrating his point, Gaddis identified three main elements that God has empowered His believers with in order to spread His word.

The first element is the message, he declared, noting that the gospel contains everything believers need to share the message "that a lost and dying world needs to hear."

Gaddis said the second component Jesus has empowered believers with is the method.

"A great task has been placed on the church (and) Kentucky Baptists to take the message to the ends of the earth," he explained.

He shared the story of a group of missionaries who traveled to an area of northeastern Brazil and through their efforts, led an entire family to faith in Christ. He added that the effects of their mission efforts are still being felt today.

Gaddis voiced concern that such methods are being threatened due to the decline of giving through the Cooperative Program. He pointed out that even though dollar giving has increased, the percentage of receipts Kentucky Baptist churches give through CP continues to decrease and is "about to break under 7 percent."

"If this trend continues," Gaddis added, "the work of this convention is in serious trouble. ... Only the CP allows us to do, as Kentucky Baptists, what we cannot do alone."

During his year as KBC president, Gaddis repeatedly challenged Kentucky Baptist churches to strengthen CP giving. His congregation was among the top 10 churches in total CP gifts this past fiscal year.

Gaddis affirmed that the unified giving of Kentucky Baptists allows missionaries like those in Brazil to continue their work.

He also noted that God has provided believers a third element to share the gospel: the means. He emphasized that discipleship is a key component of that—and an area in which churches are falling behind.

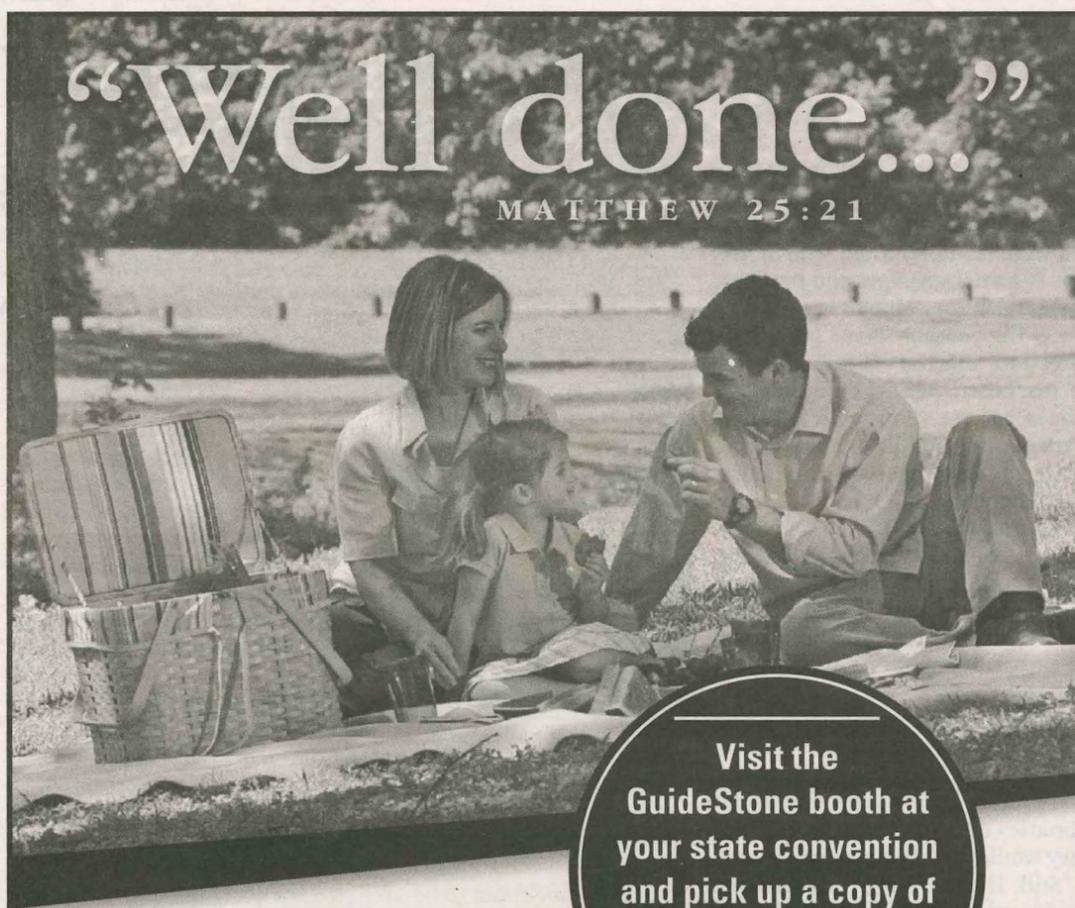
"We are not discipling our people properly," Gaddis declared. "We've not helped them to become more like Jesus."

He cited the LifeWay Research study released at last week's meeting that addressed the lagging spiritual maturity of Kentucky Baptists. Among the many results were startling percentages of believers who did not agree with or trust basic doctrines.

He noted that the problem is a lack of obedience among Kentucky and Southern Baptists. "We've been relying on our own ability, our own strength," Gaddis added. "We are a shadow of what we once were."

To combat complacency, Gaddis challenged Kentucky Baptists to "remember that we've been empowered for missions."

"Get out of your comfort zone and get out on mission," he urged. "Let your heart for the nations beat like Jesus' heart."



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**LIFE OF SERVICE** KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey (right) presents Anna Mary Byrdwell with an award recognizing her for her lifetime of leadership in supporting the Cooperative Program. Byrdwell served with the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union for 37 years in a number of roles. (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

## Cooperative Program leaders recognized at annual meeting

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Elizabethtown—Kentucky Baptists honored two individuals and several churches for outstanding leadership and support of the Cooperative Program during a Nov. 13 celebration at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Anna Mary Byrdwell and John Christian were presented Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Awards for their years of leadership in supporting the Cooperative Program.

Byrdwell served for 37 years in several positions with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. She first joined the missions organization in 1967 as state director of the Sunbeam Band. Byrdwell went on to serve as state director of Acteens in 1971, and then as state director of Baptist Young Women in 1976.

She transitioned to consulting work in 1980 when she became the Baptist Women consultant. She then served as consultant for Baptist Young Women and Baptist Women before being named general WMU consultant in 1997. Byrdwell, who retired in 2004, continued her volunteer involvement for several years as WMU director for Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

"It's hard to think of the Cooperative Program and not think of WMU, and it's hard to think of Kentucky's WMU and not think of Anna Mary Byrdwell," said Steve Thompson, the KBC's assistant executive director.

Christian's 61-year ministry career began in churches in Lafayette and Sinking Fork, where he served from 1942-1947. He then was pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church near Springfield until 1963; First Baptist Church of Goodlettsville, Tenn., from 1963-1971; and Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville from 1971-1987.

After retiring in 1987, Christian moved back to his hometown of Trenton, where he served as interim pastor of Sinking Fork Baptist

Church for 13 years.

"Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, became one of the leading givers to CP under John Christian's leadership," Thompson noted. "That church has given over \$4 million dollars in cumulative CP gifts, which ranks them eighth out of all Kentucky Baptist churches. Much of that giving came during Christian's years there."

Churches celebrating significant milestones in Cooperative Program giving were also recognized.

Three churches were recognized for total dollars given in 2006: Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, which gave \$417,356.09; Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, \$332,671.38; and Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, \$303,435.36.

Three were recognized as the top per capita givers, including: Mexico Baptist Church, Marion, whose 212 members gave a total of \$81,898.17, or \$215.52 per member; Lighthouse Fellowship, Louisville, whose 11 members gave \$2,128.87, or \$212.89 per member; and Riverview Baptist Church, Catlettsburg, whose 10 members gave \$2,011.87 or \$201.19 per member.

Churches reaching significant cumulative giving milestones in the 2006-2007 budget year were also recognized.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington and First Baptist Church, Owensboro, were both honored for giving \$7 million through the Cooperative Program.

Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, reached \$4 million; Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah, reached \$3 million; and Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, reached \$2 million.

Five churches were honored for giving \$1 million, including Reidland Baptist Church; High Street Baptist Church, Somerset; Mexico Baptist Church, Marion; First Baptist Church, Russell; and Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington.



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## Workshop with funny name addresses serious questions

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Elizabethtown—The amusing title alone was enough to catch people's attention. But the subject matter was far from humorous.

"Why aren't more people accepting the message?" Matt Johnson asked the group attending his "Why Your Fish Stinks" breakout session at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"If it really is true that what we're 'selling' is the best thing out there ... then how come more people aren't at least interested in hearing about it?" asked Johnson, pastor of The Journey Church in Murray.

He said the answer lies in engaging the culture. "You have to start by understanding the culture that you live in," he emphasized.

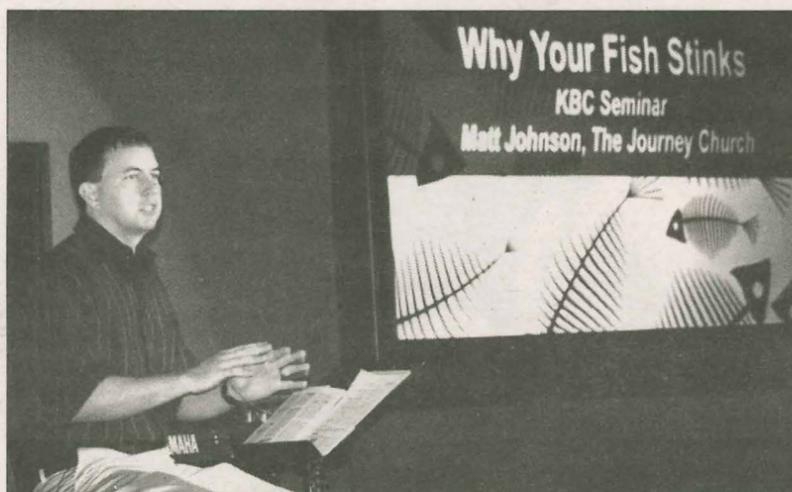
Johnson pointed out that Christianity has an "image problem," citing the new book "UnChristian" by David Kinnaman of the Barna Research Group. The book delves into how Christians are perceived by non-Christians primarily between the ages of 18 and 29. Johnson called the results "shocking."

The leading perceptions of Christians, according to Kinnaman's book, are that they are "anti-homosexual," "judgmental," "hypocritical," "old-fashioned," "too political" and "not genuine."

The book also indicates that 59 percent of those polled arrived at their opinions through attending a church for at least several months. And 90 percent of them had personal relationship with at least five Christians.

"They're not getting these perceptions about us from hearsay," Johnson noted. "They're getting them from their experiences with us."

"It means that people are making conscious decisions to reject Jesus and avoid the church because of Christians they know and have had interactions with."



**CULTURAL IMPACT** Kentucky Baptist pastor Matt Johnson talks to the crowd at his "Why Your Fish Stinks" workshop as part of last week's KBC annual meeting. Johnson urged those in attendance to engage the culture "in a way that's clear, creative and compelling." (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Seeking to answer the question, "Do perceptions matter?" Johnson referred the group to John 1:14, which mentions that Jesus came "full of grace and truth." Johnson said the key is striking the right balance of the two and that going to the extreme of either grace or truth causes problems.

### Engage the culture

He indicated that the key to reaching those "on the outside" is engaging the culture "in a way that's clear, creative and compelling." He said the church can do that by reflecting both the personality and purpose of Jesus.

Johnson listed four characteristics to describe Jesus, referring to them as "the antidote to the perceptions that outsiders have about us." He said Jesus was authentic, relevant, enjoyable and accepting.

"Jesus was authentic," Johnson said. "He despised any tradition that boxed man out and boxed God in."

As a way of displaying authenticity, Johnson urged workshop participants to "make yourself human."

He noted that while preaching on Sunday mornings, he regularly admits his mistakes and speaks to his congregation as if it were a conversation.

"You can impress people from a distance, but you can only influence them up close," he declared. "If you want to influence (people), you better be real and you better be yourself and you better be honest about your mistakes, not just your successes."

To illustrate his point, Johnson shared his church's recent "Heroes" series, in which the congregation, made up mostly of college students, collected enough hygiene products for more than 1,000 families in Calloway County. Johnson said the reason the drive succeeded was because he took the church to the community instead of waiting for the community to come to the church.

"You have to figure out a way not just to preach things to your people, but to lead them and help, give them tools to practice it," he emphasized.

He also noted that Jesus was relevant. "When He talked to people, He used everyday terms," Johnson told

the workshop crowd.

He urged pastors to ask the question, "So what?" and to consider how a message might apply to people's lives.

### Create a relevant environment

Johnson referred to the three components of a relevant environment, coined by Andy Stanley, pastor of North Point Community Church in Atlanta:

- The context must be appealing. "It matters how things look and ... whether people are comfortable when they come," Johnson noted.

- The presentation must be engaging. "There is no greater sin than boring people with the greatest message in the world," he remarked.

- The content must be helpful. "Make sure that what you are saying will actually help people and they know how to apply it to their lives," Johnson stressed.

He also referred to several online resources that can help churches create a relevant environment, including iStockPhoto.com, LifeChurch.tv and FreePlayMusic.com.

Johnson also described Jesus as enjoyable, emphasizing that it is not a sin to make church an enjoyable place to be on Sunday mornings. He challenged pastors to think of ways to make church more fun. "People learn more when they're having fun," he added.

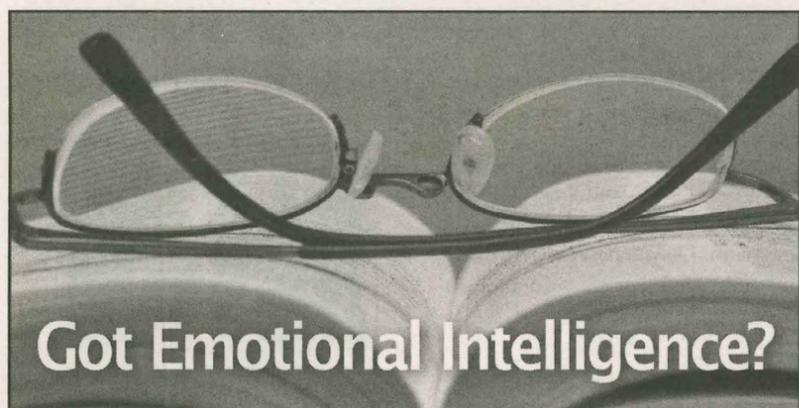
In concluding the seminar, Johnson noted that Jesus was accepting.

"He was righteousness in a body. He was holiness with skin on it," Johnson said. "And yet somehow, in all His perfection, He had no problem embracing people who were imperfect."

Johnson told the group that pastors set the tone for how outsiders are treated at church and a crucial way to become more accepting is to "quit using 'you' and start using 'we.' ... Include yourself in everything."

**"You can impress people from a distance, but you can only influence them up close."**

Matt Johnson, pastor of The Journey Church in Murray



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## CONVENTION NOTES

**Cross Over Kentucky.** This year's Kentucky Baptist Cross Over event, coordinated by Severns Valley Baptist Association, reached more than 5,000 people, according to Ross Bauscher, leader of the KBC's evangelism growth team. Through home visitations, servant evangelism projects and a "Trunk or Treat" outreach event, Kentucky Baptist volunteers fulfilled Cross Over's goal "to reach Kentucky for Christ," Bauscher said. Prior to last week's annual meeting, 760 students attended a rally featuring Christian illusionist Brock Gill. Bauscher reported that 31 young people made public professions of faith in Christ at the event. He also reported that Cross Over participants visited more than 1,600 homes in Severns Valley Association. Volunteers from several churches also participated in servant evangelism projects.

**Future KBC meeting sites.** Messengers to last week's KBC annual meeting approved a recommendation to hold the 2010 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Messengers also approved returning the 2009 meeting to Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green was approved last year to host the 2009 event, but because of an ongoing building project, the church asked to host the 2011 annual meeting instead. The 2008 annual meeting will be held Nov. 11 at Immanuel in Lexington.

**International Mission Board.** IMB trustee Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, urged Kentucky Baptists to consider going on missions. "The clock is ticking, we need to be going," said Chitwood, a former KBC president. Subhro Sircar, a Christian missionary in India, joined Chitwood, thanking Kentucky Baptists for the missionaries who shared Christ with his great-great grandfather nearly 150 years earlier, creating a Christian legacy in his family.

**North American Mission Board.** NAMB trustee Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, thanked Kentucky Baptists for their support during the search for a new NAMB president. "Thank you for praying for me and the search committee," said Faulls, who chaired the committee that recommended Geoff Hammond to the post. The new NAMB president spoke to messengers via a video presentation, reiterating the sharper focus the board is taking to pursue its mission. Sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries are NAMB's top priorities, Hammond emphasized. Through disaster relief, chaplaincy, hunger relief, career missionary posts and short-term efforts such as World Changers and Crossover, more than 37,000 people made professions of faith in Christ and 1,400 churches were started in North America last year, he added.

## Pastors' Conference focus: Connecting culture to Christ

**"All witnessing is intentional. The more you do it, the more people you will see come to Christ."**

Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington

Elizabethtown—Pastors must keep their eyes on Jesus and pursue holiness at all times, said Christian vocalist Clay Crosse and his wife, Renee, during the Nov. 12 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Several years after a life-changing encounter with God's grace, Clay and Renee Crosse said they are committed to helping Christian couples strengthen their relationships with both God and each other.

The Crosses' ministry, Holy Homes, grew out of what they describe as their "Ground Zero" moment nearly a decade ago when Clay, a Dove Award-winning artist, admitted to struggling with pornography. For Renee, who "was really good at playing the role of good little Christian wife," her husband's disclosure was painful, leaving her angry and confused.

But pornography was simply the symptom, Renee said. The real problem was that Clay was not fully surrendered to God.

"I love what our pastor says, 'Healthy, happy or holy—God's going to choose holy every time,'" Renee noted.

Clay asked Renee for forgiveness for failing to be the man God called him to be and failing to lead their home. The Crosses now travel to churches across the nation, encouraging Christian couples to move beyond simply going through the motions and begin living as devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

### Seeking to empower pastors

Highlighting the theme "Connecting Our Culture with Christ," conference president Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, said the 2007 conference was designed to empower pastors to better minister within the culture of Kentucky.

Among other speakers during the one-day conference prior to the KBC annual meeting:

**Richard Land**, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, emphasized the need for Southern Baptists to reconnect the United States to Christ.

Christians cannot rely on Washington and the government to lead the way in accomplishing that mission, he added, noting that "Washington is a caboose, not a locomotive."

He also emphasized that if Southern Baptists are to reconnect the nation with Jesus, "we must be intimately connected to Christ our-



**HOLY HOMES** Christian vocalist Clay Crosse and his wife, Renee, share during the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference about his struggle several years ago to overcome an addiction to pornography and their Holy Homes ministry that grew out of that experience. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

selves."

Using the church at Ephesus as an example, Land said Jesus commended the Ephesians for their toil and endurance, but also pointed out that they had become "mediocre."

"Toil becomes drudgery if it's not a labor of love," Land insisted. "We have to love Jesus ... (and) we want to feel His pleasure. We do not want to feel His anger and displeasure because of our disobedience."

Land noted that only through the church's obedience to and love of Christ, can Christians effectively bring the nation back to Him.

"The church today ... has a work to be done, a fight to fight," he said, "but first we have a Lord to love."

**Kevin Smith**, first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, urged pastors to embrace an evangelistic view of unity.

Unity has theological implications, noted Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville and assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He said those who do not believe in Jesus Christ may use Christians' lack of unity as an excuse to reject Christ.

"As much as we are willing to sweat and struggle to contend for biblical truth, and as much as we are willing to sweat and struggle to contend for personal holiness," Smith declared, "we must be willing to sweat and struggle to contend for biblical unity."

**Bill Henard**, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, encouraged Kentucky Baptists to be intentional in sharing their faith with unbelievers. Most Christians probably never share their faith be-

cause they are afraid, but they must tell the truth and trust God with the results, noted Henard, who was elected the next day as KBC president.

"All witnessing is intentional," Henard pointed out. "The more you do it, the more people you will see come to Christ."

"God will take what little we have and through His power, He will make it into much."

**John Mark Toby**, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, emphasized that pastors who are eager to connect the culture to Jesus Christ should look to the Apostle Paul's example in Acts 16.

"Are we praying that God will place people in our pathways daily that will lead to an encounter with Christ?" he asked.

In a culture awash with materialism, hedonism, pragmatism, and humanism, believers must be prepared to present the Christian worldview and point others to Jesus Christ, Toby insisted.

**Fred Wolfe**, an evangelist who served 25 years as pastor of Cottage

Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., urged Kentucky Baptist pastors to pursue a more intimate relationship with God.

Wolfe said God is calling pastors to have a servant's heart, a surrendered heart, a sacrificial heart and a supernatural heart. Citing the example of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples, Wolfe encouraged pastors to serve those Jesus put in their care.

"You are never more like Jesus than when you have a servant's heart," he noted.

**Steve Gaines**, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., urged pastors to be "men of God."

"There is nothing this world or this country needs more than for men of God ... to preach the Word of God with the anointing of God," Gaines emphasized.

"We need God more than God needs America," he added. "The White House can't send revival, but you let us get revival and the White House can't stop it."

### Conference officers elected

In other business, pastors elected Delton Beall, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, as president-elect. Beall will preside during the 2009 Pastors' Conference.

Participants elected Jeff Sargent, pastor of Marcus Baptist Church in Williamstown, as secretary/treasurer. Corey Abney, pastor of Kings Baptist Church in Mount Washington, will serve as president of the 2008 Pastors' Conference.

Compiled from reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson, News Director Drew Nichter and Brenda Smith of the KBC communications office

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**CONFERENCE OFFICERS** Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference officers for the coming year are (from left) President Corey Abney of Mount Washington, Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Sargent of Williamstown and President-Elect Delton Beall of Princeton (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

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Churches have a real responsibility at this point, but I am concerned churches are not fulfilling this responsibility as effectively as they should. Too often financial stewardship is relegated to institutional fund raising focusing on the neglect of the broader perspective of the meaning of money in the life of a Christian.

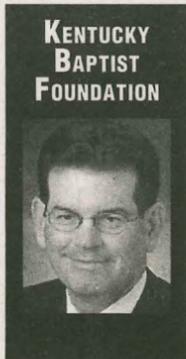
The call to responsible stewardship is to let God, not money, be

the One and Only God in our lives. It is a call to shift our priorities and to change the way we relate to money. The Bible is clear, if we ascribe to money the highest possible value for total satisfaction in life, we shall go through life dissatisfied and unfulfilled. One cannot find in money what can only be found in God. Money is the means by which we live, but not the end for which we live.

My prayer is our churches will become more intentional in teaching men, women, boys and girls how to stop worshipping money and how to start investing it for eternal gains in the lives of people through the missions and ministries of our churches and our KBC-related Great Commission service organizations. Through your church and these organizations money is transformed into ministry.

Call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me to arrange a stewardship education seminar in your church in 2008.

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



### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



### Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottko

#### Across

- 1 Has ability
- 4 "Thou that liftest me up from the \_\_\_ of death" (Psalm 9:13)
- 9 Astatine, chem. symbol
- 11 A son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7:7)
- 12 "Henoah, and \_\_\_, and Eldaah" (1 Chronicles 1:33)
- 13 Fuss
- 14 A little woman
- 15 Chief among the captains of David's mighty men (2 Samuel 23:8)
- 16 "Iniquity of \_\_\_ house" (1 Samuel 3:14)
- 17 A Colossian woman Paul greets (Philemon 2)
- 19 The Israelites craved this fruit in the wilderness (Numbers 11:5)
- 21 "He shall be like the \_\_\_ in the desert" (Jeremiah 17:6)
- 22 Sprint
- 23 Gaius was from here (Acts 20:4)
- 24 "Their coast was from \_\_\_" (Joshua 19:33)
- 27 "Out of whose womb came the \_\_\_?" (Job 38:29)
- 28 Obadiah, abbr.
- 30 Account of, abbr.
- 31 The woman on the scarlet beast had this written on her forehead (Revelation 17:4-5)
- 34 Race of giants (Deuteronomy 2)
- 37 Not him
- 38 "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every \_\_\_" (John 13:10)

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48					49			50		51	
52					53					54	

- 39 Capital of Moab (Numbers 21:28)
- 40 He was the officer over Solomon's household (1 Kings 4:6)
- 43 Grow
- 47 Exhaust
- 48 Also
- 49 "\_\_\_ will I sit" (Joel 3:12)
- 51 Poetic contraction that means early night
- 52 To stitch
- 53 Employed
- 54 Boy

- 15 Jezebel's husband (1 Kings 16:30-31)
- 16 6th month of the Hebrew year (Nehemiah 6:15)
- 18 Machir's son (1 Chronicles 7:16)
- 20 Before, poetic
- 23 Unclear
- 24 A laugh
- 25 Girl's name
- 26 Hosea, abbr.
- 28 Either
- 29 Near
- 32 Drop of sadness
- 33 "He that refuseth reproof \_\_\_" (Proverbs 10:17)
- 34 A son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 35 Haze
- 36 Jesaiah's son (Nehemiah 11:7)
- 38 Adverb of location
- 40 "Of the tribe of \_\_\_ were sealed" (Revelation 7:6)
- 41 Length x width
- 42 Rip
- 43 Possessive pronoun
- 44 Greek form of Noah
- 45 Female bovine
- 46 Son of Abdiel (1 Chronicles 5)
- 50 An altar (Joshua 22:34)

#### Down

- 1 "Michmash, and \_\_\_" (Nehemiah 11:31)
- 2 "The gift of \_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 13:2)
- 3 Titanium, chem. symbol
- 4 Someone from Gad
- 5 Hezron's wife (1 Chronicles 2:24)
- 6 Stannum, other name
- 7 "Wise men out of \_\_\_" (Obadiah 8)
- 8 Southern continent, abbr.
- 9 Returned exiles (Ezra 2:15)
- 10 Throw
- 13 By oneself

#### Last week's solution

C	H	R	Y	B.	O	P	R	O	S	U	S	
H	U	R	A	B	E	N	A	B	A	L		
A	F	B		P	E	A	K	Y	O	R	E	
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## Bolton notes state missions offering sets giving record

**Elizabethtown**—Kentucky Baptists gave the most money ever to the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering last year, more than \$992,000, according to Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

"We are a state convention that supports missions," she declared.

Although the \$1 million offering goal was not officially reached, Kentucky WMU absorbed the shortfall, enabling the ministry projects to be funded at the levels anticipated. Gifts can be received until Aug. 31, 2008.

Bolton said she hopes Kentucky Baptists will take part in two missions-focused events in 2008.

Feb. 16 is Children's Ministry Day, a new effort spearheaded by national WMU. Another opportunity for Kentucky Baptists comes April 26-May 3 as MissionsFEST returns to Kentucky.

**Campbellsville University.** Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University, said the opening of Ransdell Chapel, a satellite campus in Louisville, and earning high marks from "U.S. News & World Report" were among the year's highlights for the school. Carter said this fall marked the 15th semester of record enrollment in the school's history; 2,400 students currently are enrolled. Among those, he noted, are 192 students from 34 countries, "more than any other private college in Kentucky." In outreach efforts, CU's Kentucky Heartland Outreach drew 700 students to assist low-income and elderly Kentuckians with home repair. Outside Kentucky, Campbellsville students have served in various ways in 18 states and 19 other countries.

**Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.** This was the first year for Donnie Fox to address the KBC annual meeting as president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He said the meeting's Acts 1:8 theme, "Empowering Believers in Missions," coincides with Clear Creek's core value affirming "the priority of evangelism and missions." Fox told messengers that in the past year, Clear Creek students and faculty helped Gulf Coast residents rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina, served at a Christian camp in Indiana, and assisted churches and ministries in Alaska, Montana and New York and shared the gospel in Turkey. Fox said Clear Creek's "Affirming Our Values, Leaving a Legacy" capital campaign has reached 90 percent of its \$1.2 million goal.

**Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.** David Melber, president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, reported that nearly 1,700 students accepted Christ and 322 said they felt led to full-time Christian service while at summer camp. "It is amazing what God is doing," he said. Melber explained that the name of the camp ministry, Crossings, comes from a strong sense of Christian mission. "We want to see kids, students and adults cross over from death into life because that is the only thing that matters in this world: Do you

know Christ or not?" Crossings also reaches outside Kentucky as campers collect offerings to assist children in other countries. In 2007, nearly \$70,000 was donated for unchurched and orphaned children in Moldova to attend summer camp in that former Soviet nation.

**Kentucky Baptist Foundation.** Churches and other Christian ministries are facing "a tidal wave of opportunity to develop more Kingdom-minded stewards," according to Barry Allen, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Allen said an estimated \$41 trillion in assets will be transferred from one generation to the next in coming years, adding that churches should make a deliberate effort to identify believers who want to give beyond a tithe and direct them to experts who can help them develop giving plans. Noting the commitment and faithfulness of Kentucky Baptists, Allen said, "The prospect base in a church is the envy of other charitable organizations. ... It is possible for churches to generate \$5 million in legacy gifts over the next decade."

**Oneida Baptist Institute.** A presentation by students of Oneida Baptist Institute illustrated how a school in Eastern Kentucky impacts its "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth." One of the pupils is a "day student" who lives in the county; another is from Louisville; a third is from New Jersey and a fourth is from China. This semester there are more than 50 students from seven countries outside the U.S. "Sometimes international students come to OBI to find a haven from war or other social unrest," President W.F. "Bud" Underwood said. Sixty percent of pupils are from Kentucky. Current enrollment is about 350 students led by 150 faculty members.

**Sunrise Children's Services.** Instead of focusing on the ministry's new name, new programs and the recent groundbreaking for a new facility, Sunrise Children's Services President Bill Smithwick thanked Kentucky Baptists who have supported the ministry most over the past year.

Smithwick asked messengers and guests from associations in two giving categories to stand and be recognized for that support. The 10 associations giving the highest in total gifts were Monroe, Crittenden, Sulphur Fork, Rockcastle, Allen, West Kentucky, Ohio County, Blood River, Central Baptist and Christian County. In per capita giving, top givers were Long Run, West Kentucky, Daviess-McLean, Greenup, Elkhorn, Logan Todd, Little River, Muhlenberg, Laurel River and Upper Cumberland.

**University of the Cumberlands.** Through guest speakers, ongoing ministries and new partnerships, Cumberlands faculty and students were inspired to serve in a variety of missions efforts in the past year, according to President Jim Taylor. As a member of the Consortium for Global Education, UC is developing education and service partnerships in China, Korea and Thailand. Closer to home, this year marks the 25th anniversary of UC's Mountain Outreach, a hands-on missions effort focusing on the needy in Appalachia. This summer students served in Costa Rica, India, Kazakhstan, Poland, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand and Venezuela. The college once again made the list of U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" as one of the top schools in the South.

**Western Recorder.** In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus describes His followers as the light of the world. Trennis Henderson, editor of the Western Recorder, said for more than 180 years, the state Baptist paper "has helped shine the light on what God is accomplishing through Kentucky Baptists." In addition to news and feature stories, Henderson added that through the Recorder's editorial pages he strives to encourage Kentucky Baptists to respond to challenges and opportunities related to moral, social and ministry concerns. The paper also publishes articles about needs on Kentucky, North American and international mission fields as well as information about ways to help address those needs.

## Diverse and yet the same

### Baptist associations differ in size & style but share many ministry priorities

By Michael Spencer, assistant to the president

This is the time of year I am invited to speak at annual meetings of many local Baptist associations. I enjoy the opportunity to travel to different parts of the state and share the Oneida ministry with the representatives of many different churches.

Kentucky's Baptist associations are much like the Kentucky Baptist Convention itself. There is tremendous diversity in almost every way imaginable. Some sing out of mountain gospel songbooks while others have contemporary worship choruses. Some meet in rural church buildings that have changed little in the past century; others meet in large, modern sanctuaries.

I hear associational sermons coming from country preachers, seminary professors and city pastors. Some of these associational meetings draw just a few dozen messengers; at others, hundreds attend.

Yet despite their diversity, there are many things that are the same, whether I am in the mountains or near the Mississippi River. Every association wants to do more for Christ.

- Every association I've spoken in was doing direct missions in a foreign country.
- Every association is making evangelism, missions and discipleship a priority.
- Every association wants to take a stand for what is right.
- Every association wants to help people in a way that lets them know Jesus loves them.
- Every association is interested in starting new churches and supporting existing churches.

And in my experience, every association is supportive of Oneida Baptist Institute.

Many associations sponsor trips to OBI—some to work, others to tour. Many associations send us in-kind donations. In many associations I meet OBI graduates and others who are grateful for our ministry because we helped a child from their congregation.

Visiting our associations is visiting family. These are the people who pray, give, encourage, work and believe with us that this is God's school and His ministry.

OBI's past is tied to these associations and our future is in their hands as well. Our connectedness happens in associations throughout Kentucky.

We need and will always need the friendship of associations that believe in exalting Christ through "Education for Time and Eternity."

If your association hasn't had a speaker from OBI recently, give us a call at (606) 847-4111 or by e-mail at president@oneidaschool.org.

We would love to come and refresh the bonds of friendship we share with your association.

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

## Thank you!

### Holiday reminds us to be grateful for faithful support

This season of Thanksgiving reminds us of the need to stop and reflect on how blessed of God we truly are. Here at Clear Creek we want to take this time to say "thank you" for the many ways you show your support for this ministry.

We want to thank you for continually praying for us. Everywhere I travel, people always tell me that they are praying for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College every day. We want you to know that it encourages and strengthens our hearts to know that people are praying for us. We face each day here in the strength of your prayers.

We want to thank you for sending us students. Our students come to us out of churches just like yours. All of us who serve here believe there is no greater place to prepare for God's call on one's life than right here at Clear Creek. We are so thankful that, when someone surrenders to God's call in your church, you direct them to consider studying and preparing themselves at Clear Creek.

We want to thank you for using our students to serve in your churches. Many of our alumni have

been called to serve as pastors, associate pastors or support staff members in your congregations. On any given weekend, many of our students are filling pulpits for churches that are without pastors. We thank you for allowing our students the opportunity to gain valuable practical ministry experience through these opportunities.

We thank you for your financial support of this ministry. We are proud of our relationship we have with our Kentucky Baptist Convention as the Bible college of the convention. We are thankful for the support we receive through Cooperative Program giving and numerous individual churches.

Your financial support is the only way we are able to do what we do. It always has been a blessing to me to watch how God takes what each one is willing to give and then takes that and enables us to use it for His glory here at Clear Creek.

In this season of Thanksgiving, all of us here at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College say: "Thank you for all you do."

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.cbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@cbbc.edu



Donnie Fox

## Gaines urges creativity to impact communities for Christ

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Declaring that “we can’t afford to stay behind the stained glass,” Kentucky Baptist Pastor Richard Gaines insisted that the motivation to pursue community ministries is the same for every church even if the specific ministry projects vary.

Block parties, mentoring, anti-hunger projects and support for key social justice issues are some of the ways Gaines and his fellow believers at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington serve the community. He led the workshop, “Creative Access Platforms for Community Missions” at the close of last week’s Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Elizabethtown.

In addition to hearing how Consolidated works to bridge the gap between church and unchurched people, the session provided Kentucky Baptists from various regions of the commonwealth the opportunity to talk about what has worked in their hometowns.

Gaines said he is not an expert in community missions, but he and his congregation are willing to try various avenues of serving people and sharing the gospel.

### Mentoring elementary students

Serving in local schools is an effective way for believers to demonstrate concern for and partnership with the community, the pastor noted. He said he and other men of the congregation mentor boys at an elementary school with a large African-American and Hispanic population.

Many of the students are from single-parent homes—most often led by mothers. The school’s female principal contacted Gaines and told him the boys lack positive male role models.

The mentors from Consolidated join the boys for lunch at school, take them to ballgames and seek



**MINISTRY MINDSET** Richard Gaines, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, challenged Kentucky Baptists to bridge the gap to reach communities with the gospel. (KBC photo by Kristie Randolph)

other ways to become a positive part of the students’ lives.

The church also has “adopted” a middle school in a high-crime area of the city. Gaines said police have said publicly about the neighborhood: “There’s nothing else we can do. We’re just going to try and contain it so it doesn’t infect the rest of the city.”

Consolidated’s first task was prayerwalking the community around the school. “That weekend, the police got no calls,” he said, adding that officers were checking their radios to make sure the equipment was working properly.

“We’re just crazy enough to believe that the gospel will transform that community,” Gaines declared.

At the middle school, church volunteers monitor the halls, cafeteria and when children get off or on the buses. Volunteers run errands so teachers can remain in their rooms with the students. Church leaders and members often are invited to banquets and other special events to help chaperone or serve as guest speakers.

As relationships develop, schools also call on the church in times of

trouble. Recently a 29-year-old teacher committed suicide. Gaines said he received a call from a school official who said, “We need some church folk here” to counsel students and staff.

In other initiatives, Consolidated hosts a “Jesus Rally” at a local park annually, providing hot dogs, soft drinks and lining up Christian speakers.

“We reach people every year we wouldn’t reach on Sunday morning,” Gaines said. This year the church invited a Hispanic congregation to partner with them for the event.

### Long-term food ministry

Consolidated’s food ministry has been going strong for 25 years, he said. In addition to homeless people, the church welcomes senior adults, college students and single-parent families in need.

The congregation also aligns with other churches to take stands on social justice issues.

“We’ve been called to do justice,” Gaines said, referencing Micah 6:8. “We’ve got to speak to the issues of the day. ... No other entity has the

prophetic voice the church has.”

Consolidated is part of “BUILD: Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action,” a network of 20 churches that address a variety of concerns such as housing, education and transportation.

When BUILD heard that a drug-rehabilitation program was available for men incarcerated in local jails but not for women, they pressed the mayor to take action. Eventually, funding was secured to offer treatment for female prisoners too. BUILD also lobbied for expanding hours and stops on the public bus route so people without their own vehicles could get to and from work.

“Don’t fear justice issues,” Gaines said. “These are the same things Jesus was concerned about.”

Partnering with other churches goes beyond city hall. Rather than starting a community ministry that might already exist, Gaines encourages Kentucky Baptists to find out if it already is being done well. If it is, consider supporting the existing ministry and then focus on meeting an unmet need in the area.

Referencing the book, “Holy Discontent,” Gaines said one way to develop ministry ideas is for church members to “find that which upsets us to the point where we just get up and do something about it.”

Outreach projects mentioned by Gaines and other Kentucky Baptists attending the workshop included:

- Opening the church on Saturday to provide free haircuts.

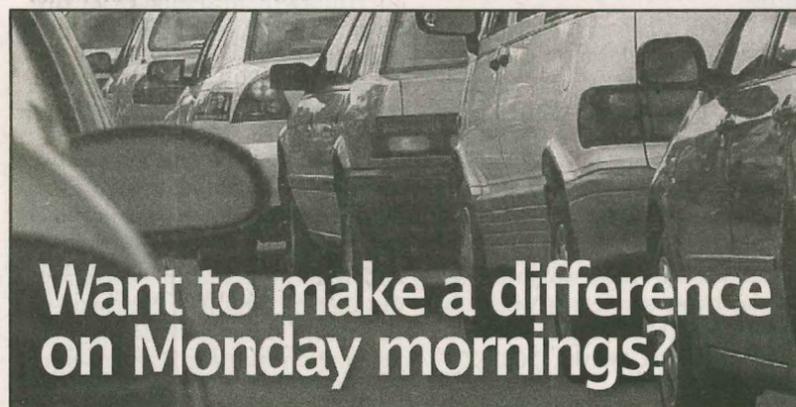
- Providing free blood pressure, skin cancer or other health screenings.

- Urban Impact, a community youth ministry consortium that helps churches without funding for a youth pastor provide student ministries to their congregation.

- Casserole ministry for families with loved ones in hospice/palliative care.

**“We’ve got to speak to the issues of the day. ... No other entity has the prophetic voice the church has.”**

Richard Gaines, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington



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## Testimonies affirm God’s power as believers ‘show people the gospel’

**Elizabethtown**—“Don’t miss out.” That was the challenge issued by Donnie Patrick, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paintsville, as he greeted participants at last week’s Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Elizabethtown.

Playing off the theme of this year’s gathering, “Empowering Believers in Mission,” Patrick encouraged the crowd to not become enamored with “the earthen vessel” and focus instead on the power of God.

“What do we really rely on and trust in to complete the task?” Patrick asked.

He said Kentucky Baptists should be like a sailboat rather than a speed boat. He noted that a speed boat is impressive, but a sailboat is even more so, because “only God can make the wind blow.”

The sailboat “magnifies that which propels it,” he said, adding that Kentucky Baptists should allow God to fill them with the “wind of heaven” as they seek to be on mission among their friends and neighbors.

As one who is called to such a mission, Rick Brenny of Jefferson Street

Mission Center in Louisville thanked Kentucky Baptists for generous giving through the Cooperative Program. He noted that the funds generated through CP allow the shelter to provide basic services and meet needs for the local homeless population as a way “to show people the gospel.”

KBC churches are “empowering us to share hope with the homeless,” Brenny added.

Carlos De la Barra also expressed his gratitude to those at last week’s annual meeting. As ethnic associate for the KBC’s new work/associational missions department, De la Barra highlighted the progress of the Hispanic Baptist Bible Institute which is now in its third year. The school meets in four locations across the state.

But De la Barra encouraged Kentucky Baptists to not only pray for the Bible institute, “but for all of the ethnic churches in the state.”

“God is bringing people from almost every country to” Kentucky, which offers a “great opportunity to do missions,” he emphasized.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for Scott Pittman, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, who was elected director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department effective Jan. 16. (See related article at right.) Pray also for the Pittman family as they move from Brazil to Kentucky.

■ Pray for Kentucky Baptists' three-year missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of Tanzania that will begin in January. (See related article at right.)

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BIMBEL**—Roger Jordan recently resigned as pastor of Springfield Church.

■ **CAMPBELLSBURG**—Providence Church ordained John Mark Chilton, Terry Petree, Tommie Tingle and Tommy Webb as deacons Nov. 18.

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

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church recently called Jason Allen as senior pastor.

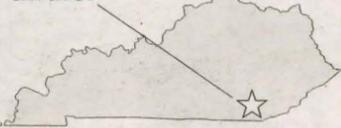
Deer Park Church recently called Jeremy Shoulta as minister to children, youth and families.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church's senior adult choir will present the musical, "Once Upon a Miracle" Dec. 2, 6 p.m. The adult choir will present "The Majesty of Christmas" Dec. 8-10, 7 p.m. Paul Chitwood is pastor.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—First Church recently ordained Jason Booher and Donnie

### Spotlight on ...

Girdler



Mae Lee, church clerk for Locust Grove Church, recently celebrated her 95th birthday.

Newsome as deacons.

■ **STANTON**—Emmanuel Church ordained Barry Cornett as a deacon Nov. 18. Gregory Webb is pastor.

■ **WALKER**—Walker Church recently called Bill Stewart as pastor.

■ **WOODBINE**—Keaton Smith, pastor of Liberty Missionary Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry Oct. 21 at Candle Ridge Church.

## KBC board approves Tanzanian partnership, department leader

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Elizabethtown**—The Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board approved a missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of Tanzania during its Nov. 12 meeting held in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting.

Board members also elected Scott Pittman as partnership missions department director. Pittman, who was approved by the board's administrative committee in October, succeeds Ross Bauscher who was named KBC evangelism team leader last December.

The Mission Board also approved a plan to help educate churches on ways to guard against child abuse and sexual abuse as well as address other safety and security issues.

The three-year missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of Tanzania will begin Jan. 1, 2008, and continue through Dec. 31, 2010. The targeted relationship will focus on six key partnership emphases: training, equipping, advising, affirming, mentoring and strengthening.

Randy Jones, leader of the KBC missions growth team, said the goal of the three-year partnership is to help the Baptist Convention of Tanzania re-establish itself as a vital service organization as it seeks to provide resources to assist member churches in church planting, evangelism, discipleship, leadership development and mission outreach.

Board members elected Pittman as partnership missions department director, effective Jan. 16.

He will be responsible for developing the KBC's in-state, national and international missions partnerships and coordinating efforts with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and North American Mission Board. He will also help facilitate short-term mission trips with Kentucky Baptist churches.

Pittman has served as a Southern Baptist international missionary to

Brazil since 1991. Prior to going overseas, he was pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church.

Board members approved the Safe Church Initiative, a plan for increased attention to church security. The plan came in response to a motion by Paul Sisk, pastor of Anchor Baptist Church in Lexington, at the May Mission Board meeting. Sisk's motion called for the consideration of a registry of "ministers/staff/employees in Kentucky Baptist Convention member churches who have been accused, charged, arrested and/or terminated from church responsibilities for any criminal activities including but

not limited to child abuse and/or sexual abuse of any nature." Administrative committee chairman Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, said the committee determined that a registry would not be a feasible solution. Instead, the plan will focus on increasing awareness of the importance of preventive safety procedures in churches.

"We felt it best to be proactive about this by equipping churches with the information and resources they need," Henard explained. "We want Kentucky and the nation to know we take this very seriously."

In other business, board members approved a proposed KBC budget goal of \$24 million for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The proposal, which was approved the following day by KBC messengers, includes a \$1.3 million challenge goal for a total CP budget goal of \$25.3 million, unchanged from the current budget goal. It also increases the percentage forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention causes to 37.04 percent, an increase of 0.34 percent over the current budget year.

Board members also approved a 1 percent bonus for Mission Board staff employees.

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson



Scott Pittman



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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, Baptist Building, 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](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## 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](http://www.reunionhouse.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Edgewood Baptist Church. Please send resumé and cover letter to Edgewood Baptist Church, 717 S Main St., Nicholasville, KY 40356; or e-mail resumé to [edgewood@qx.net](mailto:edgewood@qx.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. Please send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 1685 Highway 3091, Somerset, KY 42503.

**SEEKING:** Pianist for Sunday morning worship and choir rehearsal at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Louisville. (502) 454-4681.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students (7th grade-college) for First Baptist Church, Pikeville. Send resumé by Nov. 30 to [searchteam07@yahoo.com](mailto:searchteam07@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Bellfield Baptist Church. Send resumé to Bellfield Baptist, 9980 Highway 136 East, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Children/youth and family ministry director. Great opportunity: Central Baptist Church, Paris, Ky., is a growing church with many young families. Come check us out—see posting at <http://centralbaptistchurch.lifewaylink.com>; or e-mail to [LindenEst@bellsouth.net](mailto:LindenEst@bellsouth.net) for more information.

**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](http://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 associate pastor/education director with passion for SS. Send resumé to Vicki Brantly to [vnbrantly@hotmail.com](mailto:vnbrantly@hotmail.com); or East Side Baptist Church, 718 E 9th St., Mountain Home, AR 72653.

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

**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](mailto: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 custodian for New Bethel Baptist Church in Verona, Ky. Approximately 20 hours per week. Any questions, please contact the church office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon, at (859) 485-4864.

**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](mailto:crescenthillbapt@bellsouth.net); or mail to Crescent Hill Baptist Minister to Students Search Team, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206.

**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](mailto:linda@ferncreekbaptist.org). Resumé will be received through Nov. 30. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor; Jim Cordell, interim minister of music.

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

**SEEKING:** 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.

**WANTED:** Good, used refrigerator. Please call Meriday Preschool, (502) 459-7899.

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

## Christian groups commit to greater understanding

Nairobi, Kenya (RNS)—More than 240 Christian leaders said they left an international summit in Kenya committed to building closer ties among the world's various Christian faith groups.

Leaders of the new Global Christian Forum, who met Nov. 5-9 near Nairobi, said they are committed to "promoting ever greater understanding and cooperation among Christians" while also leaving room for "the diversity of our identities, traditions and individual gifts."

The meeting brought together Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Pentecostal and charismatic Christian leaders. It also assembled groups that had sometimes been at odds, including the World Council of Churches and the more conservative World Evangelical Alliance.

Geoff Tunnicliffe, international director of the evangelical group, said the ongoing effort aims to "create greater understanding, dispel stereotypes and promote greater religious liberty."

Participants noted that the meeting allowed them to "repent of past failings to bear with one another in love," and also acknowledged age-old prejudices and stereotypes.

"We acknowledge that we have differing views on substantive issues such as ecclesiology, the scope of evangelism and mission," the participants wrote. "Here a new beginning was made for encounter and dialogue."

## Prayer gathering stresses spiritual discipline

### Hundreds unite in W. Va. to pray for awakening, revival

By Erin Roach  
Baptist Press

Martinsburg, W.Va. (BP)—One of the lessons that emerged from the nine-day "Broken Before the Throne" prayer gathering in West Virginia was the need for renewed spiritual discipline among a majority of Southern Baptists across the nation, according to the pastor who organized the event.

"One of the sins that has been confessed and recognized by more people in the Southern Baptist Convention is that prayer is neglected in the church and in the pastor's and in the layman's life," Dan Biser said.

"Just straight out, the sin of prayerlessness has not been dealt with for decades (as well as) the neglect of God's Word, where preachers and church members do not read their Bibles," he told Baptist Press. "The disciplines have to be restored in order for God to bless us again. We have to get back to prayer. We have to get back to the Word. We have to get back to devotions. We have to get back to (Scripture) memorization."

Biser, pastor of Zoar Baptist Church in Augusta, W. Va., and Fox's Hollow Baptist Church in Romney, added that "there has to be something instituted within the Southern Baptist Convention that will restore the hungering and thirsting after righteousness through these things."

The Nov. 3-11 gathering at Westview Baptist Church in Martinsburg drew a total of 500 people and Biser said a significant number of them stayed throughout the conference. Sessions were three hours in length and generally featured two hours of

worship and teaching followed by an hour of prayer.

"On Saturday night when we were getting ready to finish up, I asked how many people had stayed for the entire 23 sessions," Biser recalled, "and there was a good host of people that had been there through the entire week."

Speakers at the event included Henry and Richard Blackaby, Greg Frizzell and SBC President Frank Page.

"The speakers knew that this was not just a conference; it was an actual prayer meeting like in Acts where they were praying in unity and waiting for God to move," Biser noted. "That was really one of the biggest encouragements, to know that to these guys who travel all over the world to all these different conferences where most of the time people are just going through the motions of saying prayers, we were steadfast in laboring for prevailing prayer for revival."

During the first few days of the meeting, those who led in prayer emphasized confession, Biser said.

"There were at least four days straight where we were really pouring ourselves out because of the church's neglect of prayer and the neglect of being true to God's Word," he said. "There were pastors and laypeople there who were really searching their hearts and the Spirit was working with them to be cleansed."

God clearly orchestrated a move to intercession after the time of confession, Biser added.

When speakers finished their presentations, they led the group into times of prayer as individuals, in small groups, or as larger groups for corporate prayer. Some of the times included directed prayer focused on

specific issues while other times allowed participants to pray about what was on their hearts.

"I was grateful to see the focus of our prayers kept on the Kingdom of God instead of some laundry list of things we wanted God to do for us or our families," Biser said. "One amazing thing to me was the way God physically strengthened me and the participants for such an extended time of prayer and intercession for revival."

Southern Baptists from 18 states as well as Canada and South Africa approached the conference with different expectations, the pastor noted.

"I think the expectations going into it were that we were looking for a divine visitation where national revival would be the product," Biser added. "Some of the great awakenings we've read about saw revival just spread in a matter of days. Even though that was not the result of this, there is a movement going forth from this with a great hunger and passion, and God is awakening His church in the United States."

Several people have asked Biser how he is going to plan a similar event for next year, but he said he does not yet feel led to try it again himself. Most of the speakers agreed that the progress made at the prayer gathering needs to continue, and Biser said a door might open for someone else in another part of the country to take the lead next year.

But he also expressed concern that the gathering not take on a manufactured tone.

"The simplicity of this event was that it was just God leading and we obeyed," Biser said. "There wasn't the organized structure behind it of these other movements that have a name behind them."



Dan Biser

## Kentucky family files lawsuit in 2006 snake-handling death

London (RNS)—The family of a woman who died from a snake bite during a religious service last year has filed suit against a southeastern Kentucky hospital, alleging that poor care contributed to her death, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

Linda Long, who died Nov. 5, 2006, was rushed to Marymount Medical Center in London, after receiving a bite from a rattlesnake she was handling during a service at East London Holiness Church.

The lawsuit, filed earlier this month, alleges that a hospital nurse involved Long and her family "in a lengthy and time-consuming series of questions" before admitting her. It also claims that once admitted, employees "snickered and made derogatory comments" about Long's religious beliefs.

The lawsuit states that despite Long's labored breathing, the emergency room doctor did not give her a tube to help her breathe and did not treat her properly when she went into shock.

The suit goes on to allege that the doctor again refused to put in a tube when the helicopter crew

transporting her to Lexington asked him to do so. The Herald-Leader said Long's heart stopped on the flight to the University of Kentucky Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead.

The lawsuit claims the hospital did not adhere to proper standards of care in Long's case, which contributed to her death. The Herald-Leader reported that "the complaint ... says the unprofessional comments about Long's religious beliefs were discriminatory and caused her and her family emotional pain and humiliation."

Although snake-handling in religious services is a misdemeanor in Kentucky, the Herald-Leader said police usually do not pursue charges because "the practice involves a matter of religious freedom" and those involved freely choose to participate.

Snake-handlers maintain that they believe their actions demonstrate faith, pointing to Mark 16:17-18 as evidence: "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name ... they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all."

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Tornado hits Tennessee church.** A tornado disrupted the Wednesday evening services at a Kimball, Tenn., church Nov. 14, extensively damaging the building; no one inside, however, was injured. Members of Kimball Baptist Church, located about 30 miles west of Chattanooga, had taken cover when it became evident they were in danger. "They got to a place of safety. If not, it could have been worse," said Richard Lewelling, director of missions for Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association. "I do know that the education building is destroyed," he added. "I've heard that the rest of the church is probably uninhabitable right now."

**ACLU appeals Indiana prayer ruling.** The Indiana branch of the American Civil Liberties Union announced it is appealing a prayer decision that went against the group last month to the full U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In a 2-1 ruling Oct. 30, a circuit court panel tossed out an ACLU lawsuit that had sought to ban sectarian prayers—such as those mentioning Jesus' name—in the Indiana House of Representatives. The ACLU is asking the entire court to consider the case, The Indianapolis Star reported. The lawsuit garnered national attention in 2005 when U.S. District Judge David Hamilton ruled the prayers must be "non-sectarian" and must not mention "Christ's name or title or any other denominational appeal." But the circuit court majority overturned Hamilton's decision, ruling the lawsuit lacked standing.

**Former SBC presidents back Huckabee.** Three former Southern Baptist Convention presidents announced their support for Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee Nov. 9. Jimmy Draper Jr., Jack Graham and Jerry Vines all said they were backing Huckabee, a fellow Southern Baptist and former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Draper and Vines served as president of the SBC during the 1980s. Graham served as president of the SBC from 2003-05. Each man's endorsement came as a private citizen. "Mike Huckabee is clearly the most articulate spokesman for conservative values in today's political arena," Graham was quoted as saying in a release from the Huckabee campaign. "He is a wise and proven leader. He is a man who lives and governs by principle and is, in my view, uniquely prepared to lead our nation."

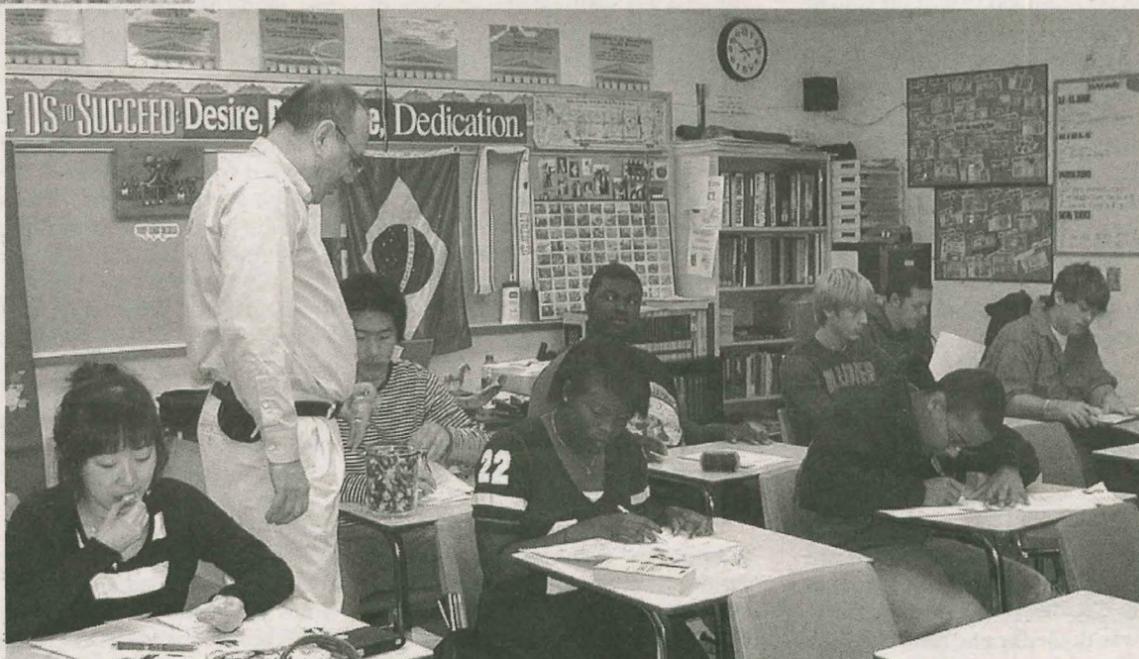
**Word Inc. founder McCracken dies.** Jarrell McCracken, who founded Word Inc., one of the world's largest Christian entertainment companies, died Nov. 7. He was 79. McCracken founded Word Inc. in 1951. The company became prominent in the Christian music industry for representing popular artists like Amy Grant, Sandi Patti and George Beverly Shea. It also published works from evangelical leaders Billy Graham and James Dobson. McCracken sold part interest of his company to ABC in 1974, but remained president until 1986. He is survived by his wife, Judy Murray McCracken, and two children.

**"I have planted . . ."**



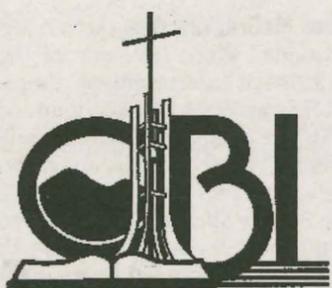
**"Apollos  
watered . . ."**

**"But God gave  
the increase."**



At this time of the year, we pause to give thanks. At Oneida Baptist Institute, we are grateful for our faculty and staff, volunteers, donors, prayer partners and most of all, our students. God sends each teenager to us, and we plant the seeds of the Gospel. Pray that the Lord will give the increase in many young lives this year.

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