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Online registration underway for 2008 SBC annual meeting

Nashville (BP)—Churches now can register messengers online for this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis June 10-11.

For online registration, churches should go to the SBC Web site, www.sbc.net, which opened the 2008 registration process March 1.

Online registration can help messengers avoid waiting in line at the convention center while a registration worker types in several pieces of information.

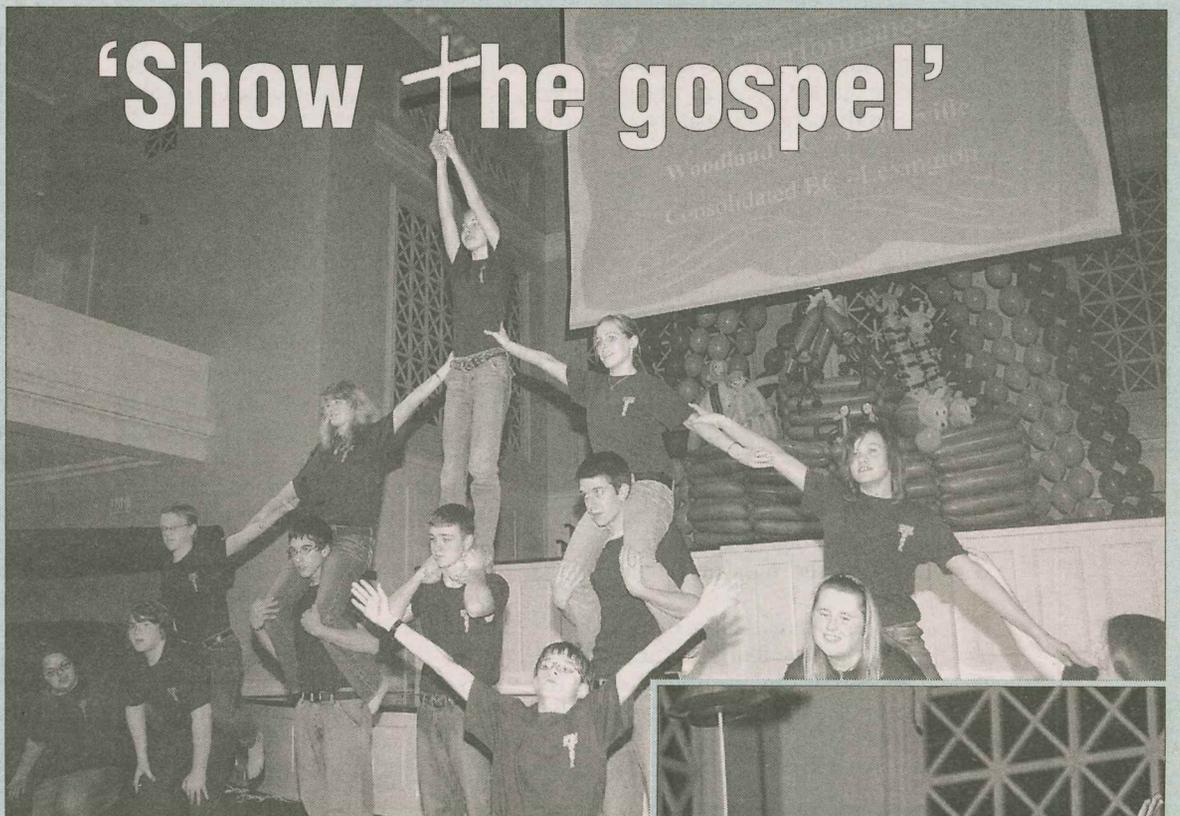
SBC's Registration Secretary Jim Wells said, "Each year we are seeing a more streamlined process for churches using the online registration system."

Last year, more than 74 percent of messengers to the annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, registered online.

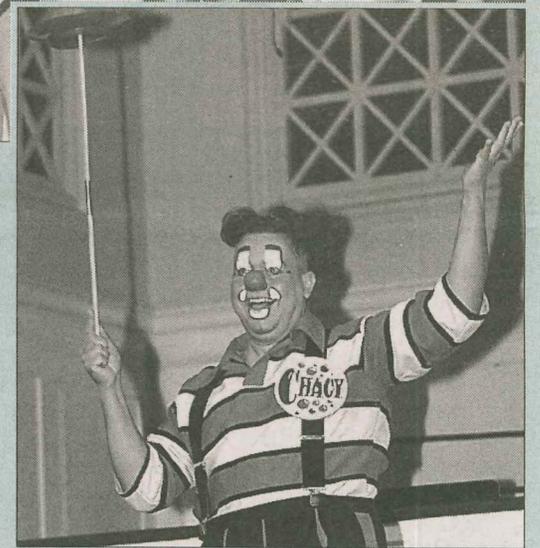
When signing up online, the SBC Web site gives each church a "messenger reference number" form to be printed out and presented by each messenger in exchange for a name tag and a set of ballots.

Online registration ends at midnight, June 7, after which registration must be completed at the registration desk beginning June 8.

Names can be added, edited and deleted on the Web site up to June 7. Each messenger must present the printed form that contains the messenger's reference number—given on the Web site—at the registration booth in order to receive materials.



■ **Above:** A group from Woodland Baptist Church in Fisherville forms a pyramid during their performance at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's recent Creative Ministries Festival at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. ■ **Right:** Chagy the Clown entertains the crowd by spinning a plate on a stick. Chagy was one of more than 40 performers and teachers featured at this year's event Feb. 29-March 1. The second event in Bowling Green was canceled because of snow. Nearly 1,100 students and adults attended the Louisville festival designed to equip church groups with ideas to improve or begin creative ministries. "It's a way for these kids to preach or express themselves where they don't have to ... speak," said Tom Smoot, director of KBC's creative ministries department. (Photos by Mandi Buckner) **Story and more photos on page 3.**



Sunrise Children's Services defends policies amid accusations

Gay couple alleges discrimination over denial of adoption

By **Drew Nichter**
News Director

Louisville—Sunrise Children's Services has found itself again the target of accusations of discrimination concerning the issue of homosexuality.

In an article published in the Louisville Courier-Journal March 3, a homosexual male couple contends that they were unexpectedly rejected last month from an adoption program conducted by the Kentucky Baptist agency. According to the newspaper, the pair claims they had been accepted as prospective adoptive parents; had attended two of the five required training classes; and had even passed an in-home visit performed by a Sunrise employee.

The two men maintained that they were up front about their living arrangement and that the agency knew about it from the beginning.

"There were a lot of inconsistencies" in the Courier-Journal's arti-

cle, said Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise Children's Services, who categorically denied many of the statements made by the couple in the article. "They were never approved by us. That is for certain."

According to Smithwick and Karen Taylor, vice president for marketing and advancement, in January, only one of the men applied to Sunrise and initially did not disclose his living arrangement. In addition, Smithwick pointed out that the two men said they wanted to adopt a specific child who already was in the care of a Sunrise-approved foster family but was an unlikely candidate for adoption. Smithwick added that adoption was not an option for the men, because the agency requires would-be adoptive parents to first become foster parents.

When Sunrise realized that the pair was unmarried and living together, Taylor confirmed that they were rejected on the basis of the agency's policy that does not allow couples—heterosexual or homosexual—who cohabitate to become foster parents, adopt or to work for the agency.

Sunrise "made a letter available

to (one of the men) stating that our reason for not approving them was the cohabitation issue," Smithwick said. "We tried to keep the homosexuality issue ... out of this."

That's because in 1998, former employee Alicia Pedreira was fired from the agency—then known as Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children—after it was discovered that she was gay, a violation of the organization's employment policy.

The agency was forced to defend itself—as a faith-based entity operating with state funding—against Pedreira's charges of discrimination. A judge denied the former employee's claim, but permitted a separate claim to proceed arguing that Sunrise's state funding is unconstitutional—a case that remains in litigation.

So why not inform the men that they were denied because they are in a homosexual relationship?

"We've just tried to get around this without all of this fire because it gets very intense on us," Smithwick said. "Obviously, homosexuals aren't going to be able to be married and are not, therefore, going to be able to be approved."

"But we do not employ homosexuals and, no, we would not approve homosexual individuals" as foster or adoptive parents, he emphasized. "We've made a tremendous stand on it. We will still make a stand on it."

Smithwick also indicated that in rejecting the couple's application, Sunrise Children's Services did not violate any state laws or regulations.

According to a statement from Anya Armes Weber, a spokesperson with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the commonwealth "sets minimum standards for private child care agencies." With more than 50 agencies that have contracts with the state, she added, "These agencies may set reasonable, higher standards beyond the department's minimum requirements."

Smithwick even pointed to a provision in the state's contract with Sunrise Children's Services "that we meet the spiritual needs of the children; we just can't be coercive with it," he said.

Kentucky allows homosexual individuals or couples to adopt children. See Sunrise Children's ... *Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 12.

Stewardship emphasis well timed for today's culture

By Erin Roach
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's renewed stewardship emphasis, "It's a New Day," seems to be well-timed for the culture, with it gaining momentum just as the nation's economy is slowing, one SBC official observed.

"When you look at the economy around us—the sagging real estate market, ... the mortgage companies that are failing and having to be bailed out, ... the cutting of interest rates—all of this is an attempt to bolster a sagging economy that frankly is laboring under debt," noted Ashley Clayton, associate vice president for stewardship with the SBC Executive Committee. "Debt is what's driving it."

The It's a New Day initiative was started, he said, "to address personal finances, helping people get out of debt. And what we're finding is the timing for this initiative seems to be right because people are very aware of the problem in their own lives and in the lives of people around them."

People are in more debt than ever and the unfortunate truth, he added, is that the conditions inside the church are no different than they are outside the church.

According to Clayton, last year's

SBC annual meeting in San Antonio was like "day one" for It's a New Day, because that is when it started gaining momentum as pastors and churches became aware of the renewed stewardship emphasis.

"From that point forward, we began to see a lot of traction from churches across the convention," he said. "As a matter of fact, we believe that there are close to 1,000 churches who have implemented It's a New Day resources."

Church resources

In most of the congregations, pastors have utilized the four-week stewardship messages prepared for them by Crown Financial Ministries, a partner with the Executive Committee for the initiative.

A good number of churches, Clayton noted, now are implementing the 10-week small group studies that Crown offers. Also, pastors are attending one-day financial freedom conferences which are proving to be more successful than the two-day regional conferences that required pastors to give more of their time, he added.

At the one-day conferences, pastors and church staff are introduced to the Crown budgeting system and led through a workbook to learn how to establish a personal budget

and get out of debt. An upcoming seminar is scheduled for March 27 in Indianapolis.

"The result of this is we're seeing pastors engaging in a personal journey of financial freedom for themselves and we see these pastors then going back to their churches to be a catalyst for change," Clayton said. "We feel like we've hit on a way to engage our pastors, as many as we can, across the convention."

The stewardship emphasis also has the potential to be an effective evangelism strategy, Clayton added. More than 17,000 professions of faith were recorded among North American participants of the 10-week small group studies. Clayton said he expects a similar benefit to the Kingdom as Southern Baptists invite their communities to study God's Word with them, using the topic of financial freedom as a springboard.

Helping the next generation

The stewardship office has also consulted with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, about involving students in a personal journey of financial freedom.

"Ultimately we intend to go to all six seminary campuses and try to get our young leaders to avoid the mis-

takes of so many of our pastors, so they don't find themselves in debt," Clayton noted. "We're trying to engage early on to get our young seminary students to implement good financial practices in their own families."

"What we're discovering is we're graduating seminary students with a large amount of student loan debt, credit card debt and frankly, not prepared to be financially free as they become pastors and church leaders," he added. "We're trying to get ahead of the game instead of coming in on the back end and trying to help people who've already found themselves in trouble."

SBC's Executive Committee is also continuing its partnership with PhilanthroCorp, the Colorado-based planned giving specialists, to equip churches with tools for guiding church members in Christian estate planning. Clayton noted at least four state Baptist foundations—including Kentucky Baptist Foundation—have partnered directly with PhilanthroCorp to assist in planned giving.

Quoting LifeWay Christian Resources Director Ed Stetzer, Clayton said "doing a financial emphasis in your church might be the best cultural bridge. ... You hang out a sign that says, 'Get out of debt here,' and people will line up."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Montana convention names new director. Fred Hewett is the new executive director of the Montana Southern Baptist Convention. Coming from the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board where he served as a church planting coordinator for nearly four years, Hewett brings with him a background in starting and strengthening churches. "We are excited about having Fred here and look forward to what he brings to Montana and the ministries we want to see grow here," said William Johnson, convention vice president and member of the executive board search committee. Hewett, a Florida native, previously led Morningside Baptist Church in urban Atlanta and started Church in the Farms in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Carson-Newman provost named exec of IABCU. Board members of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities recently elected Michael Arrington, provost of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., as executive director of the association. Arrington succeeds Thomas Corts, who was tapped last year to coordinate all education initiatives for the United States Agency for International Development. Arrington, who assumed the IABCU post March 1, will retire at the close of the academic year at Carson-Newman after seven years at the Southern Baptist school. IABCU is owned and operated by its 51-member Baptist-related higher education institutions.

Baptists Today to honor founding editor. Walker Knight, founding editor of Baptists Today, will be honored April 3 as part of the independent news journal's 25th anniversary celebration. Knight launched the national publication, first known as SBC Today, in 1983, shortly after he left the editorship of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's magazine, Home Missions. He finished his tenure as editor in 1988 and later returned as interim editor in 1997. The April 3 award celebration will be held in Atlanta. Daniel Vestal, executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, will speak at the event.

News anchor becomes full-time pastor. After 12 years at WCNC-TV in Charlotte, N.C., Chris Justice is leaving his post as evening news anchor to serve as full-time pastor of Lee Park Baptist Church in Monroe, N.C., a Southern Baptist congregation he helped grow from 50, to more than 500 people while serving as the church's part-time pastor for two years. "The demands of the church brought on by the miraculous growth at Lee Park require that I transition out of television and into full-time ministry," Justice said in a statement released by the television station.

Judge rules in favor of former Mo. Baptist entity

Jefferson City, Mo. (ABP)—Windermere Baptist Conference Center, a former agency of the Missouri Baptist Convention, acted legally when it changed its articles of incorporation, a judge ruled March 4.

The ruling was the latest action in a lawsuit filed by the MBC against five formerly related entities—Windermere; the Baptist Home retirement-home system; the Missouri Baptist Foundation; Missouri Baptist University; and the newspaper Word & Way—more than five years ago.

The convention plans to appeal, lead attorney Michael Whitehead said in an article on the website of the convention's in-house newspaper, The Pathway.

"We are very thankful for Judge (Robert) Callahan's decision," Windermere President Dan Bench announced. "After carefully considering the merits of the case, the judge made the decision we have always believed was right. We look forward to putting this unhappy event behind us and to have all the Baptists of Missouri rejoicing and serving to-

gether."

The convention first filed suit in August 2002, in an effort to force the five institutions to rescind changes they had made in their corporate charters. The Baptist Home changed its articles of incorporation in 2000 to elect its own trustees. The other four agencies took similar actions in 2001.

Ruling details

The March 4 ruling centered on two aspects of the convention's argument: corporate membership and a contractual relationship with Windermere. The judge ruled that the Missouri convention is not a member of Windermere's corporation and that no contract exists between the two entities.

Until August 2000, the convention had governed Windermere through its executive board. Messengers to the 1999 MBC annual meeting approved a reorganization plan that included incorporation of Windermere and Word & Way as separate entities. Windermere's charter, drawn up in 2000, noted

the new corporation would have no members.

Judge Callahan also dismissed the idea that Windermere's articles of incorporation and the MBC's governing documents—its constitution and bylaws, its business and financial plan, and the executive board's articles of incorporation and bylaws—created a contract between the two entities. The charter, he said, constitutes a contract only between the center and the State of Missouri.

The judge denied the convention's request for a permanent injunction against Windermere which would have banned the center from any construction work, from borrowing funds or from selling or encumbering its assets.

The court has 30 days to make any changes to the order or to withdraw it. The convention will have an additional 10 days in which to file an appeal.

The Windermere case does not directly affect the other four institutions because each are listed as individual defendants.

Hawkins underscores GuideStone's role as servant

Dallas (BP)—GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins highlighted the Southern Baptist entity's servant role in his remarks during a meeting of GuideStone's trustees in Dallas last month.

"In all we do, our attitude should be that of a servant. That attitude should be reflected in our actions and expressed through our lives and through our lips," Hawkins said in remarks drawn from 1 Kings 12:7.

Hawkins also noted that relief ministry to retirees in need has been a key servant ministry during the 90-year history of GuideStone (formerly

known as the Annuity Board).

"We are now re-branding our financial assistance ministry," Hawkins told trustees. "The new name, Mission:Dignity, declares that we are on a mission to bring dignity to those who have given faithful years of service to Southern Baptist work and have significant financial need."

Last year, GuideStone's trustees broadened the relief ministry by adjusting the qualifying income guidelines and doubling the financial assistance amounts for retired ministers, or their widows, who have

long years of service and the greatest financial need.

In other business, GuideStone's Chief Operating Officer John Jones updated trustees on the agency's program areas and also previewed strategic initiatives for 2008.

"In a year of significant financial markets volatility, GuideStone Funds continued to perform very well compared to mutual fund peers," Jones said.

He also informed trustees that retirement contributions and roll-overs "topped \$500 million for the first time in GuideStone's history."

Creative ministries event all about showing the gospel

Louisville—Bringing with them a desire to learn imaginative ways to “show the gospel,” nearly 1,100 students and adults gathered at the recent Creative Ministries Festival in Louisville.

According to Tom Smoot, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s creative ministries department, the festival has become so large that it entails hosting two consecutive weekend events to accommodate the demand. The first festival was held at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Feb. 29-March 1, while last week’s winter storm forced the cancellation of the second event in Bowling Green.

“Creative ministries has become an excellent tool for churches to involve young people,” said Smoot, who has coordinated the annual event for nearly 20 years. It “shows the gospel rather than just tells the gospel.”

Participants at this year’s Louisville festival had the opportunity to attend as many as 60 different workshops in a variety of creative ministry-related areas, ranging from drama and clowning to video editing.

Some of this year’s featured “faculty,” as Smoot refers to them, included Chagy the Clown; Jeff Smith, director of Salt and Light Ministries in Bluefield, Va.; and balloon artist Terry Kelley.

David Buckner, who has participated in creative ministries for nearly 20 years, taught workshops on how to lip sync, how to use sidewalk chalk as a ministry tool and a course

called “What Would Jesus Eat,” exploring the connection between ministry and a healthy lifestyle.

He said that he tells visitors to his workshops that Christians have a responsibility, once they have a group’s attention, to create a ministry opportunity.

“For that moment you have their attention, do something eternal with that moment,” Buckner noted.

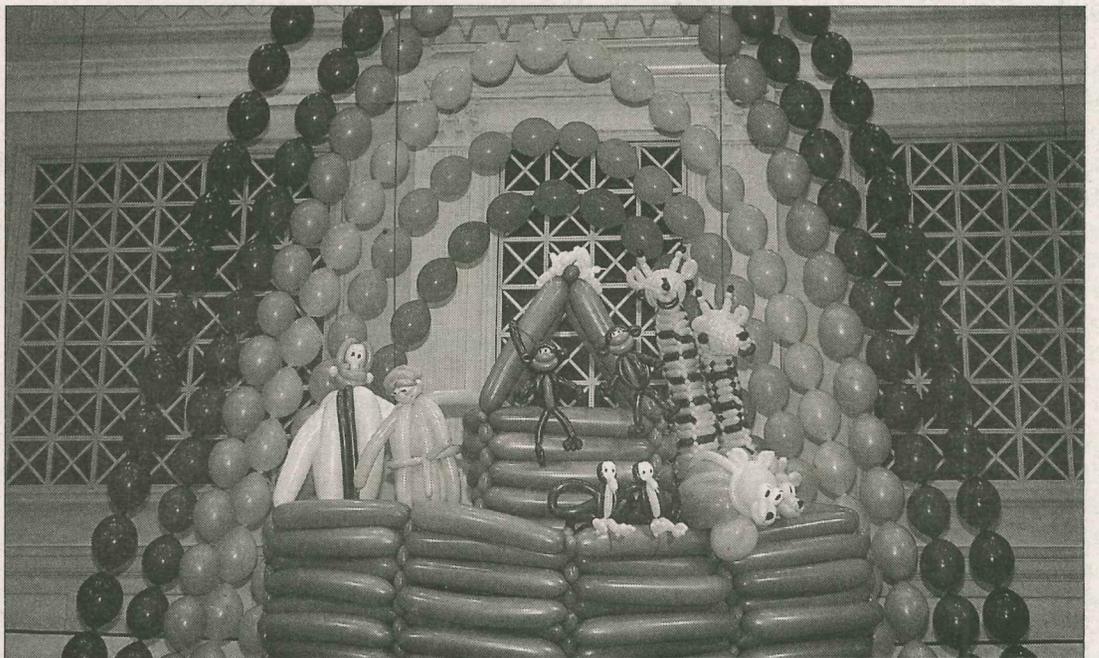
In addition to the variety of learning opportunities for participants, dozens of church groups use the festivals as a way to showcase their creative ministry routines.

Smoot noted that more than 20 church groups performed at the festival as a way to receive “constructive criticism” from the faculty about their routines, as well as to provide performance ideas to other groups in attendance. He added that each year, the routines continue to improve dramatically.

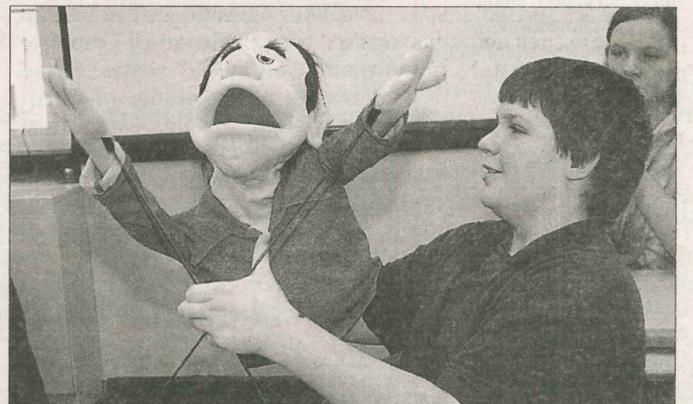
“They keep getting better, they keep getting more creative ... and they love to do it,” Smoot said.

After a surge in attendance at the festivals during the early part of the decade, Smoot pointed out that turnout has fallen off slightly in recent years. This year, the 2,000 registered participants was down from a high of 2,500 “just a couple years ago,” Smoot noted, adding that the decline is not necessarily a bad thing.

This year’s actual attendance was down dramatically due to the cancellation of the second festival, which was to be held in Bowling Green.



GET CREATIVE Scenes from this year’s Creative Ministries Festival, Feb. 29-March 1, at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. ■ **Above:** A towering depiction of Noah’s Ark made entirely of balloons served as the backdrop for the event. The sculpture, created by Terry “The Balloon Man” Kelley, even featured Noah and his wife, as well as pair of monkeys, giraffes, birds and bears. The sculpture required more than 800 balloons and nearly 13 hours to create. ■ **Right top:** Creative ministries specialist David Buckner performs a lip sync with a willing participant from the audience. ■ **Right bottom:** A workshop participant learns the proper technique for maneuvering a puppet. According to Tom Smoot, KBC’s creative ministries director, puppet ministry is an effective way for students who do not want to speak in front of others still to minister to them. ■ **Left:** A group from South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville creates a cross made of hands during an interpretive movement performance at the festival. More than 20 groups presented routines of all kinds at the event in Louisville. Dozens of churches from Kentucky and several other states brought teams of students and adults to the this year’s festival, which Smoot estimated is the largest of its kind within the Southern Baptist Convention. (Photos by Mandi Buckner)



Sunrise Children’s Services faces new claims of discrimination

Continued from page 1

dren and be foster parents. Smithwick pointed out that there are just as many agencies that will permit homosexuals to adopt as there are that restrict the practice.

However, a state legislator was quoted in the Courier-Journal article as saying that Sunrise and other agencies that have similar restrictive policies should have their state funding reviewed and potentially revoked.

“They shouldn’t discriminate against us,” Smithwick replied. “There should be the same tolerance for us who have a different set of values that drive our mission, policies and procedures.”

“I don’t think there should be that sort of intolerance of the Judeo-Christian ethic in ministries like ours whose mission it is to serve these kids from a faith-based perspective,” he added.

Smithwick estimated that at least 65 percent of the agency’s

\$23 million yearly budget is provided by state funds in the form of reimbursements. That calculates to nearly \$15 million from the Commonwealth of Kentucky on which Sunrise depends.

“Back in 2000, we had a real showdown with the state about whether or not they would contract with us,” he recalled. “We don’t want to get to that point again.”

“Should the state do something so horribly dramatic as to pull funding from faith-based agencies,” Taylor explained, “the burden would fall on the children because there would be no place for them to go.”

Last year, Sunrise served about 2,000 children through its residential treatment and foster care programs. On any given day, Smithwick estimated, the agency attends to as many as 450 children.

“Without that state funding, we’d probably serve 50 kids” daily, he predicted, describing the part-

nership between Sunrise and the state of Kentucky as one that has benefited both entities. “It has not prohibited us from meeting the spiritual needs of the children and there’s nothing that prohibits us from doing that.”

With this latest round of accusations, as well the ongoing battle with the American Civil Liberties Union in U.S. District Court, Smithwick said the agency continues “to stand firm against fierce opposition. I think Baptists in Kentucky need to realize this is a big deal.”

“We’re about serving the Lord and serving kids,” he added. “We stand for what Kentucky Baptists and, I think, most Kentuckians ... agree: That what we do is what we think is best for kids. It’s biblically-based, but it also is what’s best for kids.”

“It’s a difficult situation, but we’ve been here before and we’re going to continue to do what we think is right.”

Christian foster parents rejected

London (RNS)—A British couple, who have been foster parents to 18 children over 12 years, have been barred from future service because they refuse to tell children as young as 10 years old, that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle.

John and Eunice Johns claimed that to affirm homosexuality would go against their Christian beliefs, which they would not compromise.

Fostering children is tightly controlled in Britain and the couple’s local government council in Derby, England, insists that the couple must abide by the rules.

City officials cited a British law that took effect in April 2007 making it illegal for those providing a public service to discriminate against anyone because of their sexuality.

Eunice Johns said she advised the council that “as I am a Christian, I don’t believe in homosexuality.” Her husband added that he could not “understand why sexuality is an issue when we are talking about boys and girls under the age of 10.”

Derby council member Sara Bolton described the couple’s situation as “an unfortunate one,” but insisted, “These laws are in place for the good of the children in our care.”

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Lessons learned from the heart of God

By Jerry Pounds

New Orleans (BP)—There is a muscle that beats about 100,000 times a day, pumping about five quarts of blood each minute and approximately 2,000 gallons of blood throughout your body. The path taken, your system of blood vessels which includes arteries, veins, and capillaries, is more than 60,000 miles long. That's long enough to go around the world more than twice. In an adult, this muscle is the size of two clenched fists.

For couples whose hearts are not cemented by God's covenant of grace, these clenched fists serve as a reminder of the constant, unbending posture of combative behavior rather than of two hearts divinely joined together in mutual love and support.

Weighing in at 10 ounces, the heart is the universal symbol of love. From golden heart-shaped earrings, to chocolate hearts, to various sizes of heart tattoos, the heart conveys a common experience. Or does it?

At one time or another, most people will be struck by love and experience a skipping beat of the heart or even a flutter. Life comes to a stop and nothing else matters. Some couples will cry to the tune of an "achy breaky heart" (whatever that means). Some will face an unforeseen heartache and even a broken heart when a so-called "good" marriage turns bad. Again, life comes to a stop. Still others will encounter and enjoy the blessings of the love God so wonderfully designed for a man and a woman. The two then become one. Not good math, but amazing theology.

William Gurnall, in his Puritan classic, "The Christian in Complete Armour, Volume 1," writes, "Head knowledge of the things of Christ is not enough; this following Christ is primarily a matter of the heart. If your heart is not fixed in its purpose, your principles, as good as they may be, will hang loose and be of no

more use in the heat of battle than an ill-strung bow."

Is your heart, as a Christian couple, "fixed in its purpose"? What are the guiding principles of your marriage? Do these principles "hang loose" and not provide the necessary help in difficult times? When two hearts are joined together to beat as one, then life's greatest lessons can be learned. Consider these lessons and principles, coming from the very H-E-A-R-T of God.

H—Honor the Lord through your marriage. The greatest testimony you can offer your children is for them to see and hear about the workings of God in and through your marriage (Psalm 78:1-7). The greatest testimony you can give a disease-filled world is evidence that Jesus makes a difference in and through your marriage. Be the salt and light to a tasteless and dark world. We exist on this earth to bring glory to our Father. You exist, as a Christian couple, to do the same.

E—Encourage one another in unconditional love. Husbands, do you know that your first priority in disciple-making is to disciple your spouse? Wives, do you know that your first priority as an encourager and booster is to support your spouse? "Building up of the body in love" (Ephesians 4:16) cannot take place in the church when Christian couples are working at tearing each other down outside the church. Find ways to verbally and behaviorally build up your spouse.

A—Ask for and give forgiveness. Perhaps every week—if not every day—you will have opportunities to ask for forgiveness, or forgive your spouse for something said or done. Be quick to do both. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves (1 John 1:9). As God forgives us when we ask Him for forgiveness, would He not expect us to do the same with our spouse? What a beautiful example we have for each other. Do not

COMMENTARY

Mayfield church takes care of its pastor

My wife, Kay, and I recently had the opportunity to worship with the members of First Baptist Church of Mayfield. The church certainly is strong and growing.

The church's Sunday School enrollment of 977 has a strong representation among children, youth, young adults and adults. The largest enrollment group is of people ages 35-54 (231 members).

Each year, the church has averaged 24 baptisms and 34 other additions. During the last year, 389 church members participated in mission projects.

The youth ministry is vibrant under the leadership of Jeff Keith. On the Sunday I attended, youth filled the first five pews during worship. The music ministry—led by Dean Brown—and missions organizations are also excellent.

First Baptist, Mayfield, also supports a Hispanic ministry and a new believer was presented for baptism the Sunday we were there.

The congregation is also strong in giving and support of missions offer-

ings. The church has exceeded \$2.8 million in gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program since 1928.

It has also grown in undesignated receipts by 67 percent over the past 10 years, even as it purchased property and constructed new facilities. It even contributed \$51,253 for international missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering last year.

Pastor Bob Swift recently announced his retirement. Swift has served on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board and as trustee of Georgetown College and Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in San Francisco. In appreciation for his outstanding leadership, the church was very gracious in making the early retirement possible.

I praise God for churches that are willing to move forward in providing an appropriate salary and necessary benefits for the pastor and church staff members.

Based on conversations I've had with directors of missions, pastors and Don Spencer, director of KBC's

allow the pride of the heart to rob you of intimate moments of asking for and offering forgiveness with your spouse.

R—Realign your priorities daily. We all do what we think—or feel—is important for us to do. Outside of your relationship with the Lord, your spouse holds the second spot of importance and significance in your heart. What changes do you need to make today to reflect this priority? Mark Twain once said, "One learns about people through the heart, not the eyes or the intellect." What is your spouse learning about you and your priorities? What are you teaching your spouse by what you are doing each day?

T—Train your children to know and love the heart of God. Concerning our spiritual parental responsibilities, Deuteronomy 4:9 compels and commands us to "teach (the statutes of the law) to your children and your grandchildren." We are to nurture our children in the faith. You are your child's greatest spiritual mentor. Don't be alarmed, but be warned. No greater urgency exists today in the home. No greater training will draw your children into the heart of God. The church has the responsibility to equip parents for this fundamental and essential task.

Cleland McAfee experienced firsthand a lesson from God's heart. When diphtheria claimed the lives of his two beloved nieces, he penned a song to comfort his soul and the hearts of his suffering family members. We, too, as couples are now reminded to find comfort and strength in this one place:

"There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God.
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before thee
Near to the heart of God."

H-E-A-R-T: Herein begins the lessons learned from the heart of God. Jerry Pounds is professor of discipleship at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

church financial benefits department, it is obvious that too many churches lag behind in providing appropriate salary and benefits.

Sometimes a salary looks adequate at first, but when expenses for travel, telephone, books, conferences, health and retirement benefits, Social Security taxes, etc., are taken into account, the real salary is often about 40 percent of the listed amount.

Churches also need to provide adequately for a minister's retirement. Unless churches put 10 percent of the compensation into a plan, the minister is likely to have income below the poverty level at retirement.

The KBC maintains a partnership with GuideStone Financial Resources and churches to provide disability and term life protection for pastors and staff who participate in the Church Retirement Plan. To learn more about this wonderful benefit provided by church CP gifts, call Don Spencer at (502) 489-3521, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3521.

Please pray for all who serve faithfully, not for compensation, but for the glory of God and the growth of His church.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Spending less cash is often better than making more cash

By Jeremy White

When most people consider improving their cash flow, they think of increasing their income. You could work extra hours, take on another job, start a side business or move to a better-paying job. Keep in mind, however, the effect of taxes on that additional income.

To end up with an extra \$100 net effect upon your family's cash flow, you would have to earn anywhere from \$120 to \$150 before taxes. Another way to improve your cash flow is to reduce spending, which provides a more tax-efficient way to help your family. If you spend \$100 less, then your family has \$100 more.

Compared to having to work to earn money that will be taxed before it reaches your wallet, reducing spending sounds easier. The following are a few simple money-saving ideas to spur you into some creative thinking on how you can save money in your own situation.

Libraries. Rather than buy books or rent the latest movie, become a faithful patron of your neighborhood library. Libraries today loan audio books, videos, DVDs, provide Internet access, have story hours and provide meeting rooms.

Use the Internet. Save gas and make purchases over the Internet. At the very least, use it as a price comparison tool.

Give stuff away. Why buy more storage containers, build bigger garages, expand your attic or add a storage building to your backyard? Get rid of all that stuff instead. Donate to a charity and take a tax deduction.

Pre-purchase gifts. Think of the gift occasions you have: birthday parties, baby showers, anniversary parties. Stock items bought on sale or at the end of a season can supply those last-minute gift needs.

Use those in training. Obtain services, such as haircuts, car repairs or teeth cleanings at reduced rates at beauty, vocational or dental hygienist schools.

Buy generic brands. Often the ingredients in a generic product are exactly the same as a well-known brand. Only the label is different. Aspirin is aspirin and salt is salt. Try a generic product once; if you don't like it, you can go back to the brand name.

The aim is not to be a tightwad, but to be good stewards of money and have freedom to give more time.

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



Games can help children learn joyous celebration of Easter

Q: What are some ways children and families can celebrate Easter this year?

Here is a simple game that can help children—especially younger children—connect the fun of Easter with its real meaning. You will need eleven plastic, multicolored eggs that open; eleven cotton balls (yellow ones if you can find them); and an empty egg carton.

PARENTING

Place the cotton balls inside the eggs, leaving one egg empty. Mix up the eggs and put them in the carton. Let your child take turns choosing an egg and opening it up. When they open the egg that is empty, have them say, "He is not here! He is risen!" If playing with a group, let every child choose an egg and open them all at the same time.

Make sure your children know the traditional Easter greeting, "He is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!" Teach them how the call and response works. Be sure to greet each other this way on Easter morning. Encourage your children to initiate the greeting with friends and family.

As you revisit the Easter story, help children contrast the sadness of Jesus' death with the happiness of His resurrection. Beginning with the events of Easter, make a list of things that make us either sad or happy. Help children understand how the glad news of Easter helps us overcome the sad things that sometimes come our way.

Easter comes early this year, but spring should be starting to unfold. Call attention to the signs of new life as grass begins to green and trees and flowers begin to blossom. Help your children see the ways in which the cold of winter gradually gives way to the warmth of spring as a reminder of the resurrection and the new life Jesus received and offers to us.—David Garrard

Q: We are starting a married couples class at our church and I would like to begin by challenging the couples to reflect on their marriage and see how they need to grow. What would be a good way to do this?

Most of us, on a daily basis, are not as intentional about the important relationships in life as we need to be. Consider providing a handout with some open-ended questions to help couples be more intentional. You can provide the time for spouses to do some meaningful reflection on their relationship. For example:

MARRIAGE

- How have you grown lately?
- What have you learned about yourself as a marriage partner?
- What have you learned about your spouse recently?
- Name four ways you have been intentional in your marriage so far in 2008.
- Where do you feel stuck in the marriage relationship?
- What do you believe is keeping you stuck?
- How are you hurting your marriage relationship?
- How are you helping your marriage relationship?
- How would you like your marriage to change and be better by the end of this year?
- What do you wish others knew about your marriage?
- What do you hope they do not know about your marriage?
- What will you do in the next month to intentionally grow your marriage?

After providing time for couples to write their responses, you could have them share their thoughts with one another and either have them pray together as a couple, or, as the leader, pray for them to use this knowledge to begin growing their marriage. Consider sharing a selection of scripture passages and have class members claim scripture verses for their marriages.—Valerie Vincent

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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



Search for editor demands diligent prayer

On behalf of the Editor Search Committee of the Western Recorder, I would like to express our deep appreciation to Trennis Henderson and the exceptional role he has played in the life of Kentucky Baptists. Although his departure leaves a considerable challenge, we are confident that the same Lord who called him away to his new role has also prepared someone to lead Kentucky Baptists' award-winning and historic publication.

I am humbled by the trust placed in me as chairman of this committee by the Western Recorder Board of Directors. Any load I carry is shared by the very capable members of the search committee. One of the first actions of the search committee was to craft our working mission statement:

"The purpose of the Western Recorder Editor Search Committee is to recommend to the Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Boards, a Christian who is the very best faith-based print denominational journalist candidate, building upon the foundation of 'balance, fairness, and integrity.' We, as a search committee, will, through an intentionally spiritual process, hard work and commitment, strive toward recommending the candidate for editor."

The most important role we all share in this process is prayer. Please pray for the search committee, the leadership of Kentucky Baptists and our churches. The theme verse we have selected is James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

On March 10, we completed the process of collecting resumes. The search committee has begun the formal process of working through those resumes and narrowing the candidate selection to the individual who can best lead the Western Recorder. It would be our hope to recommend a candidate to the Board of Directors of the Western Recorder and then to the Mission Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention by the May meeting.

The search committee is committed to recommending the best candidate for our state paper and therefore, views the May meeting as only a guideline.

The current called and professional staff of the Western Recorder is an example of the leadership by our former editor and ensures that the search committee, along with Kentucky Baptists, can proceed with a thorough search for an editor with little worry about the ongoing work of the Western Recorder. The state paper is in capable hands with Floyd Price as chairman of the board of directors, and day-to-day leadership provided by the marketing and business manager of the Western Recorder, Tom Townsend.

It is my pleasure to serve alongside such exceptional committee members. All of them are committed to our convention, to working in their local churches and each has a long history of serving Kentucky Baptists. The committee members are available and have committed themselves to our mission. In addition to myself, they include:

- Vice Chairman Bill Marshall, retired KBC executive director and co-director of the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College.

- Secretary Lanna Kilgore, an attorney and member of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

- Chip Hutcheson, publisher of the Princeton Times Leader and a member of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton.

- Linda Polley, director of administration at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

- Floyd Price, former KBC president and associate pastor of First Baptist Church of London, will serve as ex-officio member.

For inquiries concerning the Western Recorder editor position or the search process, please write to: Western Recorder Editor Search Committee, c/o Skip Alexander, Campbellsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719-0530.

Skip Alexander is pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church

GUEST EDITORIAL



Skip Alexander

Self-indulgent? Who, me?

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—The United States has become a nation of pleasure seekers without equal in the world. We develop billion-dollar industries to produce items so trivial that one has to wonder if we're not a little bit nuts.

Even the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the ongoing worldwide battle with terrorism seem only to have temporarily slowed down this indulgent drive for bigger, faster and more.

In the weeks before Christmas, we see a lot of indulgence going on. But the holiday season is only a condensed version of what occurs during the rest of the year.

This is not to suggest that we should consider that all material belongings are bad. After all, God would not have given us the intelligence to create such things as clothes, cars and even toys and games, and then forbid us to use them.

God wants us to prosper and to enjoy the fruits of our labors. However, Americans have stretched this principle beyond the boundaries of common sense. We are always searching for superior and unique stuff to make us "happy."

The energetic and spirited Joni Eareckson Tada has been a quadriplegic since she was injured in a swimming accident years ago.

A Christian, she understands the importance of a wheelchair and Wheels for the World is the flagship wheelchair outreach program of her organization, Joni and Friends.

The group has provided tens of thousands of people with wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers and other rehabilitation equipment through a volunteer organization called Chair Corps. The World Health Organization estimates that there is a need for 20-30 million wheelchairs around the world.

One of Joni's trips to Africa to deliver wheelchairs gave her a keen understanding of what true selflessness really is. She was providing wheelchairs to homeless and handicapped people. Some were impaired by disease and many had missing limbs.

Unfortunately, the supply of wheelchairs she brought to Africa was limited. So, many of those in need were left out of the distribution, including some teenage boys. Nevertheless, instead of becoming jealous or angry, these young men celebrated with the people who did receive wheelchairs.

Living in such difficult circumstances—and having their own needs unmet—how could those young men find the will to be happy?

A better question might be: How can people who are in much better circumstances, like Americans, not find the will to be happy in the midst

of such plenty?

The answer lies in King Solomon's wisdom: "Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure with turmoil" (Proverbs 15:16).

Anything we accumulate that has little or no utility to us is an indulgence. Then does that mean Christians are never to have things purely for pleasure? Of course it doesn't.

However, expanding our collections of such items should be consciously and diligently controlled. We should not allow pursuing such things to become the norm for us, as many have already.

Are we indulgent Christians? Well, we might be if any of the following strikes a chord.

- We continually seek something better than we had before.

- We always must have something bigger or better than someone else has.

- We find ourselves consistently trying to top the lifestyles of others.

And, this might be the clincher: We can be sure that we are indulgent Christians if we are embarrassed by our lavish lifestyles, and often find ourselves explaining or rationalizing the things we've done or accumulated.

How do you answer this question: If you were in need of a wheelchair and had been left off the distribution list—as those young Africans were—would you have rejoiced with those who did receive wheelchairs?

Howard Dayton is co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries and host of Crown's radio program, "Money Matters"

Avant offers tips on how to reach postmodern culture

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Elizabethtown—It is a common question among Southern Baptists these days: How does one share the truth of the gospel with someone who believes that there is no truth?

Evangelizing to a postmodern culture was the topic John Avant, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Monroe, La., tackled during a breakout session at the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

In an attempt to shed light on the postmodern culture, Avant—who previously served as vice president of evangelization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board—offered participants a list of things to keep in mind when witnessing to a postmodern individual.

Postmodernism is not an atmosphere. “You don’t have to care about postmodernism,” Avant explained. “If you’re going to evangelize people, you are evangelizing people. You don’t evangelize an atmosphere or culture.”

The foundation of postmodernism is relativism. Avant said he views this point as “bad news” because a “postmodernist generally will believe ... that all truth is relative.”

A key element of postmodernism is openness. If the previous point is bad news, this detail is the good news, Avant noted. “I find it awfully good news that there’s a whole movement and culture that is creating great openness where it’s very easy to talk about spiritual things,” he added.

Postmodernism is just a label. “Don’t be intimidated by postmodernism,” Avant urged. “Don’t think that postmodernism is this thing out there that is so full of new knowledge that you really can’t share with postmoderns because you just don’t know enough.”

Postmodernism is logically impossible. Those who believe in post-

modernism in a fundamental way, Avant noted, can never be “absolutely sure” that there are no absolutes, the main idea on which the philosophy is based.

“Relativism is a truth claim and postmodernism fails if there is a single valid truth claim,” he explained.

Postmodernism is only believed in the moral realm. Stating that the philosophy only applies to people’s moral thinking, Avant concluded that “postmodernism does not work in real life.”

To illustrate, he asked the group how much sense it would make for a motorist

to drive his car south in the north-bound lanes of an interstate just because he is a postmodernist and it “works for him.”

Postmodernism is demonic at its core. “Not everything about postmodernism is bad,” Avant clarified. “If postmodernism causes us to back away a little from our arrogance and our ego, that’s not so bad.”

However, he added, at its core, the philosophy is designed to “only attack Bible-centered Christianity and that’s a perfect example of what our enemy does.”

Postmodernism is largely our fault. Referring to the Barna Group’s recent book, “UnChristian,” Avant pointed to passages that implied that “postmodern adults have already been to our churches. ... And that’s where they decided that Christianity did not work for them,” he said.

Avant also shared that as a young adult, he came to Christ—like many others—during the Jesus Movement of the late 1960s and early ‘70s. But, he added, “the primary role” of Southern Baptists during that movement was “to stop it.”

The Jesus Movement “was powerful and significant, but what if we had embraced it?” Avant asked. “If we had done that ... we would not have postmodernism.”



John Avant

Weaver, pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, dies at age 58

Louisville—Paul Weaver, pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, died March 4 at Jewish Hospital in Louisville.

Weaver, 58, was pastor of the Robertson County congregation for 10 years. His son, Andy, serves as pastor of Audubon Baptist Church in Henderson.

According to his obituary, Weaver died of complications from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Bill Boldt, director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association, said Weaver was awaiting a lung transplant at the time of his death.

Despite being on oxygen and struggling to breathe during the last weeks of his life, Weaver continued to share the gospel with everyone he came in contact with, Boldt said.

“In the last six months of his life, Paul led 20 people to Christ,” Boldt recalled. “That was his primary concern. ... He wanted to make sure ev-

eryone knew the Lord, even those who claimed to be a Christian.”

“It wasn’t about him, it was about the Lord,” Boldt added.

At the time of his death, Weaver also was Kentucky director of graduate studies for Indiana Wesleyan University.

He was a 1971 graduate of Tennessee Temple College in Chattanooga; a 1972 graduate of Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C.; and a 1991 graduate of the University of Kentucky.

Funeral services were held March 8, at Gano Baptist Church in Georgetown with Andy Weaver officiating. Burial was held at Barbourville Cemetery.

Weaver is survived by his wife, Esther, two sons, Andy and Mickey, and four grandchildren.

The family requests that gifts be made in Weaver’s memory to Emmanuel Bible Camp in Barbourville.

Judge denies funding for pharmacy school at Univ. of the Cumberlands

Williamsburg (BP)—University of the Cumberlands should not receive \$12 million in state funds to launch a new pharmacy school, a Franklin County circuit judge ruled March 6.

In handing down a summary judgment in the case, Special Judge Roger Crittenden noted, “There is no question that the appropriation of \$10 million tax dollars to the university to construct a pharmacy building is a direct payment to a non-public religious school for educational purposes. This type of direct expenditure is not permitted by the constitution of Kentucky.”

Crittenden said the \$2 million designated for scholarships also violated the state constitution because it used a budget bill to enact a permanent program. His ruling did not address charges made by critics of the university that it unconstitutionally discriminated against a student who was expelled in 2006 because of his “sexual orientation.”

In April 2006, Kentucky legislators approved the \$12 million grant to University of the Cumberlands, intended to provide “an opportunity to improve the health and welfare of the people of Kentucky, especially those in the Ap-

palachian region,” according to a statement released by the school. A homosexual rights group and several state legislators immediately sued then-Governor Ernie Fletcher, complaining that giving public funds to a private institution violated the state constitution.

The grant gained special attention because it coincided with the university’s decision to expel former student Jason Johnson, who used his Myspace.com Web site to publicize his homosexual relationship with a student at another school—contrary to the university’s guidelines for student conduct.

University of the Cumberlands’ President James Taylor insisted that the school would review the ruling and weigh its options.

“Over the next several days we will be considering the options which are available to the university regarding the court’s decision and the viability of our plans for a pharmacy program,” Taylor said in a statement.

Governor Steve Beshear said he agreed with the ruling and his office would not appeal the decision.

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

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Gearing up for another summer

Dedicated staff & volunteers make Crossings camps tick

It is hard to imagine, considering the prolonged season of winter, that spring is just around the corner. Preparing for spring retreat guests can cause panic for us due to the fact that we have so many facility improvements on-going.

Each year, these improvements must take place during the winter months while guests are not on the properties. Therefore, the rain, sleet and snow we have experienced do not really help with the completion of these projects. While the lists are too exhaustive to mention, the reality is we have much to do and little time to get it done.

Personally, as I reflect on our present circumstances, I am reminded of how thankful I am for the staff at Crossings. We have a core group of 20 year-round employees that serve at Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek and our administrative offices. You can not imagine how blessed I am because of these people.

While the work is long and hard with many challenges, there is never a day that I don't look forward to going to work. Enjoying work is

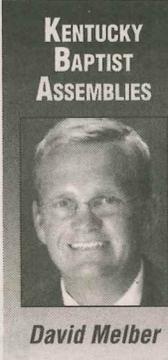
so uncommon in today's world and I never want to take for granted that God has blessed me and our ministry with such joyful and wonderful co-workers. As preparations continue for the summer, we have hundreds more contributing to the ministry as part-time and summer support staff, as well as volunteers.

One of my prayers has always been that when people see our staff they would be drawn to their energy, passion and commitment to our ministry goals. Most of our year-round staff were drawn to our ministry through the life testimony of an employee at Crossings.

We are blessed to not only have great people to serve with, but that God has also chosen to again bless the ministry with record numbers of students for the coming summer.

As your schedule allows, please contact us and set a time to come see how God is working through camp ministry, and more specifically, how He is working through the hundreds of staff and volunteers that make camp a reality each year.

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



David Melber

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp

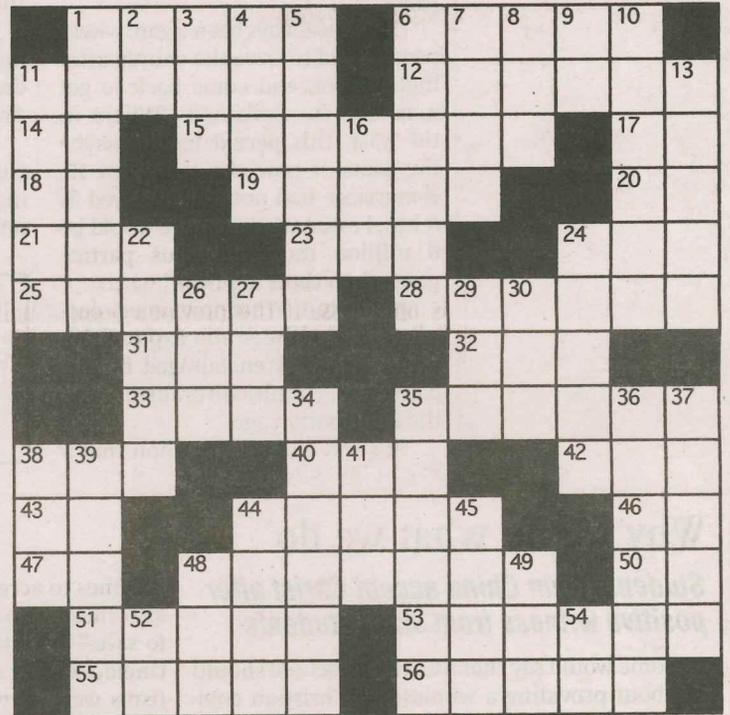


Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottko

Across

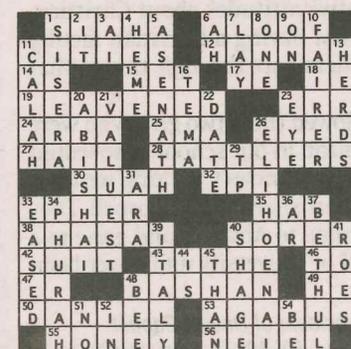
- 1 Cake mix maker (last name)
- 6 Amasses
- 11 Store under pressure
- 12 Has (arch.)
- 14 Conjunction
- 15 Touched
- 17 City near Bethel
- 18 Military abbr.
- 19 Marian, et al.
- 20 Chemical element (abbr.)
- 21 N.T. book (abbr.)
- 23 Gilded or Jazz
- 24 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 25 Wipe away (arch.)
- 28 Ammonite who invaded Jabesh-gilead (1 Samuel 11)
- 31 More than one orthopedist (abbr.)
- 32 Normal, but maybe not for Nicklaus
- 33 "For the ___ shall be prosperous" (Zechariah 8:12)
- 35 "Smote all their enemies with the ___ of the sword" (Esther 9:5)
- 38 Familiar cavern sight
- 40 Exclamation
- 42 Son of Elishama (1 Chronicles 7:27)
- 43 I ___ (Jehovah)
- 44 Struck (arch.)
- 46 Laughing sound



- 47 Eastern seaboard state (abbr.)
- 48 Worn by the disciples, among others
- 50 Simile word
- 51 Hackneyed
- 53 Son of Reuel (Genesis 36:13)
- 55 ___ days
- 56 "A sceptre ... shall ... destroy all the children of ___" (Numbers 24:17)

- 11 Room or walk
- 13 Judah stayed with him in Adullam (Genesis 38)
- 16 Archaeological site
- 22 In the course of
- 24 Brother of Moses
- 26 Before (poet.)
- 27 Double this for a deadly fly
- 29 Likely
- 30 Laughing sound
- 34 Condemned
- 35 Belonging to the evil one
- 36 Son of Levi (Genesis 46)
- 37 Son of Seth (1 Chronicles 1:1)
- 38 Prohibit
- 39 Wrong
- 41 Son of Zophar (1 Chronicles 7)
- 44 Father of Heber (Luke 3:35)
- 45 King of Israel, son of Baasha (1 Kings 16:8)
- 48 "Gal" of songdom
- 49 Pronoun
- 52 'Bye, to Brits
- 54 Preposition

Last week's solution



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Delayed choices by younger adults affect religious groups

Princeton, N.J. (RNS)—As increasing numbers of young people postpone marriage and children, other life choices—such as returning to church—are affected as well, according to a leading scholar of American Protestantism.

According to Princeton University sociologist Robert Wuthnow, religious groups need new ways to lasso these strays from the flock.

"Where young adulthood used to mean one's 20s, it can now last into one's 40s," noted Wuthnow, author of the new book, "After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty- and Thirty-Somethings are Shaping the Future of Religion."

"Young adults get married in their 30s and even 40s, have children later and change career paths more often," he added.

This is significant, Wuthnow pointed out, because single young adults are traditionally less likely to go to church than their married peers.

"There's always been a gap, where people tend to leave the church after high school, and come back to get married," he explained. "Where in the past, this period lasted maybe five years, it now can easily last 15. If marriage had not been delayed as it has, I estimate that there would be 6 million more religious participants than there are now."

As a result, Wuthnow noted, people tend to wander and explore longer—a tendency encouraged by globalization, multiculturalism and the information age.

"It's less and less common that a

particular young person will choose a religion based solely on their parents' beliefs, or say that 'this is a creed I read and I believe it and that's it,'" Wuthnow said. "People shop around, they talk to their friends, who are now often of diverse religious backgrounds and even foreign-born. They read and look on the Internet. They put resources together."

According to the professor, today's young adults tend to be more open, retaining looser relationships with their congregations. Many subscribe to some kind of agnosticism, falling into the category of "spiritual, but not religious."

Only Catholics, Muslims and Hindus, Wuthnow noted, replenished by large immigrant populations, have maintained—if not grown—their membership in America. Groups with aging populations and fewer children—such as Protestants and Jews—have declined, leading to a marked increase among those unaffiliated with a religion.

Churches, which often place too much focus on the elderly and children, need to adapt and reach out to America's young adults, he said.

"Religious leaders should focus on providing support for dealing with big life decisions," Wuthnow said.

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Why we do what we do

Students from China accept Christ after positive witness from staff, students

Some would say that a Christian school should be about providing a wholesome Christian environment for Christian boys and girls so they can learn and grow. Often the non-Christian student is not welcome in Christian schools because he would bring too many negative influences with him—just the reason a lot of parents want their children to attend a traditional Christian school.

Most of the things we do today at Oneida are very similar to what we did decades ago. Yes, we have a much more modern environment and our students dress differently than they did 50 or so years ago, but basically our student body—and therefore our ministry—has changed little. There never has been a time in our 109-year history when we gave much thought to not accepting a student because he or she was not a Christian. Historically the non-Christian student has been just as welcome on our campus as the student who is a Christian and comes from a solid Christian home.

We do not hide the fact that having non-Christian students on our campus can be a challenge. At times, guests may see something they believe is a bit embarrassing. I believe even those of us who claim Christ as our Savior and are mature in our faith often say and do things that are embarrassing to the Savior who died for our sins. Those of us who have been covered by the shed blood of Jesus rejoice daily to know that our God is a God of love and forgiveness.

We were reminded two Sundays ago why we feel so strongly about having an open policy when

it comes to accepting not only the redeemed but also those who Jesus said He came to "seek and to save." Two students were baptized that day at Oneida Baptist Church. Their salvation and baptisms were very special. Both students are from China. Before coming to OBI they knew little about Christianity, though one girl had heard that Christians in her country were forced to worship "underground."

I asked if they could tell me what persuaded them to invite Christ into their lives. Both said that various faculty and support staff were a great help to them. They were able to ask questions in Bible classes that helped them understand God better and why He had to send His Son to die for the sins of man. Both girls also said that some of the Christian students on campus had shared with them.

The girls agreed that since many of our students are not Christians, they often have mixed emotions about how serious some of our Christian students are about their faith. They admitted that it would have been easy for them to have negative attitudes about Christianity. Yet both said that having a Christian faculty and staff helped them sort through things that troubled them.

If we had not allowed these two girls who were not Christians to enroll in our school, who would have told them the good news? Nothing we do is more important than sharing the gospel! They could easily have come to America and gone to a secular high school or university and never been told about Jesus.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Studying with 'the boss'

Youth minister attends college with his pastor

When potential students arrive on Clear Creek's campus, often we hear that it was an alumnus or alumna of the school who first directed them to us. That wasn't the case with first-year student Jonathan Evans.

Instead of alumni, Jonathan heard about Clear Creek from his pastor, who also is Jonathan's ministry supervisor, and today, his fellow student.

Jonathan began attending Old Salem Baptist Church in London a few years ago where Jason Whicker is pastor. Jonathan said it wasn't long after he began worshipping there that "I began to feel the Lord call me to work with youth. I talked to Jason and he gave me the opportunity to be the youth pastor at Old Salem."

"After I expressed my call from God and started working with the young people, Jason started talking to me about getting equipped for the ministry God had called me to," Jonathan said.

Enrolled at another college, he said he felt the Lord leading him to transfer elsewhere, then the unexpected occurred and Jonathan had to drop out of school to find secular

employment.

"During that time God began to really convict me that Clear Creek was where I needed to be to follow the call that He had placed on my life," he said.

"Jason encouraged me to visit Clear Creek. I came to visit and fell in love with the college. I enjoy being able to study here with my pastor at the same time."

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College has special options in class scheduling for students who commute. This helps minimize the time they are away from home. That's important for Jonathan and his wife of five months, Brittany.

"She is attending college in London this semester. We plan to move to campus next semester," he said.

"I am grateful for the way classes are scheduled to allow me to attend college full-time on a two-day schedule," Jonathan continued. "Those two days are long but I like the fact that I don't have to come to campus five days a week to be a full-time student."

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu

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Is Mike Huckabee the new face of the religious right?

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—With the race for the Republican presidential nomination now behind him, former candidate Mike Huckabee has many possibilities ahead: Potential vice president to John McCain? GOP adviser? Another run for the White House?

Either way, observers say, one thing seems clear: Huckabee is now a kinder, gentler fresh face of the evangelical movement, poised to follow the path laid out by Pat Robertson, who transformed his failed 1988 campaign into a powerful movement of the religious right.

"I think (Huckabee) reflects in

many ways what I would call the new evangelical center," said author Ron Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action. "He simply is not the old religious right."

The evangelical "old guard"—Focus on the Family founder James Dobson and even the late Jerry Falwell and D. James Kennedy—no longer represent the newer aspects of the movement, which seek to marry fresh issues (environmental preservation) to traditional causes (the sanctity of human life), observers say. In fact, Dobson did not endorse Huckabee until almost all the other Republican candidates were no longer running.

"There's no doubt in my mind

that Huckabee has much greater potential to pull a much wider constituency and because of that, he has a lot more staying power, I think, on the national stage," noted Michael Lindsay, a sociologist at Rice University in Houston and the author of "Faith in the Halls of Power."

Huckabee campaign spokeswoman Kirsten Fedewa said continuing to work with evangelicals would fit with Huckabee's vision—and version—of American conservatism.

"He is certainly well-positioned to lead a conservative, or a Christian conservative, movement in this country," she maintained.

Richard Cizik, who heads the Washington office of the Nation-

al Association of Evangelicals, said Huckabee differentiates himself from earlier evangelical leaders, in part, because of his "appealing" demeanor.

"Is he a culture warrior? No," Cizik acknowledged. "But you can be for principles without being a culture warrior and obnoxious. He's just not obnoxious."

But the extent to which Huckabee sticks with the broadening concerns of evangelicals, such as fighting global hunger and opposing torture, will determine his staying power as a movement leader, Cizik added.

David Kuo, Washington editor for Beliefnet.com, has predicted that Huckabee, a onetime Southern Baptist pastor and former governor of Arkansas, could emerge as a Republican kingmaker.

"At the end of the day, Mike Huckabee has followed Pat Robertson's 1988 model better than Pat Robertson did," Kuo said.

Both candidates, he noted, had strong showings in an Iowa GOP primary and ended up with lists of donors that translated into new evangelical voters for the Republican Party.

But Family Research Council President Tony Perkins does not think it will be as easy for Huckabee to gain a post-campaign platform as it was for Robertson.

"Pat Robertson had a TV network around which he could base his operation," said Perkins, co-author of the new book, "Personal Faith, Public Policy."

"You've got to have some infrastructure. Just a list of names is not going to be enough."

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- 6 April 22 — Mount Washington Baptist Church, Mt. Washington
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NATIONAL NOTES

California court hears gay marriage case. The California Supreme Court heard arguments March 4 in a case that could lead to gay marriage being legalized this year. At issue is a law passed in 2000 to prohibit gay marriage and protect the natural definition of marriage. In 2004, the city of San Francisco began issuing marriage licenses to homosexual couples. The Supreme Court ruled then that the licenses were in violation of state law. The city filed suit after it lost that case, seeking to have the law changed. California already has a domestic partnerships law granting same-sex couples the legal benefits of marriage.

Christian publisher Walker dies. Robert Walker, who founded and edited several prominent Christian magazines, died March 1 in Carol Stream, Ill. He was 95. Walker, who had suffered from dementia and Parkinson's disease, was editor emeritus of *Charisma* & *Christian Life* magazine. He started *Sunday* magazine in 1941 and renamed it *Christian Life* in 1948. In the mid-1950s, he began *Christian Bookseller*, which was later renamed *Christian Retailing*. *Christian Life* merged with *Charisma* in 1986 and now has more than 230,000 subscribers. Walker published the first national cover story about evangelist Billy Graham in 1948 and was honored with the first Magazine Publishers Award from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association in 1994.

Bush liaison resigns over plagiarism charge. Tim Goeglein, a key liaison between the White House and conservative Christians, resigned Feb. 29 after plagiarism charges surfaced against him, the White House announced. An investigation by *The News-Sentinel* in Fort Wayne, Ind. found that Goeglein had plagiarized 20 of 38 columns the paper published under his name since 2000. The newspaper said he once used Pope John Paul II's words as his own. Goeglein often stood in the pulpits of churches and the podiums of religious events, speaking on Bush's behalf. He attended the funeral of Jerry Falwell last May and had spoken at past Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Missionary Bill Barker of Hurricane, W.Va.

Barker is national director of Appalachian Regional Ministry, a consortium of ten state conventions, the Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board that work together to mobilize missions volunteers responding to physical and spiritual needs in Appalachia. Pray for volunteers to respond to the needs of millions of unchurched people in that region. Pray that God will send—and that we will recognize—a tremendous spiritual awakening as He works through those who serve in the region.

Mission Service Corps Missionaries Van and Marjorie Yandell of Fredonia.

The Yandells work through Intentional and Innovative Community Evangelism to share Jesus Christ by involving others to develop ministries that reach beyond the walls of the church building. Pray that God will bless them with opportunities to meet needs and share Him through a variety of creative ministries. Pray that the ministry will continue to grow as churches and individuals learn to share Christ in their communities without fear.

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

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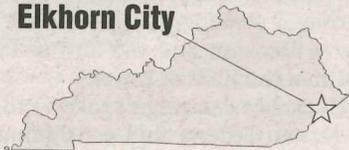
■ **EDGEWOOD**—James Robert Armstrong, a longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor, died Feb. 10 at age 82. Armstrong was pastor of Grants Lick Church in Alexandria, Big Bone Church in Union and Sand Run Church in Hebron as well as two churches in Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Ella, four children, 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Elizabeth Hospice Program in Edgewood or Big Bone Church.

■ **FULTON**—First Church will hold revival services March 23-26, 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Jack Acree is pastor.

■ **HUSTONVILLE**—South Fork Church recently honored deacon Paschal "Sarge" Grigsby on his 90th birthday. Curtis Brock is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Elkhorn City



Marrowbone Missionary Church will present an Easter drama, "At the Foot of the Cross," March 21-23, 7 p.m. For more information, call (606) 754-5361. Roger Johnson is pastor.

■ **PROVIDENCE**—Green Grove Church recently called Damon Bond as pastor.

■ **PURYEAR, TENN.**—Oak Grove Church recently called Dean Cook as pastor.

KBC plans Comeback Churches seminar to help revitalize congregations

Bowling Green—Church leaders seeking to revitalize weakened congregations are invited to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Comeback Churches seminar March 25 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

Seminar topics will be based on concepts presented in the book, "Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can Too," the popular church revitalization guide published last year

by LifeWay Christian Resources. Ed Stetzer, the book's co-author, will lead the seminar.

Sponsored by the KBC's church development team, the event will run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"This event will provide church leaders with practical suggestions for developing growth strategies in their own context," said Alan Witham, KBC's interim church development team leader and field strategist. "Participants will hear

March

13-16 Adult Kentucky Changers, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad.

13 Assimilation Tour, Flemingsburg Baptist Church.

15 Great Commission Prayer Conference, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

15 RA Congress Region 2, Hyland Baptist Church, Henderson.

15 RA Congress Region 6, Boones Creek Baptist Camp, Winchester.

22 RA Congress Region 4, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.

22 RA Congress Region 8, Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, Catlettsburg.

25 Comeback Church Conference, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

28-29 Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.

29 RA Congress Region 7, Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello.

31 Understanding Other Beliefs, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

31-April 1 Welcome to Kentucky Conference, Baptist Building, Louisville.

April

1 Assimilation Tour, Walnut Memorial Baptist Church, Owensboro.

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

what has actually worked to stimulate growth in churches much like theirs."

According to Witham, the KBC's church development team will be following up with churches that desire to make a comeback after the event. Plans are underway for a Comeback Church Process that will further equip churches for growth, he noted.

Stetzer co-authored the book with Mike Dodson, a pastor and

church strategist based in Meadville, Penn. Stetzer currently serves as director of LifeWay Research and as LifeWay's missiologist in residence. LifeWay Christian Resources is based in Nashville.

Registration for the event is \$20 per person, which includes lunch and all seminar materials. For more information, or to register, visit www.kybaptist.org/comeback, or call (502) 489-3335, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3335.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Beautiful Christian, patriotic neckties: retail value: \$15, cost: \$7. Striped neckties: special price \$4.50. Military neckties: \$7. Humor book (1,000 sold): "Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine," \$7. Dake compact Bibles: \$28. Call (606) 285-3051.

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SEEKING: Campbellsville University School of Theology seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty position in educational ministries. Start date: August 1, 2008. Go to www.campbellsville.edu/campbellsville/jobs.asp for details, job application, and job application release forms. John Hurtgen, Dean, School of Theology (270-789-5077; jehurtgen@campbellsville.edu).

SEEKING: Full-time GL/AP bookkeeper for the KBC Accounting Services Department. Position requires 3-5 years related experience and offers competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please submit resumé to the Administrative Services Department through www.kybaptist.org/administrative by 3/15/08.

SEEKING: Part-time pianist for Sunday morning services and Wednesday evening rehearsals. Send resumé to Grace Community Baptist Church, 7300 National Turnpike, Louisville 40214; e-mail gcbc7300@peoplepc.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational youth minister for May's Lick Baptist Church, May's Lick, Ky. Seeking a man of God, called of God to work with our youth. Please send resumé to 5103 Main Street, May's Lick, KY 41055. Other info: call (606) 763-6585.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Fairview Baptist Church. Send resumé to 6426 Ky. Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489; or e-mail fbchurch@wimaxexpress.com.

SEEKING: Pastor for Grant's Lick Baptist Church, a Conservative congregation standing on God's Word with strong growth potential. Looking for an energetic leader with scripture-based messages. Visitation, AWANA, and outreach are vital ministries to bring others to Christ. Send resumé to: Grant's Lick Baptist Church, 941 Clay Ridge Road, Alexandria, KY 41001, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Bethany Missionary Church in rural Lyon County. For more information, please call (270) 522-7670, or send resumé to Bethany Baptist Church, PO Box 1130, Eddyville, KY 42038.

SEEKING: Full-time church planting missionary for Brookhaven Baptist Church (www.brookhavenbaptist.net) for a Nehemiah project in the Brookhaven community of Atlanta, Ga. Please e-mail resumé to Pastor Don Presley at dpresleysr@presleyenterprises.com.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor of family discipleship and student ministries for Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. Teaching ability, leadership, organization and delegation skills required. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, 304 SW 134th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73170, Attn: James Fullingim; or e-mail to chbc@chbchurch.org.

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

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor for Oakland Baptist Church, Oakland, Ky. (near Bowling Green). Oakland Baptist is a growing church that is averaging nearly 350 people in attendance each week. The associate pastor will work alongside our lead pastor in seeing that our people have the opportunity to become fully devoted followers of Christ. The primary role of the associate pastor is to assist in our discipleship ministry; this includes overseeing our small-group ministry, our Sunday morning Bible study ministry and one-on-one discipleship opportunities. The associate also will take a lead role in connecting our church members, as well as new members, to our ministry. All applicants should have a genuine love for the Lord and His church. Though seminary is not required, it is recommended. All interested applicants should send resumé to Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159, Attn: Personnel Committee. To learn more about Oakland Baptist Church, visit www.oaklandbchurch.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Madisonville, Ky. Masters degree with some experience preferred. Send resumé with recent photo to First Baptist Church, 246 North Main St., Madisonville, KY 42431, Attn: SDC.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor, Frenchburg Southern Baptist Church, Frenchburg, Ky. Please send resumé with a DVD, CD or tape of recent sermons to: Pastor Search Committee, Frenchburg Baptist Church, 298 Hwy. 36, Frenchburg, KY 40322-8118.

SEEKING: A Spirit-led, highly motivated individual for minister of music at a growing Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362, Attn: Music Committee.

SEEKING: Bivocational music/youth minister for Wingo Baptist Church. Parsonage provided. Contact Scott Solowey, solowey@bellsouth.net; or (270) 247-0405.

SEEKING: Worship leader/minister of music. Younger's Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., is actively seeking a bivocational minister to lead worship and choir ministries. We are an excellent opportunity for someone looking to minister in a truly blended worship setting. If interested, please send resumé to: Search Team, 251 Younger's Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Full-time director of youth ministries for Gardenside Baptist Church. For information, visit www.gardensidebaptist.com.

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'The shred chaplain'

NAMB resort missionary shares Christ on the slopes of Mont.'s Big Sky country

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Big Sky, Mont.—Because his mission field is based in Big Sky, Mont., where Lone Mountain stretches 11,000 feet high, Brad Lartigue reports to work every day sky-high—geographically and spiritually.

For 20 years, Lartigue has served as a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionary—the last 17 as a resort missionary in Big Sky during the ski season in winter and at Yellowstone National Park in summer. Big Sky is nestled near three interconnected mountains, high in Montana's Gallatin National Forest.

"My place of work is basically the outdoors," Lartigue said. "Our sanctuary is in the mountains that rise above us, among the trees and the animals that God has created. That's where worship happens for us.

"I believe that my area of special ministries in resort and leisure settings is a good place to present the gospel to people," he said. "After all, our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the example and foundation for ministering to people outside the walls of the church.

"Jesus spoke to the multitudes from the bow of a boat, from the mountainsides, in the gardens, in the marketplaces," Lartigue continued. "He met people where they were, in times of work and play."

Lartigue skis, boards, preaches

Supported and commissioned by NAMB and the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, Lartigue leads worship services and campfire devotionals, marries couples, dedicates babies and even conducts funeral services on the powdery snow of Big Sky. Many of the tourists he witnesses to are people who have no interest in attending a brick-and-mortar church.

During the peak ski season—between Thanksgiving and Easter—some 5,000-6,000 people come to Big Sky each day to challenge the world-class ski slopes that are blanketed by 400 inches of new snow each year.

"Every Sunday when I ride the chairlift going up the mountain to do my worship service, I meet people who have no intention of going to a worship service," Lartigue said. "I think it means a lot to people to see a minister snowboarding, skiing or cross-country skiing who takes the effort to hone these skills to meet people where they are," he said.

Citing the Apostle Paul's admonition to "be all things to all people so that we might reach some," Lartigue recently invited a couple of young men on college break to his worship service. "They saw me on my snowboard and said, 'Oh, you're the shred chaplain.'" Shredding is ski slang for snowboarding.

"I think God gives us passions in our lives that drive us to do the things we do," Lartigue continued. "God has given me the passion to snowboard, cross-country ski and go backpacking in the wilderness.

"People come here to relax, rest and be rejuvenated. And what better place to do ministry than a place where people can be inspired? God and His creation are inspiring."

The crystal blue skies and frosty air of Big Sky is a long way from the sultry summers of Lake Charles, La, where Lartigue was born and raised.

He said he grew up in a Christian home in the bayou town in the heart of southwest Louisiana's Cajun country, where his father serves as pastor of a Southern Baptist church.

With a French surname and family bloodlines of African American, Cherokee and Italian, Lartigue said he is proud of his heritage. One of five children, he accepted Christ at age 14.

Resort ministry is lifelong calling

Always interested in adventure and public service, Lartigue was active in the Baptist Student Union at McNeese State University in Lake Charles. He said he cut his missions "teeth" in college, serving as a summer missionary on Hawaii's Big Island and as a US/C2 resort missionary at Taos Ski Valley in New Mexico.

After graduating from McNeese State, he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned a master's degree in religious education and church recreation. In 1990, he accepted a career missionary position at Big Sky and Yellowstone National Park from NAMB and the Montana Southern Baptist Convention. He's been there ever since.

"When people think of Big Sky or Yellowstone National Park, they think of the beauty and what a pristine place it is," Lartigue said. "But people don't realize that behind the scenes, there are hurting people—people very much disillusioned about who God is. I come across alcoholics, those into drugs, the (sexually) promiscuous, those whose lives need to change."

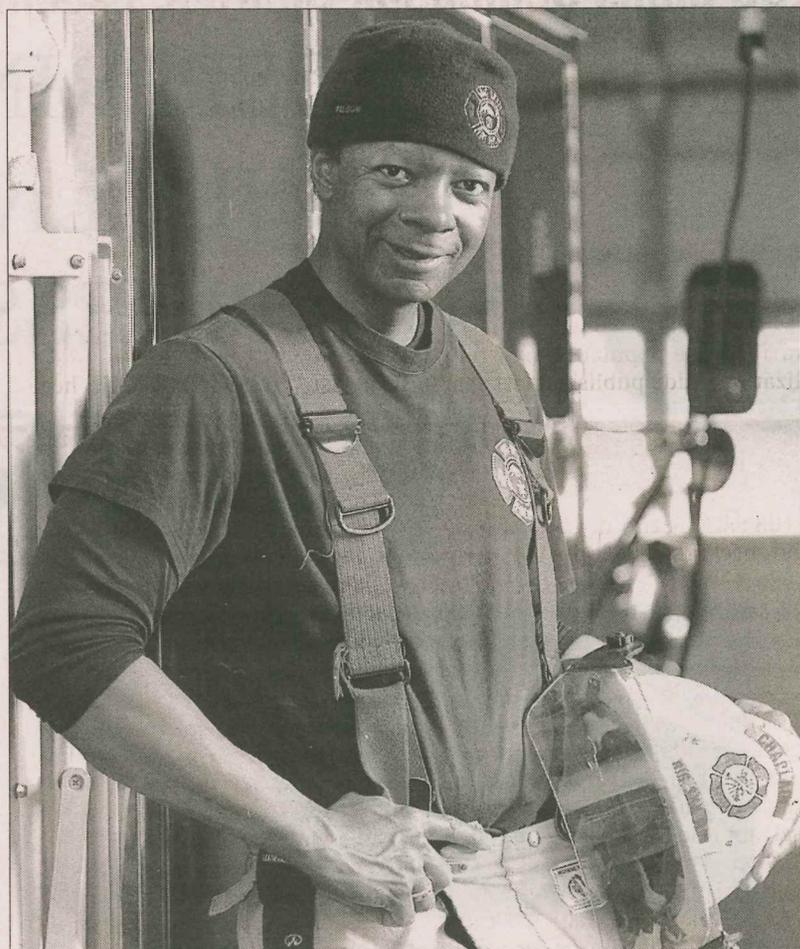
As with any Southern Baptist pastor, Sunday is a long and busy workday for Lartigue.

"I am part of three worship services on Sundays," he said. "I begin the day with an outdoor worship service at 9:30 a.m. at the Moonlight Basin Ski Resort. Then I drive back down to the Big Sky Christian Fellowship worship at 11 a.m., and back up to Mountain Village to conduct the skier/snowboarder worship service in the snow at 1:30 p.m.," Brad said.

After a few hours of skiing or snowboarding, he closes the day by directing a youth ministry for junior high students on Sunday nights. He also is active in Yellowstone Innovator/park employee worship in campgrounds, hotel worship services and home Bible studies.

Mentoring other missionaries

During summer, he shifts the focus of his ministry to Yellowstone—about 50 miles away—where he supervises college and seminary volunteers called Innovators, full-time



CHAPLAIN & EMT When resort missionary Brad Lartigue is not ministering in Big Sky, Mont., or in Yellowstone National Park, he serves as a firefighter, chaplain and certified emergency medical technician for the Big Sky Volunteer Fire Department. (Photo by Roger Mathis)

summer missionaries appointed by NAMB and sponsored by First Baptist Church of West Yellowstone. Innovators work full-time alongside park employees in a secular environment, sharing their faith in Christ through lifestyle evangelism, Bible studies, hiking, backpacking and one-to-one witnessing.

In October, Brad is a swimming instructor and coach for the local elementary school, and a lifeguard instructor in Bozeman, about 45 miles north. With Thanksgiving comes the return of ski season.

Year-round, Lartigue works as a firefighter and chaplain for Big Sky Volunteer Fire Department. He also is a certified emergency medical technician, CPR instructor and volunteer for the Big Sky Ski Patrol.

Dean Hall of Helena, Mont., is a fellow EMT on the Big Sky Ski Patrol team.

"I've known (Lartigue) for five or six years now," Hall said. "He's a minister, a youth minister, a resort minister. He's a very well trained EMT. He's well respected and a wonderful, kind, gentle man. The kids love him. ... I think all resorts need somebody like him," Hall continued. "Brad is an anchoring force and some of these young people need that."

Lartigue said he would not be able to focus entirely on Christian service without support from Southern Baptists, especially those contributing to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

"This offering ... offers so many different opportunities that we will never, ever see the results until we're in heaven," he said. "I feel privileged ... (to) focus on ministry and not worry about how I'm going to sustain myself."

Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems

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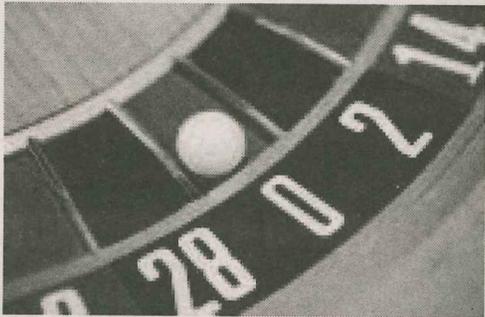
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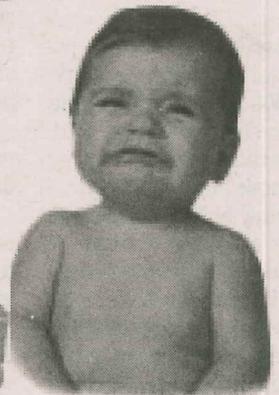
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