



# WESTERN RECORDER

January 15, 2008  
Vol. 182, No. 3

## FOR THE RECORD

**Baptists**  
SBC annual meeting attendance is declining among the under-40 crowd. *Page 2.*

**Kentucky**  
2008 KBC Evangelism Conference set for Feb. 25-26 in Elizabethtown. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
Will Calvinism and Cooperative Program giving impact SBC presidential election? *Page 5.*

**World**  
Kenyan hunger needs reach critical levels as Baptist ministries respond. *Page 8.*

**Nation**  
Two Kentucky cases are the focus of U.S. Supreme Court's death penalty hearings. *Page 10.*

**Issues**  
Some Baptist leaders emphasize discipleship methods need to change. *Page 12.*

## National motto will have new home on dollar coins in 2009

**Washington (RNS)**—The national motto "In God We Trust" will move from the edge of new dollar coins honoring U.S. presidents to the front or back of the currency.

A provision in the \$555 billion domestic spending bill for 2008, which President Bush signed into law last month, calls for the change to take place "as soon as is practicable." Greg Hernandez, a spokesman for the U.S. Mint, said the change will occur in 2009.

The Mint began producing presidential one-dollar coins in 2007, honoring George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The words "In God We Trust" were placed along the edge of the coins, as instructed by Congress, according to Hernandez.

"It wasn't the Mint's decision to move the motto (to the edge); it was according to law," he added.

But critics complained about the placement and thought the words belonged on the front or back of the coins instead.

The dies have already been produced for the 2008 coins so those will still have the motto along the edge. Beginning in 2009, the motto will be moved.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins said he was pleased with the change, saying that his group had been concerned that "moving 'In God We Trust' off the face of our coins was just one step toward removing it altogether."

The motto first appeared on U.S. coins in 1864. "In God We Trust" was included on the back of dollar bills in 1957, a year after Congress declared those words as the country's motto.

## City of opportunity



Traditional lanterns add a festive glow to many areas of Beijing and other cities in China. Local believers report that they have experienced an increase among the Christian population in the Chinese capital. (BP photo)

## Local, foreign Christian leaders see Christ at work in Beijing

**Beijing, China (BP)**—The sign at the park's entrance said it all. It was the social contract for Beijing.

The marker admonished the Chinese to cherish the young and to show respect for the elderly; to work well and hard; to live in harmony with all; and to be broad-minded and open-minded.

With more than 18 million people crowding the city, Beijing's 500 parks are filled daily with people who are approachable.

Early in the morning, groups gather for Tai Chi, muscle-strengthening exercises tied to the martial arts. They also gather to play sports and music, to walk, think and engage each other in conversation.

Scores of people visit the parks to escape the busyness of the city. The beautiful, intentionally landscaped parks are a stark contrast to the bustling city streets, which congest the air with stifling smog.

The pollution also is due to an

overabundance of industry, especially active now in preparation for the 2008 Olympics to be held in Beijing in August.

Modern buildings overwhelm the city's hutongs, where for centuries communities gathered together. All over the city's landscape, new buildings are being built, new subway lines developed, and people everywhere are preparing to bask in the world's spotlight.

□ See Beijing believers ... *Page 7*

## LifeWay study: Unchurched Americans feel turned off by church

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

**Nashville (BP)**—A majority of unchurched Americans are turned off by the institutional church and do not have a biblical understanding about God and Jesus. However, they believe Jesus makes a positive difference in a person's life and would enjoy an honest discussion with a friend about spiritual matters.

Those are just a few of the findings from a new study of unchurched Americans conducted by LifeWay Research in conjunction with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's Center for Missional Research.

The results of the study, which polled more than 1,400 adults who had not attended a religious service at a church, synagogue or mosque in the previous six months, have important implications for Christian churches and individuals who want to reach unchurched people with

the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, according to LifeWay Research director Ed Stetzer.

"A full 72 percent of the people interviewed said they think the church 'is full of hypocrites,'" Stetzer noted. "At the same time, however, 71 percent of the respondents said they believe Jesus 'makes a positive difference in a person's life' and 78 percent said they would be 'willing to listen' to someone who wanted to share what they believed about Christianity."

Concerning the biblical understanding about God and Jesus among unchurched Americans, Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, reported, "While 72 percent of those surveyed said they believe God—a higher or supreme being—actually exists, only 48 percent agree there is only one God as described in the Bible, and 61 percent believe the God of the Bible is no different from the

gods or spiritual beings depicted by world religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc. At the same time, 66 percent of adults ages 18-29 agree that Jesus died and came back to life, compared to 54 percent of adults 30 years and older."

### Expected results

It is not surprising that people who do not attend church do not understand what the Bible teaches, McConnell acknowledged.

"If you aren't going to church, you don't have an opportunity to be informed about what the Bible teaches or what other faiths teach," he said. "It's not surprising, then, that unchurched people lump world religions all together and consider the gods described in them as being the same."

Stetzer pointed out that the problem is compounded by a widespread notion of religious tolerance that claims religious and spiritual truth

is a matter of personal opinion.

"We found a real openness to hearing about matters of faith, but the study also clearly documents what I call the Oprah-ization of American Christianity," Stetzer noted. "It's very much a generic 'big guy in the sky' view of God and a 'you believe what you believe, I believe what I believe' viewpoint on theology. People say, 'Who am I to judge?'"

"We have seen this in the current political campaigns, in regard to Mormonism," Stetzer continued. "Recently a Christian leader was asked whether Mormons are Christians, and he replied that no, Mormons are outside the standard definition of what an orthodox Christian is. The host was shocked somebody would say that. How dare we say someone else is or is not a Christian."

"Christians begin with a faith system that teaches who God is, but the □ See Study: Unchurched ... *Page 6*

## SBC attendance drops for under-40 crowd

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

**Nashville (BP)**—A new study of attendance at Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings shows the percentage of messengers in the 18-39 age group steadily declining since 1980—the early days of the SBC's conservative shift—and dropping sharply since 2004. The percentage of messengers in the 60-plus age group, however, has increased dramatically.

The study, conducted by LifeWay Research, analyzed messenger registration survey data for every annual meeting since 1980 for three major age groups: 18-39, 40-59 and 60-plus.

The findings include:

- Messengers ages 18-39 represented 33.6 percent of the total in 1980 but dropped to 13.1 percent by 2007.

- The 40-59 group stayed fairly constant: 49.9 percent in 1980, compared to 51.6 percent in 2007.

- Messengers age 60 and above accounted for 12.9 percent of participants in 1980, but 35.4 percent in 2007.

### Overall age continues to increase

"This sample represents all messengers, and historically 40 percent of the messengers have been senior pastors," noted Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. "The percentage of senior pastors attending the annual meeting has remained relatively constant, but the age of at-

tendees has risen dramatically.

"Simply put, the proportion of those under 40 attending the SBC is declining precipitously—down by more than 50 percent since the beginning of the conservative resurgence."

The study was prompted by anecdotal evidence, said Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research. "We heard a lot of people make comments like, 'It looks like the attendees at the Southern Baptist Convention are getting older.'"

Response rates to the convention's messenger survey vary from year to year, "but the methodology was pretty consistent," McConnell said. "Many of the questions have remained the same, so there are some pretty good comparisons you can do through the years."

The highest year for 18-39 attendance was 35.9 percent at the 1985 meeting in Dallas, followed closely by 35.8 percent the next year in Atlanta, according to the data. By the 1992 meeting in Indianapolis, however, participation in that age group had dropped to 27.4 percent, and the slide continued with few exceptions until the 2005 meeting in Nashville, when it fell to 16.1 percent.

The 60-plus age group, on the other hand, did not consistently begin to break the 20 percent mark until the 1990 meeting in New Orleans (21.6 percent) and jumped sharply for the 2005 meeting, from 17.6 percent the year before at Indianapolis

to 31.1 percent in Nashville.

"Obviously, some of the fluctuation year to year can be attributed to the city in which the meeting is being held—the travel involved, the expense of traveling, the appeal of a particular city," McConnell said. "But even as you compare meetings in the same city on different years, you still see a clear decline" in younger participants.

"For example, the 1991 and 1995 meetings both were held in Atlanta, which tends to be one of the better locations for young adults because of its convenience in the Southeast. The 18-39 age group accounted for 30.6 percent of the messengers in 1991 but only 24.8 percent in 1995. While Dallas attracted 35.9 percent of young adult messengers in 1985, this dropped to 24.6 percent in 1997.

### Time to ask "hard question"

"This is a clear decline over time," McConnell added. "The other two age groups are both increasing, and 60-plus is increasing more markedly. The general trend is the aging of attendees at the Southern Baptist Convention."

"Oddly enough, in some quarters there has actually been a debate about whether the SBC attendance is aging and losing its young leaders," Stetzer said. "My hope is that now, finally, we will stop debating and instead ask the hard question: 'What is causing so many young leaders to stay away?'"

## Recent attacks in India target Baptists and other Christians

**Falls Church, Va. (ABP)**—Baptists and other Christians in an overwhelmingly Hindu state in India fell victim to significant violence during the Christmas holiday, according to Baptist World Alliance officials.

Attacks began Dec. 23 in the state of Orissa, in northeastern India. That day, "50 to 70 Hindu radicals pulled out Pastor Junas Digal from a parked bus, paraded him on the road, all the way beating him with sticks and hands, and finally shaved his head to claim him a Hindu," said Swaruppananda Patra, general secretary of the All Orissa Baptist Churches Federation.

Patra also reported that on Christmas Eve, in the Christian-dominated town of Brahmanigaon, two Christians were shot, many shops operated by Christians were destroyed, 20 churches were damaged and three churches were razed.

## Police: Church fires set by Satanists

**Ladonia, Ala. (RNS)**—An intruder did more than torch the pulpit and scorch the sanctuary ceiling at Woodland Baptist Church on Jan. 4.

The intruder, who stole a VCR and a DVD player, also left a red-letter message affirming the worship of Satan on a wall in a children's Sunday school classroom. The message included an upside-down pentagram alongside it.

East Alabama authorities believe they now have the man behind that message in custody. He and a friend, described as Satan worshipers, have been arrested in connection with ar-

A statement from the Evangelical Fellowship of India said Hindu militants attacked and set fire to at least 400 homes owned by Christians in the town, as well as six churches.

The attacks continued for several days in other parts of Orissa, leaving as many as 5,000 Christians homeless, according to Patra.

"Orissa is a place where a Baptist community of about 500,000 live, and most of them are in these areas where persecution is most intense," wrote Bonny Resu, general secretary of the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation. "They are also among the poorest of the poor of India, which is why they are often voiceless."

While Orissa has one of India's largest Baptist communities, they comprise a small percentage of the state's overall population of more than 30 million. The vast majority of Orissa residents are Hindu.

sons and vandalism at the church and two other nearby churches. Satanic graffiti also was found at a fourth church.

The two arrested were Geoffrey Parquette and James Clark, both 21 and residents of Smiths Station, Ala. Items stolen from the churches were found in the men's homes, authorities said.

The arrests came less than two years after another string of fires at nine rural Alabama churches led to a major federal-state investigation and the arrest of three Birmingham college students.

## LifeWay mission volunteers lead 5,000 to Christ

**Nashville (BP)**—Chantéa Kirkwood typically works as a LifeWay Christian Resources customer service employee, but for two weeks she traveled to Rwanda to represent LifeWay as a missionary.

"I am defined by my love for Christ and how I represent Him before men," said Kirkwood, a first-time mission volunteer.

Kirkwood was one of 106 LifeWay volunteers who ministered internationally in 2007, bringing the total number of volunteers to more than 1,000 since the Southern Baptist entity's first mission trip a decade ago.

In 2007, LifeWay volunteers served in Brazil, Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Newfoundland, Portugal, Rwanda, Uganda and New Orleans. The trips resulted in 5,392 professions of faith in Christ.

"One of the most exciting things I learned about LifeWay when I arrived two years ago was the passion our employees have for missions," said LifeWay President Thom Rainer. "I am thankful that this ministry was established, and I am looking forward to participating myself in the near future."

"The fact that LifeWay invests so much in mission trips is a sign of our Great Commission health," Rainer added.

Ernie McAninch, LifeWay's manager of ministry ventures who heads the missions program, noted that personal participation in the Great Commission glorifies God. He said it also is a testimony to the churches, state conventions and associations that LifeWay serves.

"LifeWay writes about evangelism. We teach it. But more importantly, we practice it," McAninch emphasized. "Missions changes our perspective regarding our ministry within LifeWay. When the Holy Spirit uses us to spiritually transform a life, it has a definite impact on us. .... Our ministry at LifeWay takes on a different, maybe even more urgent, light."

Richard Barnes, LifeWay's director of publishing services, led a team to St. John's, Newfoundland, during the summer and said one of the greatest benefits of participating in international missions is witnessing the lives transformed by the simple truth of John 3:16.

Barnes and his team worked with local missionaries and hosted block parties that resulted in 60 decisions for Christ.

"I especially am blessed when we hear reports after we return home that people are continuing in their newfound faith, which we have heard from St. John's," Barnes said. "LifeWay mission trips remind me that our LifeWay vision to help people know Jesus and seek His Kingdom is a vision for everyday living wherever we are."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Lawsuit against Nashville church dismissed.** A judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by about 50 current and former church members of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville against pastor Jerry Sutton and church leaders. Davidson County Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman ruled Jan. 4 that she did not have jurisdiction in the lawsuit, which sought, among other things, Sutton's removal as pastor. The lawsuit claimed that Sutton and other church leaders "misapplied, misappropriated and mishandled the finances" of the church and that they "intentionally and purposely" prevented the church from being governed according to the church's constitution and bylaws. In her ruling, Bonnyman did give the plaintiffs access to records, including meeting minutes and financial documents. In October, after the lawsuit was filed, the church voted 79-21 percent to affirm Sutton as pastor. Sutton, Two Rivers' pastor for 21 years, is a former first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Alabama pastor sentenced for tax fraud.** Gregory Clarke, pastor of the 6,000-member New Hope Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for three counts of filing false income tax returns. A judge also ordered Clarke to pay more than \$35,000 in restitution to the government, according to The Birmingham News. Clarke, who has been pastor of New Hope since 1986, claimed that much of the money he received was gifts or "love offerings" rather than compensation. Prosecutors said Clarke underreported \$110,000 in earned income during 2000, 2001 and 2002 and devised an intricate system of deceiving the government, funneling earned income into accounts. Jurors found Clarke guilty on three counts of tax fraud.

**Ken Stephens to retire from LifeWay.** Ken Stephens, vice president of the B&H Publishing Group of LifeWay Christian Resources, is retiring Jan. 15 after 11 years with the Southern Baptist entity. Stephens joined B&H in 1996 after a lengthy career with Thomas Nelson Publishers in Nashville. He was instrumental in developing the Holman Christian Standard Bible, released in 2004, which has become one of the best-selling Bible translations in the nation. David Shepherd, associate to the vice president and director of trade product development for B&H, will serve as interim vice president.

## Keon Chi, retired Georgetown prof, dies in car crash

Lexington—Keon Chi, a retired political science professor at Georgetown College, died Jan. 9 in an automobile accident in Lexington. He was 71.

The car Chi was driving was struck by a pickup truck at the intersection of Ironworks Pike and Research Park Drive in Fayette County.



Keon Chi

Chi retired from Georgetown in April of 2006 after more than 35 years as a professor at the school. He was also a former department chair and academic dean and was named Kentucky's 1998 Professor of the Year.

Carroll Stevens, a member of Georgetown's board of trustees, called Chi "a very good man, a committed leader and scholar and ever the stalwart member of the Georgetown College community in every way."

Chi was serving as director of the Council of State Governments' National Center for State Governance in Lexington at the time of his death. He also served as editor-in-chief of a state government reference book called, "The Book of the States."

A South Korean native, Chi obtained his U.S. citizenship in the 1970s and earned his doctorate from Claremont University in California, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Chi is survived by his wife, Insoon, and two sons.

His funeral service was held Jan. 13 at John L. Hill Chapel on the Georgetown campus. Memorial gifts may be made to the Dr. Keon S. Chi Scholarship Fund in care of Georgetown College.

## KBC leaders voice opposition to casinos

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Frankfort—In an effort to stop casinos from coming to the commonwealth, representatives from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and other organizations spoke before a House of Representatives expanded gambling task force in Frankfort Jan. 10.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and Willis Polk, president of the KBC's African-American Pastors' Fellowship and pastor of Imani Baptist Church in Lexington, joined others to testify about the dangers and consequences of bringing casino gambling to the state.

The meeting was one of three scheduled by the task force—consisting of 15 state representatives appointed by House Speaker Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green)—in an effort to study expanded gambling on behalf of the Kentucky General Assembly.

In his remarks to the task force, Polk cited the destructive effects that casino gambling can have on families, including divorce, suicide and child abuse. He also described gambling as "a back-door tax on the poor in our society."

"A part of that has to do with them playing (the lottery) with the idea that they might strike it rich," Polk noted.

The Lexington pastor cited a 1994 study by the University of Louisville that was published in the Louisville Courier-Journal. It stated that Kentuckians with an annual income of less than \$15,000 spend more than \$9 per week on lottery tickets, while those who earn more than \$35,000 annually spend nearly \$2 less each week on lottery tickets.

"It's obvious that those on the lower economic rung, whatever little bit they do put out there is more than what they should be putting out there," Polk added.

Proponents of expanded gambling in Kentucky have argued that casinos would generate at least \$500 million in additional revenues for

the state. Addressing this claim, Mackey told the task force that in order to achieve that number, Kentuckians would have to lose \$1.4 billion in the casinos.

"It will change the paradigm of what culture is all about in the state of Kentucky," Mackey said. The state "will suddenly be dominated and controlled by something that we cannot control and that will ultimately control us."

John-Mark Hack, chairman of the group "Say No To Casinos," also addressed the task force, as well as Ivan Zabilka, president of Citizens Against Gambling Expansion.

### Mixed views about impact

Polk said he "felt okay" about the meeting with the task force, but Hack expressed a less enthusiastic view. He noted that of the three meetings scheduled by the committee, the Jan. 10 assembly was the only one to accommodate opposing parties.

According to Hack, the first meeting included representatives of the Kentucky Lottery Corp. to discuss serving as the regulatory agency for expanded gambling in the state. A Jan. 9 meeting was attended by presidents of four major race tracks in Kentucky who all spoke in favor of casino gambling.

Hack added that the opposition meeting began an hour and 15 minutes late and that only eight of the 15 members of the task force attended.

"I think that we presented to a group of people, the majority of whom have already made up their minds that they're going to vote for casinos in Kentucky," Hack acknowledged.

Kentucky Baptist leaders are urging fellow Baptists to voice their opposition to expanded gambling to lawmakers. Newly-elected Gov. Steve Beshear ran on the platform of bringing casino gambling to the commonwealth and considers it one of his top legislative priorities. In November, shortly after Gov. Beshear's elec-

tion, messengers to the KBC annual meeting adopted a resolution opposing gambling expansion and encouraging Kentucky Baptist churches and members to "express their individual opinions on this issue."

"People cannot just sit by idly and think that it's going to come down one way or the other way and they're going to live with whatever the results are," Polk declared. "They need to write letters, e-mails or (make) telephone calls."

Hack reiterated that point, noting that contacting legislators is "the most important thing that can be done."

He also warned that Kentuckians are being misled about the nature of the decision to expand gambling in the state. Hack noted that legislators are being told to tell their constituents that "they're voting to let the people decide."

In a November statement announcing the formation of the expanded gambling task force, House Speaker Richards said, "The 2007 gubernatorial election focused on allowing voters to decide the issue of expanded gambling."

At issue is a constitutional amendment to allow casino gambling in Kentucky. According to Hack, section 256 of the state constitution states that "citizens of Kentucky do not amend the constitution." It can only be amended by a three-fifths vote of both chambers of the General Assembly. "Citizens then ratify or reject the amendment that's passed," Hack pointed out.

"What Kentuckians ... need to be aware of is that their representative is either going to vote for casinos in Kentucky or they're going to vote against casinos in Kentucky," he added. "There is no 'let the people decide' option."

Despite Hack's concern that most legislators have already decided how they will vote on the issue, Polk urged Kentucky Baptists to contact their representatives.

"It's not a done deal," Polk declared. "There is time to respond."

Kentucky Baptist leaders are encouraging fellow Baptists to express their views about the issue of casino gambling by contacting their state legislators. Individuals can call the legislative message line toll-free at (800) 372-7181 or visit [www.lrc.state.ky.us](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us) and click on the link, "E-mail Your Legislator."

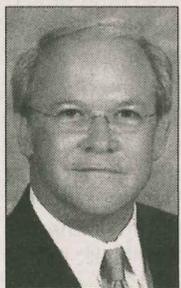
## 2008 Evangelism Conference set for Feb. 25-26 in Elizabethtown

Elizabethtown—Kentucky Baptists seeking to increase effectiveness in sharing their faith can attend the 2008 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference for inspiration and instruction, according to Ross Bauscher, leader of the KBC's evangelism growth team.

The two-day gathering, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be held Feb. 25-26 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

This year's conference will feature 10 guest speakers from eight states, including Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page; Gerald Sharon, executive pastor of ministries for Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.; and Bobby Welch, SBC strategist for global evangelical relations.

Highlighting the theme "Overcoming Barriers," speakers for the conference sessions and breakout sessions will focus on equipping believers to address objections and barriers they face when sharing their faith. Topics will include such is-



Frank Page



Bobby Welch

such as spiritual warfare, theological foundations for evangelism, postmodern culture and evangelistic strategy.

"There are all types of barriers we face in evangelism, yet Philippians 4:13 reminds us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us," Bauscher noted. "We've planned this year's conference to address some of these tough issues and help equip Kentucky Baptists to more effectively share the gospel."

Worship will be led by Grammy and Dove Award-winning Christian vocalist Larnelle Harris, as well as

Dove Award winners Terry and Barbi Franklin.

In addition to Page, Sharon and Welch, conference speakers from across the nation include:

- John Avant, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Monroe, La.

- Roy Fish, distinguished professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

- Richard Harris, senior strategist for missions advancement at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

- John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

The three featured speakers from Kentucky are faculty members at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. They include:

- Chuck Lawless, dean of Southern's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism & Church Growth.

- Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville and assistant professor of

church history at Southern.

- Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and associate dean of ministry and proclamation in Southern's school of theology.

This year's Evangelism Conference includes a Feb. 25 youth ministers' dinner with Sharon. The dinner will be held at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Registration for the event is \$5.

A special women's event will be held Feb. 26 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in conjunction with the Evangelism Conference. The event will feature Phyllis Foy, national missionary for church renewal for the North American Mission Board, and Alicia Williamson Garcia, recording artist and conference leader. Registration for the event is \$12.

There is no charge to attend the Evangelism Conference, and registration is not required. For more information, visit [www.kybaptist.org/evangelismconference](http://www.kybaptist.org/evangelismconference) or call (502) 489-3576 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3576.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON  
Editor

DREW NICHTER  
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Directors:**

Chairman **Floyd Price**,  
London;  
Vice Chairman **Skip Alexander**,  
Campbellsville;  
**Duane Bolin**, Murray;  
**Dan Francis**, Erlanger;  
**Chip Hutcherson**, Princeton;  
**Lanna Kilgore**, Bowling Green;  
**Bill Marshall**, Louisville;  
**Willis Polk**, Lexington;  
**Linda Polley**, Elizabethtown;  
**June Rice**, Paintsville;  
**Wayne Spivey**, Cynthia; **Rodney Travis**,  
Hopkinsville.

**Care about politics? Begin with the church**

By David Gushee

Atlanta (ABP)—Politics is intoxicating, especially in election season, and especially in a time of such high drama in this particular presidential campaign.

In future weeks, I will undoubtedly be writing about the elections of 2008. But I want to begin with a focus on the church.

The themes are connected in this way: I believe that declining confidence in the church as the center of God's redemptive activity in the world correlates directly with an exaggerated emphasis on worldly politics. The less we believe that the church really makes a difference in this broken world, the more we look to McCain or Obama, Hillary or Huckabee, to save us.

This is not a problem confined to any particular political ideology. Both liberal and conservative Christians do it. Both Republican and Democratic Christians do it. Without really knowing what is happening, we shift our ultimate hopes from the church to the state.

Of course, there are very good reasons for why this happens.

Baptists especially do not need to be reminded of how disillusioning church life can actually be. It is easy to lose hope in the redemptive signif-

icance of churches embroiled in petty conflicts, visibly lacking in spiritual vitality, making no real difference in people's lives, and just seeming to go through the motions Sunday after Sunday. No wonder so many shift their hope elsewhere, or give up hope altogether.

Yet Christians have no choice but to believe that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, and that the focus of this reconciliation is the church. In and through the church, human beings are given reason to believe that the resurrection of Jesus Christ actually happened—and, therefore, in the end and despite it all, God wins, life wins, goodness wins and we win.

Where Christians experience church life that looks something like the kind of community I have just outlined, they need not misplace their hopes on some other salvation. They know that Jesus saves, not Giuliani, and they know that their primary community in life is the congregation, not the nation.

I am trying these days to think through—and to help Baptists and evangelicals develop—what might be called an ecclesiological robust cultural/political vision. It begins right here, I think, with a recovery of a theology and practice

**COMMENTARY****SBC needs 'unifier'**

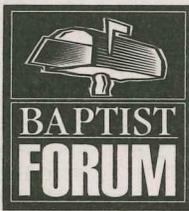
Like many Southern Baptists, I discovered yesterday (Jan. 2) that Dr. Al Mohler would be nominated to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Here is my response to that news:

Dr. Mohler is a good man, even a great man, but he is not the man for SBC president. He has the heart of an academician and the attitude of one who contends for the truth. Right now we need a president that is a shepherd; one who can compassionately bring the different camps

that call themselves Southern Baptists together to cooperate. This is a time to come together. We need a bridge builder.

We need men like Dr. Mohler in the academy, to stand watch at the wall and keep doctrinal error from staining the fabric of our faith that so many have worked so hard to clean. We need him to lead professors to train sound theology at Southern Seminary. We need him to continue to consider concepts of faith. That is where he serves us well. For that we are grateful.

Southern Baptists need Dr. Moh-

**Why oppose expanded gambling?**

I wrote last week about the importance of Kentucky Baptists taking an active role in the battle against casino gambling now going on in the Kentucky General Assembly. Even if you have never contacted a legislator before, this is the time to get involved.

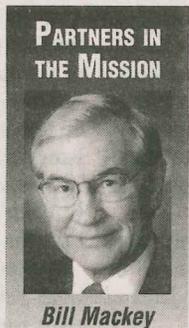
There is a strong moral basis for opposing gambling. God encourages us to help others rather than seek to benefit from their losses. He also wants us to have a proper work ethic and to depend on Him.

Even those who do not share our moral values can easily see the negative consequences of expanded gambling. Research has shown that 40 percent of the gamblers at casinos come from within a 50-mile radius. Every extended family, community and church in Kentucky will be affected. In fact, participants will have to gamble some \$1.42 billion in order for the state to get the \$500 million in revenue that the big gambling corporations predict.

By the way, this projected revenue number is based on gambling industry research. Previous research by the Fletcher administration revealed that Kentucky's economy would support only about \$1 billion being put at risk, which means that \$300 million is a more realistic expectation for gambling revenue.

For me, the family devastation, loss of small businesses, increase in crime, the gambling influence on government and advertising pressure put on citizens to gamble are too high a price to pay. Everyone admits that casino gambling is no panacea for our state's budget woes, so why bring additional problems to Kentucky?

Expanded gambling will impact real people you know and care about. Recently, a director of missions shared with me the horrifying story of a murder and suicide. The wife had mortgaged everything to feed her gambling addiction. When her husband discovered the prob-



Bill Mackey

of vital and transformative congregational life. This is certainly the kind of vision that animated the earliest Christians, who located the action of God in the world in the body of Christ (i.e., the church) and not in the world's centers of power.

Reading through the book of Acts again these days, it is easy to see that the early church had plenty of evidence for the belief that God was changing the world through apostolic preaching, teaching and healing and in the transformed kind of human community that was emerging in the church. It would have been laughable to Peter and John to think that Rome was where the really "important" action could be found in this world.

Some follow this line of reasoning to the conclusion that secular politics is unimportant or that the church should withdraw from the world altogether. Instead, a healthy church characterized by resurrection power will engage the world. It will do so through the moral witness of its own community life above all. And sometimes, yes, it will use words. It will speak to Obama and Hillary, to CNN and Fox. But it will do so with great care to protect the identity of the church, integrity of its mission, and independence of its message—and its messengers.

David Gushee is a professor of Christian ethics at Mercer University in Atlanta

ler as a seminary president, but not as the president of our convention. I want Dr. Mohler at Southern Seminary and on CNN, but we need an SBC president who has led a local church, regularly participates in international mission trips, does not polarize the conversation, and is known as a "unifier." The man we need is a proven pastor who is reaching the lost, giving sacrificially to the Cooperative Program and leading his people to be on mission for God.

My entire "Open Letter to Southern Baptists" can be read at: pastor jasonpettus.blogspot.com.

Jason Pettus  
Bowling Green

lem, the consequences were fatal.

He also shared the stories of two well-respected business owners who lost everything due to gambling. Casino marketing is so enticing that it is difficult for people to stay away, even when they know they should.

Casino slot machines and video poker are three times more addictive than table gambling. Women are also twice as likely to become addicted to video and slot machines as men, according to John-Mark Hack, chairman of "Say No to Casinos."

Please pray about this issue and commit to personally get involved. You can share these dangers with your neighbors, and you can write a letter to your local paper. Enlist those around you to call or write their state senator this week. It is urgent that you make an impact this week against this impending addictive force before Jan. 31.

Stay apprised on what's happening in the General Assembly by signing up for e-mail updates from the KBC Committee on Public Affairs Web site at [www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs](http://www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs).

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

**FAMILY****Typical financial issues faced by widows (part 2)**

By Jeremy White

Look at nursing homes, senior citizen bus tours or most churches: lots of white-haired women and few grumpy old men. The mortality statistics are clear that women typically outlive men. Add to these longevity statistics the cultural norm of men marrying younger women, then you have a likely long period of widowhood for many women.

In my column last month, I advised new widows to not make any major financial or lifestyle decisions during at least the first year. We looked at the immediate actions to take of obtaining copies of death certificates and contacting financial advisors, life insurance agents and company benefit personnel. Here are the next steps:

**Within one month:** Keep a record of your cash flow so you can determine where you stand financially and your living expenses.

As money from insurance or employers comes in, deposit it in short-term certificates of deposit or money market funds. Don't worry about missing out on "better" investment opportunities for now.

**Within the first six months:** Change any of your insurance policies that name your deceased spouse as beneficiary. Change card accounts and loans with your husband's name on them. If you are the executor of your husband's estate, notify your creditors and satisfy the debts as they come due.

Review all insurance coverages, especially medical, to make sure you and your family are adequately protected. Have your will updated. If you don't have a will, then get one.

Review your checking account or husband's checkbook and files to determine if you may be due benefits from sources you didn't know about.

**By the end of the first year:** Make a list of all the assets you now have, the debts and the insurance policies. Identify your sources of income and categorize monthly expenses. Consider long-term, major needs such as lifestyle needs, debt payoff, giving and investment goals. Work with a financial advisor or accountant to implement your financial plan, making decisions about housing, investments, insurance and lifestyle.

While this is the general approach I recommend, pray and tailor your situation to your needs with professional help.

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



## Ending alcohol and drug use can help heal marital strife

**Q: My wife recently locked me out of our house and says she will not let me come back. I have struggled with using alcohol and sometimes drugs since I was a teenager. I know I have problems, but I don't think she has the right to act that way since we are married. We are both believers and so I think we need to stay together and work on this. How should I respond?**

Your commitment to the marriage is a good first step. Often in marriage, we wait and expect our spouse to make changes. We can become frustrated or angry when

these changes do not happen. I would encourage you to begin with what is within your control. Consider personal changes you can make that will have a positive impact on your marriage relationship.

There certainly is a great deal of help and support available in terms of treatment. But depending on the length of time your substance abuse has negatively impacted your marriage, it is likely there are issues of trust, betrayal, disappointment, hurt, grief, fear and abandonment that will need to be attended to and healed.

As a believer, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you. Our God is about life transformation. Instead of waiting for your wife to change, you can seek the help of the Holy Spirit to guide you toward personal transformation. Hopefully taking this kind of initiative and following through will demonstrate to your wife your sincere desire to change and your deep commitment to your marriage.

Trust can be rebuilt, but it takes time and clear, consistent changes in behavior. Locking you out of the house is likely a form of self-protection for your wife. It is extremely painful to face disappointment over and over. Your goal to save the marriage is a good goal. Reconsider your approach to saving the marriage. Making decisive steps to rid the marriage of any and all elements that would destroy the relationship is essential. This crisis can become an important opportunity for both of you.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: As the father of two children, what do they most need from me during their teenage years?**

Imagine, during this national election year, that you are a candidate running for the privilege of being a "father of the highest order." While teenagers cannot always name what they most need from their father while looking through the windshield of adolescence, frequently they can begin to describe what they longed for as they look in the rearview mirror.

Let me first describe what a father is not. He is not to be simply a playmate, a backup or a nice guy. He is not to be merely a disciplinary threat with whom to be reckoned or an absentee breadwinner whose sole responsibility is providing for the physical needs of his family.

An "electable" Christian father of the highest order is a man who is actively involved and connected in his teenagers' lives. He makes family events a priority and spends regular one-on-one time with each person in the family. He is a man who is privately and publicly committed to Jesus Christ, engaged in daily spiritual disciplines, active in the church, and willing to lead his family in engaging an often godless, confusing and unhealthy culture.

A great father loves his wife in tangible ways and is humble enough to admit when he is wrong and asks forgiveness. Even as his teenagers appreciate him as a leader, protector and provider, they experience "permission granted" to grow up, sensing both his curiosity and respect for their opinions and views.

Keep in mind that no father is perfect but One, and His grace is great for those of us who are regularly before His throne—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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

## Will Calvinism, CP impact SBC election?

With the Southern Baptist Convention's 2008 annual meeting in Indianapolis still almost five months away, three nominees already have been announced for the SBC presidency.

In the past several years, the "establishment" nominee endorsed by denominational leaders typically is elected with little opposition. This year, that individual appears to be Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, who will be nominated by Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas. But this may not be a typical year.

The other two announced nominees—Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., and Bill Wagner, a former Southern Baptist missionary and current president of Olivet University International in San Francisco—are considered long-shot candidates at best. But there also is much discussion among online bloggers about the possibility of other nominees emerging between now and the June 10-11 annual meeting.

In addition to the likelihood of a larger-than-usual field of nominees, Mohler is expected to face questions about his Calvinist views and his church's level of Cooperative Program giving.

In an interview with the Louisville Courier-Journal, Mohler said he has never made belief in Calvinism a litmus test for hiring and that he has always championed evangelistic efforts.

"I do not hope to be the Calvinist president of the Southern Baptist Convention," he told the paper.

Hershael York, a professor and associate dean at Southern, told the Courier-Journal that if Calvinism is a factor in the SBC presidential election, "it would be a shame, because frankly that has never been Al's rallying cry. The Southern Baptist Convention is big enough for people to disagree on that."

But the reality is that it won't be up to Mohler or fellow Calvinists whether those views become a major factor in the presidential election. That will be up to grassroots pastors and church members who attend the SBC meeting as messengers.

According to recent studies by LifeWay Research and the Southern Baptist North American Mission

Board, only 10 percent of Southern Baptist pastors affirm five-point Calvinism compared to 29 percent of recent SBC seminary graduates.

Paige Patterson, the only Southern Baptist seminary president elected SBC president in the past 65 years, is outspoken in his disagreement with five-point Calvinism. And current SBC President Frank Page, also a non-Calvinist, is the author of a 2000 book titled, "Trouble with the Tulip: A Closer Examination of the Five Points of Calvinism."

By contrast, during a pair of debates with Patterson on the issue of Calvinism at the 2006 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Mohler emphasized that "I believe in all five points of Calvinism." Whether SBC messengers view Mohler's perspective as a plus, minus or non-issue when it comes to electing this year's SBC president remains to be seen.

On the Cooperative Program front, Page was elected SBC president two years ago over two higher-profile nominees (including one endorsed by Mohler) whose respective churches gave 0.27 percent and 1.8 percent of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program compared to Page's church which gave more than 12 percent through CP. While both of the other nominees' churches also designated funds directly to the SBC, those gifts are not counted as part of Southern Baptists' overall Cooperative Program giving.

As a member and teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Mohler's church channeled 3.3 percent of undesignated receipts through CP, according to 2006 Annual Church Profile statistics. While Highview also designated funds directly to the SBC and other mission causes, the church's official CP percentage was less than half of Kentucky Baptist churches' average CP contribution of 7.24 percent.

Of course, SBC messengers may cut Mohler some slack since he is not senior pastor of his congregation. But whether messengers consider that level of CP giving adequate for the SBC's highest elected office is another question yet to be answered.

With both Calvinism and Cooperative Program giving being major discussion points in SBC life these days, this year's SBC presidential election could enable Southern Baptists to voice their views on both issues.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Ultrasounds aid pro-life ministry efforts

By Lee Weeks

January 2008 marks the 35th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion. Since the 1973 ruling, more than 48 million babies have lost their lives to abortion.

As Southern Baptists observe Sanctity of Life Sunday Jan. 20, many pro-lifers are seeking to make a positive difference. One is Terry Williams, executive director of Central Texas LifeCare, whose pregnancy resource center conducts sonograms for women facing untimely or unwanted pregnancies.

"We can use our ultrasound machine to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that it's not just a blob of tissue, but that this is a life," Williams says. "The ultrasound is what God is using at this time to change lives and to change hearts and minds."

And statistics show that most pregnant women who visit the San Marcos, Texas, center are getting the message. Williams says 92 percent of the women who see a sonogram of their unborn child at her center choose life for their baby instead of abortion.

Medical research on human development has proven that a person's complete genetic code is estab-

lished at conception. An unborn baby's heart begins to beat 18 days after conception, and her fingerprints are completely established during the fourth week of development. She sucks her thumb seven weeks after conception; and sometime between nine and 10 weeks, a baby squints, swallows and moves her tongue.

In a culture where abortion ends the lives of more than 1.3 million unborn children in America every year, or one out of four pregnancies, Williams says an ultrasound machine is a powerful lifesaving tool in defending the sanctity of human life.

Williams says the impact a sonogram can have on a mother is undeniable. She recounted the response of an unwed 20-year-old mother upon seeing the sonogram of her eight-week-old unborn child: "Oh, no. Now that I've seen it, I've got to have this baby."

Central Texas LifeCare, which also provides testing for sexually transmitted diseases as well as life skills counseling on parenting, sex education, sexual purity and abstinence, serves about 75 clients each month. About 65 percent of the center's clients are women ages 19 to 25, the "most abortion vulnerable group of women in the United

States," Williams adds. Girls ages 15 to 18 make up about 35 percent of the clientele.

In an increasingly sexually promiscuous society that devalues human life by endorsing abortion as simply another legal birth control option, Williams says every pregnancy resource center needs an ultrasound machine to protect the unborn.

Williams says her dedicated staff care as much for the mother and her family as the unborn child. Consequently, about 30 clients made professions of faith in Christ in 2006. "They want to live the lifestyle they see modeled by the Christ followers who make up our staff," Williams says. "We are giving light and hope. I know that God is working in this place, and one of the tools He is using is the ultrasound machine. It's a way to celebrate life."

For more information about the value of ultrasound technology in crisis pregnancy situations and how to help place sonogram machines in pregnancy resource centers through the Psalm 139 Project, an effort of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, visit [www.psalms139project.org](http://www.psalms139project.org).

Lee Weeks, associate pastor of evangelism and missions at First Baptist Church of Cumming, Ga., is a former staff member of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board

## Study: Unchurched Americans welcome spiritual discussion

**"Unchurched people do not understand the connection between having a relationship with God and being with other believers in church. In the Christian faith, these are inseparable."**

Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research

Continued from page 1

people in our culture not only don't believe that, but often consider us intolerant because we dare to believe it."

The negative perception for many people, however, seems to be of the church, not Jesus Christ, according to the study.

While 64 percent of the respondents think "the Christian religion is a relevant and viable religion for today," 79 percent think Christianity "is more about organized religion than about loving God and loving people." Seventy-two percent of those polled said they think the church "is full of hypocrites, people who criticize others for doing the same things they do themselves," and 86 percent believe they "can have a good relationship with God without being involved in church."

The belief that church attendance is not necessary for spiritual well-being is just as common among adults who grew up in church as it is among those who attended church less often as children, McConnell said.

### Church connection

"Unchurched people do not understand the connection between having a relationship with God and being with other believers in church," he added. "In the Christian faith, these are inseparable. Jesus' last prayer before being arrested, as recorded in John 17, was that

everyone who believes in Him would be unified and work together to let the world know that God loves them and sent Jesus.

"People on the outside see the church as candles, pews and flowers, rather than people living out their love for God by loving others," McConnell continued. "Such skepticism can only be overcome by churches and believers who demonstrate the unity and love for which Jesus prayed."

Stetzer added, "There will always be the stumbling block of the cross. Yet our study shows that many are tripping over the church before they hear the message of the cross."

Despite their negative opinions about the institutional church, most unchurched people are open to discussing spiritual matters with a friend. The research showed that:

- Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed said they would be willing to listen to someone talk about their Christian beliefs.

- Only 28 percent of adults 30 years and older said they think Christians they know talk to them too much about their beliefs.

- More than 75 percent of adults 30 years and older said they would enjoy an honest conversation with a friend about religious and spiritual beliefs, even if they disagreed with the friend.

"Even though the unchurched have a confused view of God and a negative view of the church, they are

## Why Church?

A national survey of 1,402 adults ages 18 and older who have not attended a religious service, synagogue, or mosque, at any time in the past six months.

I believe I can have a good relationship with God without being involved in church

86% agree

The church is full of hypocrites, people who criticize others for doing the same things they do themselves

72% agree

Believing in Jesus makes a positive difference in a person's life

71% agree

Bars represent percentage who "somewhat agree" and "strongly agree" with statement.

Compiled by LifeWay Research

overwhelmingly open to someone sharing about their Christian faith," Stetzer noted.

"Increasingly, the God Americans believe in looks less like the God described in the Bible," Stetzer explained. "They are a long way from where people were 100 years ago, when there was more of a consensus about who God is. That is a rebuke to us as Christians and, at the same time, a challenge. What is it about the faith we live that causes our culture to like Jesus but reject the church?"

One of the most important insights of the study is that the vast majority of unchurched people are not only open to spiritual conver-

sations but already know someone who is a Christian, according to McConnell.

"We don't have to search for the unchurched folks around us; we actually know them," he noted. "It's really a matter of starting conversations about spiritual matters with the unchurched people we know."

"Although we may not have the home field advantage we once did, people are open to spiritual conversations, open to hearing about a genuine faith, and God is still at work, using people and churches to share the good news in an increasingly confused world. That should propel us to action and help us move beyond fear to share our faith."

# Life is precious!

We recognize and encourage your support of the following pro-life ministries with which Kentucky Baptist churches and associations partner.

Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center • Ashland

Barbourville Pregnancy Resource Center • Barbourville

New Life Center • Bardstown

Haven of Hope • Benton

Pregnancy Support Center, Inc. • Bowling Green

Central Kentucky Pregnancy Support Center • Campbellsville

New Life Maternity Haven • Clarkson

Southeast Kentucky Women for Life • Corbin

Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky • Covington

New Hope Center • Crestview Hills

Pregnancy Resource Center of Central Kentucky • Danville

Heartland Crisis Pregnancy Center • Elizabethtown

Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky • Florence

AA Pregnancy Help Center • Frankfort

Opportunities for Life • Frankfort

Unwed Mothers and Their Children • Frankfort

Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Inc. • Glasgow

Pathway of Hope • Greenville

Marsha's Place Pregnancy Resource Center • Henderson

Alpha Alternative Pregnancy Care Center • Hopkinsville

New Hope Center • Latonia

AA Pregnancy Help Center • Lexington

Birthright of Kentucky • Lexington

Laurel County Life Center • London

A Woman's Choice Resource Center • Louisville

Birthright • Louisville

Pregnancy Resource Center • Louisville

Door of Hope Pregnancy Center • Madisonville

Hope Pregnancy Resource Center • Mayfield

Hope Pregnancy Care Center • Morehead

Shelter of Love Crisis Pregnancy Center • Morganfield

Life House Care Center • Murray

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Owensboro • Owensboro

Meeting the Needs • Owenton

Hope Unlimited Family Care Center • Paducah

Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center • Pikeville

Choose Life Ministries • Pineville

CrossWay Pregnancy Resource Center • Radcliff

Pregnancy Help Center • Richmond

ARC Pregnancy Support Center • Russell Springs

A Loving Choice Pregnancy Resource Center • Shelbyville

AIM Pregnancy Support Center • Somerset

House of Hope Pregnancy Center • Springfield

CareNet Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky • Williamstown

AA Pregnancy Care Center • Winchester



Mission Service & Ministries Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

toll-free in Kentucky 866-489-3530

502-489-3530

ministries@kybaptist.org

www.kybaptist.org/msm



## Believers witness Christ at work in Beijing

Continued from page 1

Underneath it all is a sense of God's movement, an underground growing interest in spiritual matters. For years, the communist government forbade any expression of faith. But there is a sense that God is at work, even as outsiders are given the opportunity to gather.

Passport-carrying foreigners may freely worship together in closely monitored worship services. Despite the surveillance, there is a collective sigh of relief as foreign Christians gather to take off their masks, worship God and pour out their hearts freely for an hour each week.

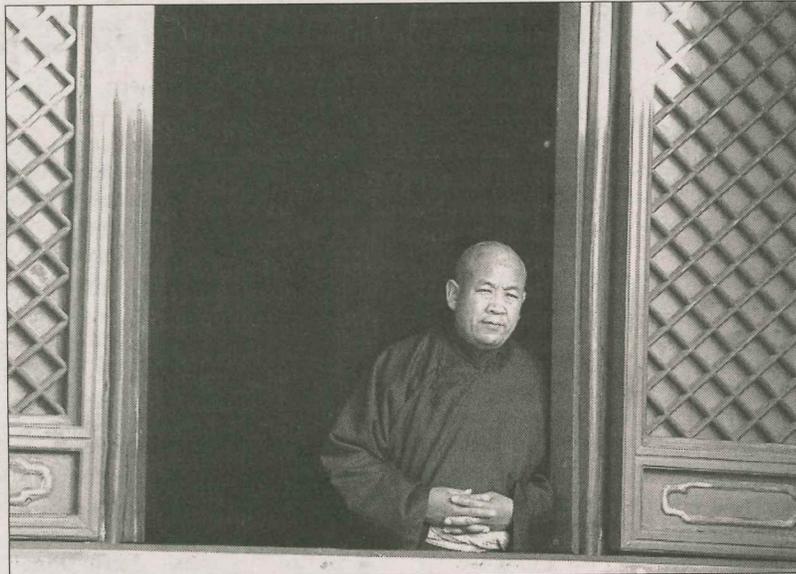
In these services, the presence of God is palatable. There appear to be no complacent Christians. These believers understand what it means to offer their lives sacrificially in an environment where they may be forced to leave if they are found proselytizing local residents. They know the difficulty of reaching people who for years were not allowed to pursue matters of faith and who fear losing their own lives if they do.

Yet, the foreign Christians gather to celebrate the growing population of Chinese Christians. They marvel at the way they experience God moving in the nation.

One Christian explained with tears in her eyes, "It is the greatest feeling to explain to a new believer, 'There are millions of Christian brothers and sisters in your new family. They are all over this city.'"

Among the Christians in China, there is a deep faith, an exhilarating, purposeful relationship with God and His church. Though the growth is exciting, some American ministry leaders who visited were somewhat saddened, not by what they saw in China, but what they had to return home to.

"I don't want to bring the American church here," a pastor from the United States said, expressing concern about bringing the Western ver-



**WINDOW TO THE PAST** A Buddhist monk reflects the ancient threads of faith that existed in China long before the communist government came to power. (BP photo)

sion of Christianity to China. "The Jesus I experience here, I want to bring to America.

"I get to go home to be on staff of a church of apathetic believers who don't want to be with lost people."

Understanding his concern, one Christian man who now lives in Beijing explained that his decision to move to China was crucial. "I remember asking myself, 'Do I want to spend the rest of my good working years doing the same Bible studies or do I want to live as the disciples did?'" he recalled.

Though the man had a successful business in America, he and his wife opted to move in order to live out their motto: "Making an eternal difference in the hearts of others."

The couple has the opportunity every day to make such a difference.

A Christian American leader who visited them in Beijing pondered why he should bring Western Christians to China. "Why, if I have someone unwilling to do something in their Jerusalem, why would I want to

take them to the end of the earth?" he asked with great concern.

"Because foreign missions is a catalyst for your Judea and Samaria," the Beijing worker replied, explaining that teams who minister in China come back to America with great excitement, ultimately rejuvenating their local church ministries.

Another Christian American leader agreed, encouraging the Americans to bring teams to Asia where God is at work.

"God calls and challenges us to join with Him in His work," the leader explained. "Because He is truly at work here, there are great opportunities for your church members. ... As they come and serve here, they cannot flee from God anymore. They cannot be complacent anymore.

"Let God use them as His instrument," he continued. "Where there's the greatest darkness, there's the potential for the greatest light. Give people the courage and the faith to join with Him and say, 'I will walk with you, Father.'"

"It will be wonderful."

## Scavenger hunt paves way for missions opportunity in China

**Beijing, China (BP)**—The assignment was to take a bus to the subway station, choose an unexplored subway stop and spend the day evaluating the area to determine what a team of volunteers could do there.

Anticipating the challenges ahead, the three Westerners counted their Chinese currency, grabbed their subway cards and crossed over three lanes of traffic to find the right bus. They remembered their host's suggestion to take the bus with Chinese characters next to the number. "That bus," she said, "drops you off closer to the subway."

Finally, the bus arrived. It already was crowded, but not yet to standing room only. By the time the team made it to the downtown subway system, the bus was loaded with people.

This was no great surprise because more than 18 million people call Beijing home, twice the size of New York City. More than 95 percent of Beijing's residents belong to the Han Chinese majority, but more than 55 minority groups also live in the capital.

### "Where would you have us go?"

It took about 40 minutes by bus to get to the downtown station. At the subway, the Americans followed the escalators to the platform where they studied the large posted maps.

"Jesus, where would You have us go today?" they asked.

Noting a stop west of the famous Tiananmen Square, the team made a decision. They boarded the subway, finding it much more crowded than the bus.

"Lord, please help the people on this train to know You," the female team member prayed. As she looked into each person's eyes, she pleaded, "Jesus, please let each person's name be written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

Observing the passengers, she saw emptiness and weariness in their eyes. "Help each person to find rest in You," she implored.

The team transferred to another crowded line and prepared for their final destination.

"Jesus," they prayed, "give us Your eyes, so that we may see the work that You are already doing."

When they disembarked, they followed the concrete sidewalks to a busy intersection. There, they discovered several eateries, an urban market and even a KFC restaurant. Already they were achieving success on their spiritual scavenger hunt.

On their map, the team noticed a large park, one of 500 parks in Beijing. Perhaps it would be an ideal location where a future team could come and engage the locals.

Like the other parks in Beijing, this one had several open spaces where families flew kites, young adults played hackey-sack and older adults engaged in board games and music.

### Safety considerations

The team still needed to determine how secure a future team would be. As soon as the question was spoken, the team noticed a police station. A few moments later, they discovered several Chinese military units nearby.

"Jesus, what would You have us to do?" they asked. Would this be a wise place to share about how powerfully God has changed their lives? Would people be willing to hear what they have to say?

The team turned back toward the subway, needing to find a restaurant closer to the park. After a couple of blocks, they found one flanked by traditional red lanterns.

Hungry, they decided to try it out, only to discover that no one spoke English. Up for the challenge, the three Americans managed to order a meal by pointing to photos in the menu.

The otherwise uneventful lunch was challenged by other patrons' apparent disapproval of three Americans' presence. Acknowledging God's protection, the three continued their meal, pausing to say an open-eyed blessing.

Indeed, God had shown them a place to bring a team next summer. Despite the concerns, they sensed God had led them to this place.

Walking back to the subway, the three agreed that God's heart was bigger than their nervousness. The people who will visit the park are worth the challenge.

"Prepare people's hearts now," they prayed. "Oh God of heaven and earth, bring the right people together so that souls are saved."

Walking away, the three began to think of their next summer, confident that God will do more than they can dream.

Creative Ministries

# FESTIVAL!

## 2008

**LOUISVILLE, KY**  
**February 29 - March 1**  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**BOWLING GREEN, KY**  
**March 7-8**  
First Baptist Church Bowling Green

Register Online at [www.kybaptist.org/cmf](http://www.kybaptist.org/cmf)  
or call (866) 489-3574.

## Baptists in Vietnam hold inaugural general conference

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (ABP)—Baptists in Vietnam reached a milestone Jan. 10 when they held their first legal national conference.

Nearly 400 people were expected to attend the meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly the South Vietnamese capital known as Saigon.

Delegates of the Grace-Southern Baptist General Confederation addressed several issues during the three-day gathering in an effort to help the group earn recognition as a bona fide religious organization from the nation's communist government.

The meeting comes a year after the Vietnam Baptist Protestant Church first received an official operating license.

## Refugees seek shelter with Baptist university in Kenya

Limuru, Kenya—Refugees fleeing violence in Kenya have found shelter at the Wayland Baptist University campus near Nairobi.

A visiting professor there sent out a request for pain medication because those who were injured had no access to medical treatment, a school official announced Jan. 9.

Richard Shaw, dean of the Kenya campus and director of the Wayland Missions Center, said he received an e-mail from Don Ashley, associate professor of religion at Wayland's campus in Anchorage, Alaska, saying there are "approximately 200 refugees in need of pain medication." Ashley is in Kenya preparing to lead a three-week course.

Also, several students attending Wayland Baptist University's Kenya campus have lost family members in the recent violence that has plagued the nation, resulting from a contested presidential election and inauguration Jan. 1. More than 500 people have died, including at least 30 people who were burned alive in an Assemblies of God church near the western city of Eldoret.

School administrators are monitoring the situation to determine whether to postpone the start of a new semester. Classes at the outpost of the Texas-based Baptist school were scheduled to resume Jan. 14.

Lack of supplies presents the

most pressing concern for Wayland's Kenya campus, Ashley said—the school is running low on food and other necessities. Fuel also is at a premium, making transportation to and from the campus difficult for students.

Shaw, director of the Wayland Missions Center, was scheduled to leave for Kenya Jan. 11 if conditions stabilized.

"I have been overwhelmed by the faith and the acts of our Kenyan brothers and sisters," Shaw wrote to Wayland faculty Jan. 8. "Coming from different tribes, they have demonstrated peacemaking and reconciliation at every turn, and are indeed setting the example of the living Christ and the ethic He taught and lived."

The students and Baptist pastors in Kenya, according to Shaw, have "demonstrated a real witness to Christ and the gospel by their uniting in the faith, and I think that's been a real encouraging thing."

The campus, sponsored in conjunction with the Kenya Baptist Theological College, is about 15 miles from Nairobi, where some of the worst violence occurred. Wayland has had an ongoing partnership with the Kenyan school since 1999.

Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

## Kenyan hunger needs reach critical levels as Baptist ministries respond

Kenya (BP)—Southern Baptists are responding to critical hunger needs in Kenya, where an estimated 250,000 people have been driven from their homes by violence that broke out after the controversial results of December's presidential elections were announced.

Food packets containing rice, wheat flour, maize meal, beans, vegetable cooking oil and salt will be distributed in seven cities, with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Baptist Mission of Kenya coordinating the project. Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization, has approved the release of \$25,000 from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to support the relief effort.

"Many displaced people have congregated at safe locations like police stations, Bible schools, Catholic missions and evangelical churches," said Mark Hatfield, director of Baptist Global Response's work in sub-Saharan Africa. "This project will assist 2,500 families in seven cities where Baptists have access to centers of refuge."

The turmoil has made travel difficult, so Southern Baptists have worked through Baptist Con-

vention of Kenya leaders to assess the situation on the ground, Hatfield noted.

"The goal is to provide families basic food for five to seven days while they search for new places to live," he explained. "A long-term follow-up response will be considered after this initial response is carried out."

"We're grateful that Southern Baptists are a people who care so we can reach out in emergencies like this to people in need."

Churches in Kenya called for a national day of prayer on Jan. 6, and Southern Baptists joined in asking God to bring peace to the country, which previously had been a model of stability and democracy in the region.

The need for prayer will continue until the election controversy is resolved, Hatfield said.

"Pray that the internally displaced peoples of Kenya will be able to return to their homes or will be able to re-settle their families soon," he urged. "Pray that this food will be a blessing to each family who receives it. Pray for the safety of those who will distribute the food and that spiritual needs will be met as well physical needs."

"Pray for peace and calm to return to Kenya."

DISCOVER. EMBRACE. PURSUE GOD'S CALL TO A CHRISTIAN-RELATED VOCATION.



## KALEO: KENTUCKY '08

Where: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Louisville, KY

When: February 22-23, 2008

KALEO: Kentucky '08 is a specialized conference for high school, college and seminary students exploring or pursuing God's call to a Christian-related vocation and ministry leaders responsible for nurturing their call.

KALEO events are packed with powerful speakers, innovative workshops, one-on-one time with influential ministry leaders, missionaries and more—all wrapped up in one conference experience that will give you the encouragement and tools you need to answer God's call successfully!

Begin the ministry God called you to—today!

GOD CALLED. YOU ANSWERED. NOW WHAT?  
[WWW.KALEOCONFERENCE.COM](http://WWW.KALEOCONFERENCE.COM)

KALEO: Kentucky '08 is sponsored by the Missions Prep Network of the North American Mission Board, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kentucky Baptist Convention, LifeWay, Long Run Baptist Association, and the International Mission Board.

## Two ministries still refuse to cooperate with finance probe

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Two of the six ministries with finances under investigation by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, have been unwilling to cooperate, citing privacy rights and questioning Grassley's focus on groups that preach the "prosperity gospel."

In an update released Jan. 8, Grassley urged the noncooperating ministries to view the inquiry in a different light.

"This has nothing to do with church doctrine," said Grassley, the top-ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee. "It's only about tax-exempt policy."

Two Atlanta-area ministries, Cre-flo Dollar Ministries in College Park, Ga., and Bishop Eddie Long's New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, have refused to submit the financial records first requested by Grassley last November.

An attorney for Dollar had already told Grassley that the church would not comply by the original Dec. 6 deadline. Long's attorneys also sent a letter indicating unwillingness to cooperate, Grassley's office said.

### Investigation questioned

In an op-ed column in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Jan. 6, Long's attorney James Hunter called Grassley's inquiry an "inquisition" and said the church will "comply with all laws applicable to churches."

"Grassley's inquiry is not a formal congressional investigation or subpoena, but an informal request for information from certain ministries he believes to be preaching the 'prosperity gospel,'" Hunter wrote.

"He has expressed his disapproval of certain teachings of these ministries since such teachings are not consistent with his beliefs," he added.

Marcus Owens, a lawyer for Dollar, said in a Nov. 27 letter to Grassley that the investigation would be more appropriate if it involved a formal subpoena.

"While, as is true with most religious beliefs, not all religions or denominations subscribe to the 'prosperity gospel,' this country has a long tradition of celebrating—and protecting—the diversity of the religious beliefs of its citizens," Owens wrote.

Just two of the six ministries, Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Newark, Texas, and Joyce Meyer Ministries in Fenton, Mo., have provided materials that are being reviewed by Senate staff, Grassley noted.

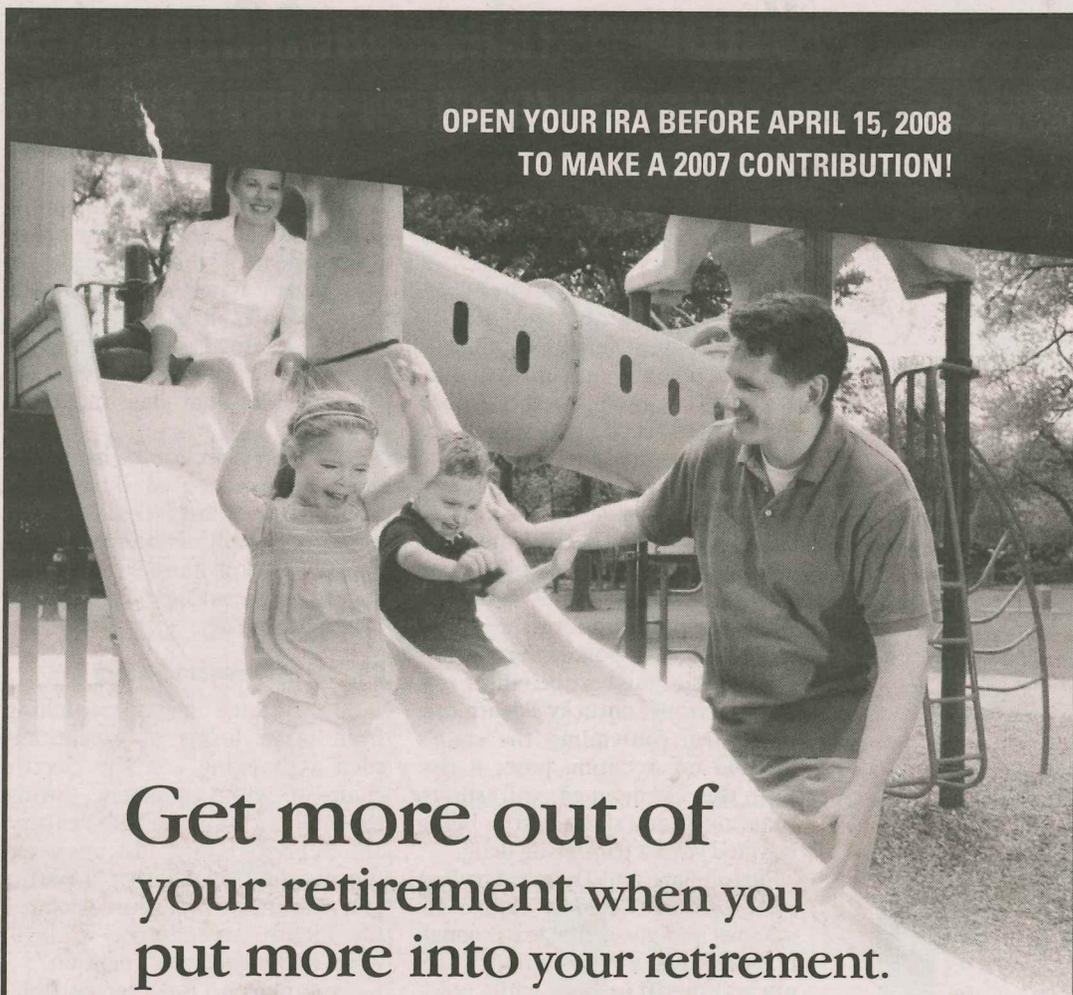
Two other ministries—Without Walls International Church in Tampa, Fla., and Benny Hinn Ministries in Grapevine, Ga., have sent mixed signals.

Without Walls has asked for additional time to submit materials. Juda Engelmayer, a spokesman for the organization, confirmed that attorneys have been talking with the senator's office but declined to disclose details.

Hinn's lawyers had told Grassley's staff they would determine by Dec. 12 if the ministry would cooperate, but Grassley's staff said there was no further contact after an exchange of messages the following day.

While watchdog groups have welcomed Grassley's probe, the evangelical magazine Christianity Today called some of the senator's comments an "oversight overstep."

In a January editorial that referenced "prosperity-gospel" preachers, the magazine noted: "Whether they're proclaiming the true gospel is a separate question. And it's a question that the church, not the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Finance, should answer."



OPEN YOUR IRA BEFORE APRIL 15, 2008  
TO MAKE A 2007 CONTRIBUTION!

## Get more out of your retirement when you put more into your retirement.

### Add to your current investments with a GuideStone Funds RightChoice IRA™

If you already have a retirement account, you can go beyond what you're investing now. If you have a spouse who wants to invest, simply add an Individual Retirement Account to your portfolio. And if you're concerned about investments contrary to your Christian values, there's a way to exceed the standard selection.

A GuideStone Funds RightChoice IRA™ provides access to:

- traditional or Roth IRAs.
- accounts for you and your spouse.
- the nation's largest family of Christian-based, socially screened registered mutual funds.

To impact your 2007 tax return, you must open your account before April 15. Call 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or visit [www.GuideStoneFunds.org/IRAs](http://www.GuideStoneFunds.org/IRAs) and we'll help you establish your GuideStone Funds RightChoice IRA™ in time.

*You should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the GuideStone Funds before investing. A prospectus with this and other information about the Funds may be obtained by calling 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or by visiting [www.GuideStoneFunds.org](http://www.GuideStoneFunds.org) to view or download a prospectus. It should be read carefully before investing.*

Shares of GuideStone Funds are distributed through PFPC Distributors, Inc., a registered broker-dealer and underwriter of the Funds, 760 Moore Rd., King of Prussia, PA 19406.

GuideStone Financial Services, a controlled affiliate of GuideStone Financial Resources, serves as IRA custodian.

  
GuideStone®  
Funds

Choose well. Choose right.™

## Want them to remember more than the snack?

Register for our **online** courses in **Preschool & Children's Ministry.**

Learn how children develop their faith in God, what teaching methodologies are appropriate for helping them in faith development and what makes an effective preschool and children's ministry.

Courses begin Jan 14, Feb 25, and April 7  
Registration: \$150 per course (Scholarships are available to cover 50% of registration fees)

The School of Christian Ministry provides continuing theological education for those serving in leadership in congregational settings.

**BTSR**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY AT RICHMOND  
SCHOOL of  
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

[www.btsr.edu/presch\\_child\\_min.html](http://www.btsr.edu/presch_child_min.html); 1 888 339 2877

## Ky. cases focus of Supreme Court death penalty hearings

Washington (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court, which is poised to decide if the nation's most widely used form of capital punishment is unconstitutional, focused on the mechanics of lethal injection during arguments in the case Jan. 7.

The justices also seemed concerned that the case they are using to decide if lethal injection is the kind of "cruel and unusual punishment" banned by the Eighth Amendment is the best vehicle for such a determination.

"Isn't your position that every form of execution that has ever been used in the United States, if it were to be used today, would violate the Eighth Amendment?" asked Justice Samuel Alito, addressing Washington attorney Donald Verrilli.

Verrilli argued on behalf of two inmates from Kentucky's death row who sued, contending the state's method of execution poses a risk that the condemned will suffer, consciously and silently, after being injected with a paralyzing drug.

Ralph Baze and Thomas Bowling were each convicted of double homicides and given the death penalty. Baze killed a Powell County deputy and sheriff in 1992, while Bowling murdered a Lexington couple in 1990.

Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts appeared to favor the other side's argument. The commonwealth of Kentucky, attorney Roy

Englert argued, has sufficient protocols to ensure that the injection procedure is done without any suffering to the condemned.

At question is a three-drug protocol used to induce death. The procedure—a form of which is used by virtually every state that enforces the death penalty—first involves a general anesthetic. A second drug paralyzes the prisoner to prevent convulsions. The final drug induces a heart attack.

However, if an inmate is not sufficiently anesthetized during the first injection, they could be left partially or fully conscious but unable to speak or move while experiencing excruciating pain induced by the final drug.

### Capital punishment history

Most states began switching from other forms of execution—such as hanging and the electric chair—to lethal injection during the middle part of the 20th century. The Supreme Court last answered the question of whether a particular execution procedure violated the Eighth Amendment in 1890, when it approved electrocution.

Last month, New Jersey abolished the death penalty, when Gov. Jon Corzine signed into law a bill replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment without parole.

New Jersey became the first state to ban capital punishment since

1976, the year the Supreme Court ruled that states could reinstate the practice. New Jersey reinstated the death penalty in 1982 but has not executed anyone since.

Kentucky law bans the three-drug procedure for euthanizing animals, favoring a single dose of barbiturates that anesthetizes and induces death simultaneously. A group of veterinarians joined the inmates' side in the case, arguing that what is considered inhumane for animals should not be used on humans.

"Capital punishment is a very serious matter," said Barrett Duke, vice president of public policy for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "The civil authorities must do all they can to assure appropriate legal protections for those who face it. They must also make sure that even as they exact the ultimate penalty, they do so in a manner that is respectful of the life they are taking. Everyone is created in God's image. That image deserves all the respect we can give it, even in capital punishment."

Justices Stephen Breyer and David Souter seemed to favor sending the case back to Kentucky courts to study whether an alternative exists. But even Breyer acknowledged that the barbiturate-injection method could pose its own problems.

One of the court's staunchest death-penalty opponents acknowl-

edged that whether a better procedure exists is not a question currently put before the justices.

"So if we just decide this on the ground—and the record is very persuasive in your favor, I have to acknowledge—but if we decide the fact that Kentucky is doing an adequate job of administering this protocol, that would leave open the question whether the basic use of this second drug, which does nothing but avoid (un)pleasantness (for) visitors, is in fact unconstitutional," Justice John Paul Stevens said to Englert.

Justice Antonin Scalia, a staunch death-penalty supporter, said sending the case back to the state courts would simply further delay a verdict.

"I'm very reluctant to send it back to the trial court so we can have a nationwide cessation of all executions while the trial court finishes its work and then it goes to another appeal to the state supreme court and ultimately, well, it could take years," Scalia told Verrilli.

Opponents of capital punishment had hoped the case could end lethal injections. The court has already placed an effective moratorium on such executions until it decides this case.

The court is expected to hand down a decision before its current term ends this summer.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

## Coming to a Church Near You...

March — May, 2008 | Eight events, eight locations!

## Assimilation TOUR '08

### Closing the Back Door

A church cannot grow without visitors! What is your church doing to close the back door and help visitors make connections?

#### LEARN HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN:

- Attract more first-time guests
- Improve your rate of assimilation
- Increase membership and involvement

#### BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- Creating a Welcoming Environment
- Letting People Know You Care
- Offering Multiple Connection Points

Assimilation Tour events are free!

This event is designed for Pastors, Church Staff, Sunday School Leaders, Deacons, Discipleship Directors, Assimilation Team Members and any other key leaders in your church.

#### EVENT LEADERS:

Steve Rice | Director, Discipleship and Assimilation Department, KBC  
Darryl Wilson | Director, Sunday School Department, KBC  
Plus, guest presenters at each location!

FREE EVENT!

#### FREE BOOK

for each church represented:  
*Beyond the First Visit*  
by Gary L McIntosh



- 1 March 4 — Rosebower Baptist Church, Paducah
- 2 March 13 — Flemingsburg Baptist Church, Flemingsburg
- 3 April 1 — Walnut Memorial Baptist Church, Owensboro
- 4 April 10 — Immanuel Baptist Church, Pikeville
- 5 April 17 — Central Baptist Church, Corbin
- 6 April 22 — Mount Washington Baptist Church, Mt. Washington
- 7 May 1 — Crossroads Church, Russellville
- 8 May 13 — Danville First Baptist Church, Danville

All events are 6:30 pm — 9:00 pm

Advanced registration is encouraged but not required:  
[www.kybaptist.org/at08](http://www.kybaptist.org/at08)

For more information, visit  
[www.kybaptist.org/at08](http://www.kybaptist.org/at08) or call  
502-489-3581 or 866-489-3581  
(toll-free in Kentucky)



Don't miss our tour finale...  
BEYOND THE FIRST VISIT  
May 22, 10 am - 3 pm  
Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville

FEATURING  
Dr. Gary L. McIntosh!

[www.kybaptist.org/beyond](http://www.kybaptist.org/beyond)



### Retirement assets: a tithing source

#### Consider six key reasons to leave resources to charities

January is an excellent time to give your estate plan a check-up. The disposition at death of the financial resources with which God has blessed us during our lifetimes is one of, if not the most important decision we Christians will make and for which God will hold us accountable.

As you prayerfully ponder God's plan for the disposition of the resources He has entrusted to you, let me urge you to consider using your retirement account assets for all or a portion of the charitable aspect of your estate plan.

There are some really good reasons for you to consider this approach. Here are six:

**First**, using your retirement assets for charitable gifts at death allows you to have complete control and use of these assets as long as you need them, which is why you have them in the first place.

**Second**, tithing from your retirement assets is consistent with and allows you to be faithful to the biblical principle of giving out of your "substance" (Proverbs 3:9).

**Third**, your IRA, 401K, 403b and/or other retirement accounts will have been funded with tax-

deferred contributions on which you likely will not have tithed during life.

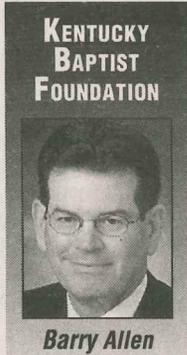
**Fourth**, your retirement assets likely will have accumulated capital appreciation on which you will not have tithed during life.

**Fifth**, unlike other assets in your estate, your retirement assets have the potential of being taxed twice. They will be considered part of your estate for estate tax purposes, and your beneficiaries will pay income tax on the distributions.

**Sixth**, designating your church and/or charitable organizations as the beneficiaries of retirement assets avoids the double taxation because your estate gets an estate tax charitable deduction and the distributions to the charities are not taxable, since the charities are exempt from income taxes.

Please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me to learn more about using retirement assets as a source to fulfill God's plan for the estate He has entrusted to you.

Please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me to learn more about using retirement assets as a source to fulfill God's plan for the estate He has entrusted to you.



Barry Allen

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

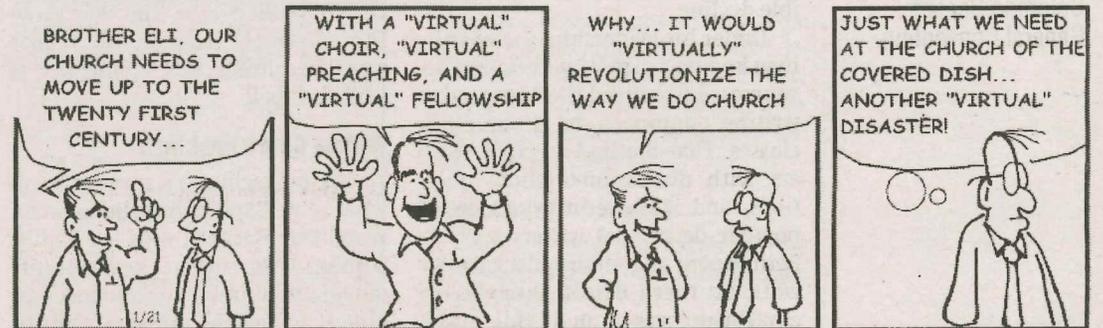
### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



### Bible Crosswords

By Terri Grottke

#### Across

- 1 Tiny insect
- 4 Facts
- 9 Undergraduate degree, abbr.
- 11 "By his name \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 68:4)
- 12 "\_\_\_\_, and make thy bed" (Acts 9:34)
- 13 Small arms ammunition, abbr.
- 14 "\_\_\_\_ Lord God! behold" (Jeremiah 1:6)
- 15 Liquid extracted from a fruit
- 16 "In the province of \_\_\_\_" (Daniel 8:2)
- 17 A family of returning Nethinims (Nehemiah 7:48)
- 19 Scold
- 21 1004, Romans num.
- 22 Walked at the head of the line
- 23 Bedad's son (Genesis 36:35)
- 24 Give instruction
- 27 Single
- 28 Decay
- 30 Exclamation
- 31 Bowling
- 34 Capture
- 37 Not, prefix
- 38 Traps (Psalm 140:5)
- 39 Preposition
- 40 "Ye shall be ... \_\_\_\_ upon her knees" (Isaiah 66:12)
- 43 Announced
- 47 Heber's father (Luke 3:35)
- 48 "And \_\_\_\_ also the Jairite" (2 Samuel 20:26)

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

- 49 "They must \_\_\_\_ be borne" (Jeremiah 10:5)
- 51 Neither
- 52 Male adults
- 53 Jehaleleel's son (1 Chronicles 4:16)
- 54 Expire
- 23 Aaron's grave (Numbers 20:27-28)
- 24 Daylight time, abbr.
- 25 Son of Caleb (1 Chronicles 4:8)
- 26 Definite article
- 28 Hospital caregiver, abbr.
- 29 King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33)
- 32 Implement
- 33 Baby
- 34 Iniquity
- 35 Terminates
- 36 Land surrounded by water (Numbers 13:11)
- 38 One of the twelve spies (Numbers 13:11)
- 40 "And the fallow \_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 14:5)
- 41 One of Christ's words on the cross (Mark 15:34)
- 42 Challenge
- 43 Unclear
- 44 Before
- 45 Able
- 46 Real estate investment, abbr.
- 50 Southern continent, abbr.

#### Down

- 1 Zibeon's son (Genesis 36:24)
- 2 "Azariah, Raamiah, \_\_\_\_" (Nehemiah 7:7)
- 3 Thorium, chem. symbol
- 4 Smear
- 5 Opera solos
- 6 Muscle twitch
- 7 One who takes advantage
- 8 Myself
- 9 Chief idol of the Canaanites
- 10 Identical
- 13 Slip
- 15 Indonesian island
- 16 Always
- 18 This man had 70 sons (Judges 8:30)
- 20 Father of Hophni (1 Samuel 1:3)

#### Last week's solution

1	B	A	M	B	I		6	D	O	N	O	R				
10	M		11	L	E	E	S		12	E	R	I	N	M		
14	O	W	L	E	R	A	S	E		18	19					
20	A			21	N	A	V	E	S		22					
23	U	R	I	S		25	E	R		26	27	A	L	E		
28	L	E	N	T	I	L		30	T	I	L	L	E	D		
				32	D	A	T			33	L	O	G			
34	35	H	I	N	O		36		37	A	L	T	A	R	S	
40		H	E	A	D				41	H	E	E	L			
42	Y	E		43	A	V	O	I	D		46	N	I			
47	M	D	S		49	L	E	P	E	R		50	P	E	N	
				51	S					54						
E				55	O	A	N	C	E		56	S	P	O	R	T

### Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

# Alaska Cruise

## And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On June 6, 2008, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. Billy Williams on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available daily while on board ship and some days on tour for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Williams, now retired, has served as a Baptist Minister for 8 years. For 23 years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gautier, MS. He and his wife Rebecca have cruised Alaska's inside passage three times before. Once in 2005 as a Your Man Tours Baptist Chaplain on this same vacation package and again in June 2007. They liked it so much they're going back in 2008! They look forward to returning as your hosts visiting the land of the midnight sun during the year's longer daylight hours; during the last two weeks of pristine springtime. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Statendam. **Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.** After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; two days at Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park, West Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2033 (per person, double occupancy). Included is the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, port charges, taxes, ship fuel surcharge, lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, 7 nights hotels, transfers, and baggage handling. Add \$600 for round-trip airfare from Lexington, Louisville, KY; Evansville, IN; Nashville or Knoxville, TN. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Williams' letter call:

**'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

## Some Baptists say discipleship methods need to change

**"This is where, as Southern Baptists, I think we've lost it—the person-to-person. I think most people are not going to grow to maturity without someone meeting with them."**

Max Barnett,  
Colorado Baptist  
General Convention

By John Hall  
Associated Baptist Press

Nashville (ABP)—More than two decades after he helped many Baptist churches breathe new life into discipleship training, Roy Edgemon believes it is time to take a new look at how churches make disciples.

In the early 1980s, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board asked Edgemon to revamp its approach to discipleship, since attendance at Sunday night discipleship training sessions seemed to be in an irreversible decline.

Under his leadership, the board—now known as LifeWay Christian Resources—introduced the "interactive writing" approach to discipleship classes. That method engaged readers with discussion-oriented questions, and launched the careers of popular devotional writers such as Beth Moore and Henry Blackaby. In 2001, Southern Baptist discipleship enrollment was at an all-time high, he noted.

But now Edgemon says it is time for Baptists to take a fresh look at their approach to discipleship. If they do not, he said, their churches are in danger of continuing to reach people but not turning them into devoted followers of Christ.

"They're trying to be evangelistic and trying to be very missions-oriented," said Edgemon, a member of First Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs, Texas. "I don't think the people are getting the foundations of their faith. I don't think they're getting any depth."

Edgemon's concerns mirror those of leaders at Chicago's Willow Creek Community Church, which has

served as a model for churches nationwide on how to evangelize people through the use of small groups. Despite reaching thousands, leaders acknowledged in a recent study that the congregation is doing a poor job of turning converts into growing followers of Christ.

The study found that nearly 25 percent of the people at Willow Creek reported stagnation in their spiritual growth and dissatisfaction with church. So while activity can lead to growth, the survey said, at a certain point people who were growing extremely deep in their faith were becoming less connected to Willow Creek.

### Willow Creek backlash

The megachurch's survey reveals what some Baptists have believed for years. Max Barnett, who led Baptist Student Ministries at the University of Oklahoma for 37 years and now directs collegiate ministry for the Colorado Baptist General Convention, reminds people that the Great Commission does not emphasize sharing the gospel with large numbers of people. Rather, it stresses making disciples around the globe.

Many churches incorrectly rely on Sunday school classes or Bible studies to develop people spiritually, Barnett said. But effective discipleship, he contended, takes place in regular one-on-one meetings between two people who agree to keep each other accountable during an extended period.

"This is where, as Southern Baptists, I think we've lost it—the person-to-person," Barnett said. "I think most people are not going to grow to

maturity without someone meeting with them."

Jon Randles, the evangelism director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, agreed with Barnett. Spiritually mature Christians may be able to disciple three or four people a year in individual meetings, he said. In these private gatherings, people can be held accountable for Scripture memorization, prayer life and Bible study habits. But the process is not always welcomed.

"Baptists have always been skeptical of exclusivism, and discipleship is a bit exclusive," he noted.

But at CrossBridge Community Church in San Antonio, discipleship is integral to everything the congregation does, Pastor Kirk Freeman explained.

"When we say discipleship, we don't limit the phrase to mean just Bible study," he said. "We don't separate missions from discipleship, because only a disciple can go to the ends of the earth to witness for Jesus."

Edgemon said Freeman's church understands the critical nature of discipleship. Baptists' weakness in discipleship has weakened the denomination, including a wane in evangelistic zeal, he pointed out. And proper discipleship encourages people to pray for those who lack a relationship with Christ and to

share the gospel with them.

Edgemon added that part of the solution lies in identifying and publishing a new wave of authors who can speak effectively to a new generation. Baptists need writers who can capture the attention of Baptists and encourage them to grow in their faith, he said.

At CrossBridge, the solution is not about curriculum. CrossBridge does not feature many programs that are commonplace in Baptist churches, but the church encourages members to be involved in the lives of their friends and family. Rather than classroom Bible study, the church has "life groups"—small gatherings where people create deep relationships that enable them to minister to each other effectively, reach out to others and "basically be the church," according to Freeman.

"The difficulty with discipleship is it's not a smooth step-by-step process. If there's any formula for discipleship, it's life-on-life," Freeman said.

Ultimately, the responsibility for spiritual growth rests on the individual. So one Sunday a year, each person at the San Antonio church receives a spoon during the worship service. That, Freeman said, is because CrossBridge isn't going to "spoon-feed" people. They have to feed themselves.



### Carpenter Bus Sales

Call about our \$599/mo. Lease Program

Exclusive provider for  
LifeWay Church Bus Sales

1-800-370-6180 • [carpenterbus.com](http://carpenterbus.com)

## One new year ... another half gone

### An attitude of failure isn't an option for Oneida students, faculty and staff

When I was younger I really did not care much about the end of one calendar year and the beginning of another. But as I have grown older I have more awareness that as one year is coming to an end there are fewer years ahead. When I was a young man that concept did not seem to be relevant or important. I often thought of the gas gauge on my car. The full mark meant I had my whole life ahead and at the three-quarter mark I still had most of my life to live. But when the needle was on half-full, half of my life had already been lived. From that point on there were fewer years ahead of me than the number that had already gone by. Well, my gas gauge is now just below the one-quarter-full mark, which is a real wake-up call. In my mid-60s, the passing of another year has a definite impact on the reality that fewer years are left.

So much for the year that just came to an end; another reality is that this academic year already is half over. The gas gauge is on the half-full mark, and every passing day and week means that time is running out as we diligently work to meet the never-ending needs of our students.

We could not be more proud of our students who have worked hard to make the improvements everyone wanted and expected. However, we cannot say that we are equally proud of the progress—or lack thereof—of some others.

We cannot take a passive attitude and say, "Well, if they don't care and want to fail, then so be it." No educator or educational institution can be satisfied with that type of attitude. For some of our students, the academic gas gauge quickly

is approaching the empty mark; time is running out. Fortunately, most of our seniors have been focused and are prepared to graduate. We would like for some to be a little more prepared than they are, but most have taken advantage of the opportunities we have provided.

Others, unfortunately, have been a little more resistant and slow to understand just how important an education is. Our faculty simply cannot have the attitude: "If a student doesn't care, why should we?" It's true that you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. However, a friend once told me that we might not be able to make the horse drink, we can "salt his oats." There are many ways to motivate just about any student who has the ability.

Often we must be creative, persistent, forgiving and understanding, but in every way possible, we must let our students know that we love them and God does too. Time and time again over the years we have been met with one failure after another with a particular student. Until one day, just like when Zacchaeus was sitting on the limb of the tree, Jesus spoke to the student and said, "I must go home with you today." What a privilege to observe a life-changing experience that begins to take place.

Yes, a new year is ahead of us but the 2007-2008 academic year is half over. As we quickly press toward the finish line I ask our friends to pray for our faculty and staff, that we can, with love and compassion, meet the needs of our students during the final months and weeks of this academic year.

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



W.F. Underwood

## From resident to student

### Cullen has new perspective of preparing for ministry

First-year student Cliff Cullen is one of a number of our students involved in a growing trend at Clear Creek; he has experienced life on our campus first as a resident and now as a student.

"I loved living at Clear Creek with my mom and dad from 2001 to 2005 when my father was a student here," Cliff said.

Cliff's call to come back to Clear Creek as a student was a unique experience too. "I attended the Clear Creek graduation in 2006 for a friend of mine. During the ceremony ... God told me that I was supposed to come back to Clear Creek as a student and prepare for missionary work."

While Cliff prepares for his ministry calling through our missions and evangelism track, he has the unique opportunity to be involved in practical training for that calling through a ministry founded by his mom and dad, Doug and Joli Cullen.

"My mom and dad started a ministry called Choose Life Ministries while they were students at Clear Creek," Cliff said. "They travel full-time all over the United States speaking about abortion and the

sanctity of human life. I traveled with them the previous two years before I came here. We were in 25 states and 250 churches during this time.

"Dad speaks to the adults, I speak to the youth, and my mom and two sisters perform a puppet show for the children. All of the messages speak to what the Word

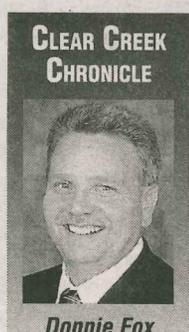
of God says about the sanctity of human life. We always give an evangelistic emphasis when we speak," he said. "I remember one trip where 12 people were saved."

Cliff continues to serve with his family. "I have opportunities to speak on some weekends when the ministry is close enough for me to drive there," he said. "I also plan on traveling with the ministry during my summer breaks."

Cliff said he sees himself continuing in some form of the ministry after graduation. "I have a passion for teaching the creation story," he said.

You can find more information about this important ministry at [www.chooselife-usa.com](http://www.chooselife-usa.com).

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



Donnie Fox

## Kendricks wrap production of newest movie, 'Fireproof'

By Joe Westbury  
Georgia Christian Index

Albany, Ga. (BP)—The two brothers who directed "Facing the Giants" are hard at work on another cinematic release, "Fireproof," starring Kirk Cameron, about a couple's attempts to save a failing marriage.

Stephen Kendrick, co-writer and director for the newest movie from Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., along with his brother Alex, wrapped up five weeks of filming their latest Christian drama in December.

Earlier releases "Flywheel, The Movie" in 2003 and "Facing the Giants" in 2006 received strong reviews and calls for another installment in the faith-based, family values vein. "Facing the Giants" drew \$10 million in box office receipts and remains a best-selling DVD.

"Fireproof" is scheduled to hit theaters in August. Like "Facing the Giants," it will be distributed via Provident Films, a subsidiary of Sony Pictures.

The storyline focuses on a young couple, Caleb and Catherine Holt, whose seven-year marriage is on the rocks. Caleb is played by Cameron; Erin Bethea, a member of Sherwood Baptist, plays Catherine.

Caleb's father tries to persuade his firefighter son to delay divorce for 40 days while secretly going through a process he calls the "love dare." Although reluctant and skeptical of his parents' newfound faith, Caleb agrees and embarks on a spiritual journey that redefines what love means to him.

As he takes the day-by-day dare with suggestions of how to unconditionally love his wife, he eventually comes to realize that he does not know the Giver of love. As Caleb slowly becomes changed from within, he seeks to win back the heart of his wife who is suspicious of his motives.

The movie does not sugarcoat the

real-world conflict between couples who have drifted apart and then begin the struggle to rebuild trust. Shunning sentimental clichés and sermonizing, "Fireproof" seeks to show that true faith, when placed in a crucible, will triumph.

The movie is set in Albany and has widespread community support, according to Jim McBride, executive pastor of Sherwood Baptist.

"We could not be more pleased with our relationship with Albany," said McBride, who was cast as the fire chief in the movie. "The police and fire departments offered their services and equipment and some officers volunteered their time.

"The fire department even burned down an old house for us that is a pivotal role in the movie and gives Kirk's character the opportunity to rethink life's priorities," McBride added. "Phoebe Putney Hospital let us film on site as well as provided some doctor's offices as a set for some scenes. More than 20 sets and a production office were provided by local businesses."

### "Part of something exciting"

Cameron, best known for his role in the popular 1980s television series "Growing Pains," bumped into Alex Kendrick and Sherwood pastor Michael Catt in an airport last year, and the three began discussing the next venture. Cameron, who had supported Sherwood's efforts in the past and attended the Hollywood screening of "Facing the Giants," auditioned "just like anyone else," he said.

"I just wanted to be part of something exciting that a church was doing on the quality level that Sherwood has brought to the screen," Cameron noted. "I wanted to be sure that my casting, if it occurred, would be of the Lord and not just because I had more experience than others."

The Kendrick brothers credited



**DYNAMIC DUO** Alex and Stephen Kendrick pause on the "Fireproof" set during the final days of shooting. The wrecked car in the background, stranded on the railroad tracks in Shellman, Ga., is one of the high-energy scenes that chronicles some of the dangers firefighters face. (BP photo by Todd Stone)

Catt with being the visionary who allowed them to make the first movie when they did not think a church would be willing to take on a risky project. The church already had a successful media ministry and the brothers were unsure if Sherwood Baptist would want to venture into movie production. Now, thanks to Catt's leadership, the church's vision to change the world from Albany has expanded even more.

"Marriage touches almost every life," Catt said. "In my lifetime the divorce rate has climbed to one out of two marriages, and the marriage rate has dropped 30 percent. What if we can make a dent in those statistics?"

More than 500 church members are personalizing the pain behind those numbers and introducing the hope that is found in the storyline, the pastor added. As with the church's first two films, the production is driven by volunteers while one professional film crew of eight people is working at a discounted rate.

"The foundation of marriage has been attacked, devalued and redefined by many in our culture," Alex Kendrick noted. "It is our desire to tell a story that would allow the audience to relate to common marital issues and then to take them down a path toward understanding principles for unconditional love through the roles of husband and wife.

"Our hope would be that after viewing the film, couples and singles hoping to marry would be challenged and exhorted to pursue God-honoring relationships that reinforce the foundations of marriage in light of a relationship with Jesus Christ," he continued. "We want people to realize that fireproof does not mean the absence of fire, but the ability to withstand it."

### Opportunity for impact

Stephen Kendrick explained why Sherwood Baptist opted to produce a third movie.

"If we go back to the idea of redeeming the time because the days are evil, this is the best use of our ministry time," he pointed out. "We each have full-time responsibilities at the church, but this is just something else that we feel needs to be done.

"When was the last time you worked on something that directly impacted 3 million people in 56 countries around the world?" he asked. "Since the release of 'Facing the Giants' in September 2006, we have received 10,000 e-mails and reports of more than 5,000 professions of faith, and we feel 'Fireproof' has that same potential.

"That's why you see all of these volunteers out here ... taking vacation and personal time away from their jobs to help make this movie. We are preaching a two-hour sermon in the format of a Hollywood movie and will be able to reach people who would never set foot inside a church."

## New VeggieTales movie hits big screen in U.S. & Canada

Franklin, Tenn. (BP)—A gourd, a grape and a cucumber who risk limbless life on the 17th Century high seas to save a princess are the featured characters in a new VeggieTales movie, "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything," which hit theaters Jan. 11.

Following "Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie" released in 2002, the film follows the comic misadventures of three animated veggie pals who reluctantly set sail and discover that real heroes don't have to be tall, strong or handsome—or even human.

The latest in a franchise that has sold more than 50 million DVDs and videos since its 1993 inception, "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" continues the hit series' values-based lessons in teaching kids what it means to be a hero.

In the film, a hero is defined as someone who does what is right even when it is difficult, according to VeggieTales co-founders Phil Vischer and Mike Nawrocki.

"We all look for some kind of stage or platform where we can feel like we're accomplishing something," Vischer noted. "The three guys in the movie ... learn that God has something much bigger for them. I'm hoping kids walk away with that lesson."

Vischer referred to "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" as a parable.

"What we're really doing with this movie is trying a different style of Christian movie making," Vischer said, "telling a parable, a story that communicates a Christian message but in a more subtle way."

MARVA DAWN  
Regent College  
Vancouver, British Columbia

DONALD P. HUSTAD  
Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
Louisville, Ky.

ROBERT SMITH, JR.  
Beeson Divinity School  
Birmingham, Ala.

PRESENTERS

BAPTIST WORSHIP IDENTITY PROJECT AND SYMPOSIUM:

## How Should We Worship?

GEORGE H. GUTHRIE  
DAVID S. DOCKERY  
Union University  
Jackson, Tenn.

DANIEL MONTGOMERY  
MIKE COSPER  
Sojourn Church  
Louisville, Ky.

A Conference for Pastors, Ministers of Music,  
Worship Ministers and Worship Teams  
February 14-16, 2008 · Union University



To register call 731.661.5311 or  
online at [www.uu.edu/events/bwi](http://www.uu.edu/events/bwi)

This Symposium and Project are made possible, in part, through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for Kentucky Baptists' 2008 partnership mission projects with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

■ Pray for Jorio Ferreira, a Brazilian pastor serving as on-site coordinator for the KBC's missions partnership with Brazilian Baptists, as he hosts Kentucky Baptist volunteer mission teams traveling to Brazil in 2008.

■ Missionaries serving in Italy, Malta and Iberia need childcare for approximately 30 children during their annual meeting in Rome June 23-27. For more information, contact Robin Pinkston at [repink@maltanet.net](mailto:repink@maltanet.net).

For more 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

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Gerald Joiner, pastor of Zion Missionary Church in Louisville, will be the guest speaker at Campbellsville University's annual Martin Luther King memorial worship service Jan. 23, 7 p.m., in Ransdell Chapel.

■ **HARTFORD**—Woodwards Valley Church recently called **Clifford Lovell** as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Hyland Church recently called **Don Moore** as interim pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Second Church recently called **Chuck Poe** as minister to students and families. **Larry Purcell** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church recently called **Brad Walker** as associate pastor and minister to students, and **Brandon Stinnett** as part-time minister of music and technology. **Jason Allen** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church ordained **Anna Mary Byrdwell**, **Candyce Eatherly** and **Vince Gabbert** as deacons Jan. 13. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church ordained **Wes Dunn**, **Todd Houston** and **Woody Maglinger** as deacons Jan. 6.

## Spotlight on ...

## Olmstead



Dripping Spring Church will host the **Mike Speck Trio** in concert Jan. 26, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 726-3344. **Jeff Noffsinger** is pastor.

**Paul Strahan** is pastor.

Pleasant Grove Church will host the Grammy Award-winning **Peasall Sisters** in concert Jan. 20, 6 p.m. The trio of sisters sings traditional bluegrass/gospel music, playing the guitar, fiddle and mandolin. **Kenneth Stone** is pastor.

■ **CORRECTION**—An article in the Dec. 18 issue contained an error about the location of Lakeview Church which recently called **Terry Jones** as pastor. Jones is the new pastor of Lakeview Church in Dixon. **Darvin Stom** is pastor of Lakeview Church in Benton.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 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.

## February

1-2 **Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat**, Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green.

16 **Special Needs Meeting**, Baptist Building, Louisville.

18 **Regional Church Financial Benefits Conference**, First Baptist Church, Calvert City.

19 **Regional Church Financial Benefits Conference**, Warren Association Office, Bowling Green.

20 **Regional Church Financial Benefits Conference**, Anchor Baptist Church, Lexington.

21 **Regional Church Financial Benefits Conference**, Erlanger Baptist Church.

23 **Hispanic Evangelism Conference and Hispanic Baptist Women's Event**, Elizabethtown.

23 **Love 101 Conference**, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

25-26 **Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference**, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

28-March 1 **Handbell Festival**, Paroquet Springs Conference Center, Shepherdsville.

29-March 1 **Creative Ministries Festival**, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

29-March 1 **Mission Service Corps Basic Training**, Baptist Building, Louisville.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Tunnel Hill Baptist Church. We are a traditional congregation, standing on the Word of God. Candidate should be a conservative leader with strong, scripturally-based preaching and teaching. Visitation and outreach also are important parts of the ministry of our church. Please send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 734 Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor to be shepherd of a Spirit-led, mission-focused Southern Baptist church. Ballardville Baptist is a family-oriented church located in a thriving community of Oldham County, Ky., and provides two services each week supported by a full ministry staff. Send resumé with a DVD, CD or tape of recent sermons by March 1, 2008, to Pastor Search Committee, 4300 S Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Grapevine Southern Missionary Baptist Church, Madisonville, Ky. Average Sunday morning attendance: 350. 10-15 years experience. Send resumé to GBC Pastor Search Committee, 85 Sandcut Road, Madisonville, KY 42431.

**SEEKING:** Full-time worship pastor gifted in leading contemporary praise/worship style services in seeker-sensitive environment. Significant experience/education expected. Send resumé to Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303; fax: (270) 685-5134; e-mail to [gfaulls@bellnet.org](mailto:gfaulls@bellnet.org).

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

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for The Baptist Church at Andover, Lexington-Hamburg area. Huge growth potential—150 in worship now. Conservative Southern Baptist. Send resumé, CD/DVD to 3330 Todds Road, Lexington, KY 40509.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students/recreation for Red House Baptist Church in Richmond, Ky. Candidate should possess a master's degree from an accredited seminary and at least five years of student ministry experience. Send resumé via e-mail to [dawn@redhousebc.com](mailto:dawn@redhousebc.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for growing church. Primary duties include leading choir and congregational singing, coordinating music program and preparing seasonal cantatas. Please send resumé, references and DVD (if available) to: Minister of Music Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, 2022 Verona-Mudlick Road, Verona, KY 41092; or e-mail to [nbbc2003@aol.com](mailto:nbbc2003@aol.com) with "Minister of Music" for the subject.

**SEEKING:** Associate pastor. An innovative and contemporary church with a proven track record of being on the edge is looking for a minister who will work with our senior pastor to lead our church to the next level. Responsibilities include: oversight and leadership in the development of a vibrant adult small group ministry; working closely with the senior pastor in the pulpit ministry; and sharing a part of the administrative coordination of outreach/assimilation strategies and missional service ministries. Applicants should demonstrate creativity, strong teaching gifts, a passion for innovation and administrative skills. Send resumé to: Nikki Heiserman, administrative assistant, New Work Fellowship, 1611 S Main Street, Suite 3, Hopkinsville, KY 42240; [nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.org](mailto:nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.org).

**SEEKING:** Pastor—God's choice for our small, growing, rural church in southern Kentucky. Salary plus benefits package. Send to: Resumé, 812 Walnut St., Franklin, KY 42134; or via e-mail: [chatty54@multipro.com](mailto:chatty54@multipro.com).

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Burlington Baptist Church, located near Cincinnati in Boone County, one of Kentucky's fastest growing areas. Contemporary and traditional worship services. Preferred is at least 5 years senior-pastor experience and a seminary degree. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Burlington Baptist Church, PO Box 48, Burlington, KY 41005; or [lkmc9@insightbb.com](mailto:lkmc9@insightbb.com) by Jan. 31, 2008.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Anchor Church, a non-traditional, Spirit-filled church with Southern Baptist doctrine, seeking God's direction and will. If by seeking God's will in your life you sense His leading toward Anchor Church, please contact us at: Pastor Search Committee, Anchor Church, 3126 Riggs Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018; or e-mail [sjmorrison@insightbb.com](mailto:sjmorrison@insightbb.com). If you know of someone who is seeking a church like Anchor, please send your suggestion to the same address.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor. First Baptist Church of Leitchfield, Ky., seeks a visionary leader who is called by God to minister to people of all ages. This position requires strong communication and leadership skills, including the willingness to empower others to lead and work with other staff ministers. Individual must be an energetic, dynamic man who has a passion for community evangelism and soul winning as well as a loving, caring heart for guiding the spiritual development of others. His strong, disciplined prayer life will allow him to recognize God's calling to this church and this ministry opportunity. Please submit resumé to Ed Carter, Pastor Search Team leader, PO Box 411, Leitchfield, KY 42755.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for First Baptist Church, Providence, Ky. Resumé to Ray Gobin, 214 Benjamin Terrace, Providence, KY 42450.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Chaplin Baptist Church ([www.chaplinbaptist.org](http://www.chaplinbaptist.org)) in north-eastern Nelson County. Housing is available. Submit resumé to Chaplin Baptist Church, PO Box 93, Chaplin, KY 40012, Attn: Music Search Committee; or via e-mail to [fugitt@bellsouth.net](mailto:fugitt@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for non-traditional, Spirit-led Baptist church. Looking for a shepherd to disciple a diverse community in a deeper walk with God, and to increase His Kingdom in the Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky area. Will need to work with elders to develop a staff and rebuild our church family. Preferred requirements: master of divinity degree and five to 10 years experience. Send resumé to Highland Hills Baptist Church, 132 South Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, KY 41075. Accepting resúmes through Jan. 31, 2008.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship/choir leader for two morning worship hours for outreach-driven church. Blended worship, early worship band, late worship choir/ensemble, seasonal cantata. Diverse congregation, long-tenured staff. Interested individuals forward resúmes to First Baptist Church, PO Box 296, Carrollton, KY 41008. Phone: (502) 732-4396.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for First Baptist Church, a small Southern Baptist congregation nearing its 200th anniversary. Located in the heart of Newport, Ky. (near Cincinnati), FBC seeks a pastor to lead the church in growth as we continue to be an essential part of our changing community. Applicants should send resúmes to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Michael Turner, 141 Ridge Hill Drive, Highland Heights, KY 41076.

# Star witness

## Football offers Boise State's Tadman platform from which to share Christ

By Bill Sorrell  
Baptist Press

**Boise, Idaho (BP)**—Playing football at Boise State University, Marty Tadman has made such a name for himself that someone else now has it.

"I have a kid named after me, Tadman. It was (by) some random fan. It was kind of weird, surreal," Tadman acknowledged.

A senior safety from Mission Viejo, Calif., Tadman was named first team All-Western Athletic Conference last season, Boise State's defensive player of the year and helped lead the Broncos to a 10-3 record.

During the Broncos' magical 2006 season when they finished fifth in the nation after defeating Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl, Tadman was named the game's defensive MVP. Boise State finished the season as the only undefeated team in the nation. He called it his most memorable experience in football.

But there was a time when no parents would think to name their son after him.

"I was a drug dealer and alcoholic," Tadman recalled. "I was addicted to drugs. I partied all the time. I was in trouble with the cops and with my parents. I did pretty much the biggest sins in life you can think of."

Tadman, who grew up Jewish, made a 180-degree change in 2004—he accepted Christ as his Savior.

"It was not a moral decision," Tad-

man noted. "It's not an influence on me. It's me. The very blood of Christ and the heart of Christ is in me."

His arms, hands and neck proclaim the gospel through tattoos. During a nationally-televised game this season, ESPN announcer Chris Fowler spoke of Tadman's faith and the significance of the tattoos which reflect his life in Christ.

"Football has given me a national platform," Tadman said. "It has opened many doors that otherwise would not be opened. I have been able to reach people that would not have listened to a word I say. It's been awesome."

"The biggest witnessing tool you have is your life," he continued. "I am living for heavenly things. I want to share my life being a loving testament to Christ. God wants me to stand up for myself and faith in a bold way."

With the goal of playing in the NFL, Tadman said that he worships God through football.

"Playing football is fulfilling the purpose God has created me for and that is to worship Him," he added.

His favorite verse, Galatians 2:20, mirrors his life: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

One of his tattoos is the Shema



prayer, "The Lord Our God, the Lord is One." He has worn a T-shirt during a television interview bearing the Hebrew word "savalte," which means "you suffered."

Tadman, who married his high school sweetheart, Nicole, in 2006, teaches a campus Bible study twice a week and is on staff at Eagle Christian Church in Boise where he is a minister to young adults. He even spends his offseason speaking all over Idaho.

He preaches the message of salvation found in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is

found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

"We've already been set free from sin," Tadman explained. "Sin has been defeated and we are to live victoriously."

Tadman's football career has enabled him to build relationships, he noted, and "taught me how to love and be patient with all sorts of people."

"Football has been a storybook," he said. "You couldn't dream it up any better."

**RUNNING THE RACE**  
Marty Tadman recently wrapped up a standout career as a safety for Boise State University. (BP photo courtesy of Boise State Sports Information)

## Ex-NBA star leaves spotlight to coach at small Christian school

By Joshua Cooley  
Baptist Press

**Houston (BP)**—Russell Carr remembers first seeing Charlie Ward on television in 1993. The images are still fresh of Ward tormenting defenses with his powerfully accurate arm and jackrabbit running ability as he completed a college football season for the ages.

Carr also remembers watching the post-college Ward cross over to the NBA, where he enjoyed a long career as a point guard on several playoff teams.

But never in his wildest dreams did Carr think he would one day share a high school coaching bench with the former superstar.

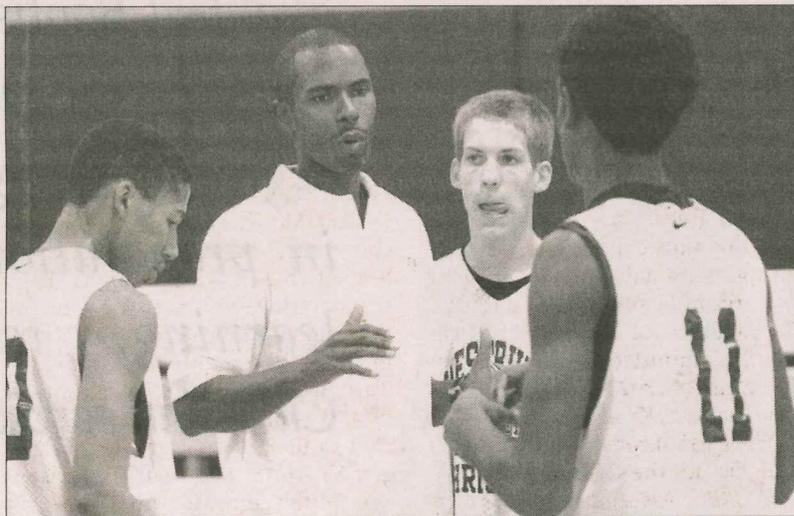
"Charlie is a few years older than me, so I can remember in high school and college talking about him," said Carr, the new head coach at Westbury Christian School in Houston. "I never thought I was going to work with him."

When Westbury Christian hired Ward in June, it seemed like a coup for the small private institution.

After quarterbacking Florida State to its first national title in 1993, Ward won college football's Heisman Trophy. He was also a starting point guard on the school's basketball team.

Spurned in the NFL draft, he was selected in the first round of the 1994 NBA draft by the New York Knicks, where he spent most of his 11 years in the league.

After a solid career spent helping New York to six straight play-



**CHANGE OF PACE** Former Heisman Trophy winner and NBA star Charlie Ward (center) is now an assistant basketball coach at Westbury Christian School in Houston. (BP photo)

off appearances between 1996 and 2001, injuries forced Ward to retire in 2005. He immediately became an assistant coach with the Houston Rockets, where he spent the final season of his playing career.

But after two seasons, he walked away. The steep demands of NBA life had become too burdensome on his time at home with wife, Tonja, and two children. And with his heart set on becoming a Division I college coach one day, he wanted to experience basketball at a grassroots level.

It was ideal timing for Westbury Christian's executive administrator Greg Glenn, who was introduced to Ward by a mutual friend last spring. Within about a month, Ward left

the Rockets and joined the Westbury Christian staff.

Ward, 36, who now works full-time as the school's admissions and development administrator, was raised in a churchgoing family in Thomasville, Ga. He accepted Christ at age 10, and "the journey began from there," he noted.

Stardom seemed a distant possibility in high school, where a knee injury sidelined him from sports for two years. After scoring low on the SAT, he spent a year at community college before enrolling at Florida State. There, he said he fell prey to pornography and sexual immorality. But, he noted, God intervened.

"It really came to a head when I

met two brothers who challenged me with Scripture and challenged my salvation," Ward recalled. "When they did that, it really brought out my private life. I didn't want anything to bring down my image. It was all centered on pride. Once I got that out in the open, I had accountability."

Ward continued to mature through a Bible study while playing in New York, where he openly shared his flaws and his faith with teammates and the community in an effort to "try to show people who Christ is."

To those who know Ward, it is no surprise that he is working in relative obscurity now.

"He doesn't use past accomplishments to do anything other than shine a good light on the things of the Lord," Glenn said. "If he can do that, he will. ... When I think of Charlie, there's a lot more substance there than with other people of similar (athletic) backgrounds."

No longer does Ward miss birthday parties, weddings or his kids' sporting events. Lengthy NBA road trips and multimillionaire egos are a thing of the past.

"When I look back over my life to where I am today, the Lord definitely had His hand on me because everything has happened for a reason," Ward noted. "It's just a blessing that I had those different experiences over my career. It shaped my thought process and made me the type of husband and father I am today."

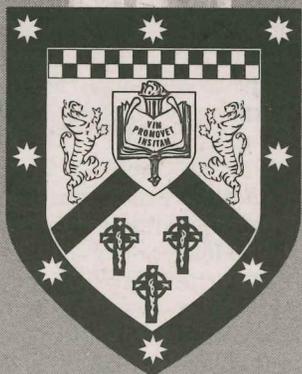
FULL College Tuition, Room and Board!  
Academically qualified students urged to apply.

# *Parks Baptist Scholars Program*

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE

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

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



## GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

*Live. Learn. Believe.*

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

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

**[www.georgetowncollege.edu](http://www.georgetowncollege.edu)**