

April 15, 2008  
Vol. 182, No. 16

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Missions**  
Urgency heightens around NAMB's Operation NOAH Rebuild. *Page 2.*

**Baptists**  
New Baptist Hymnal includes 'good mix' of old and new songs. *Page 2.*

**Kentucky**  
Paintsville church planter is proud to be a Kentucky Baptist. *Page 3.*

**Kentucky**  
Parrett named to KBC missions mobilization post. *Page 3.*

**Financial Forum**  
Choosing a trustee requires careful thought and planning. *Page 4.*

**Guest editorial**  
Eliza Broadus Offering vital to Kentucky missions. *Page 5.*

**Nation**  
Baptists active following raid on Texas polygamist sect. *Page 8.*

**SBC Crossover '08 ready to share the gospel across Indy**

**Indianapolis (BP)**—For the 20th consecutive year, Southern Baptists' Crossover event will relay the gospel throughout the host city for June's SBC annual meeting.

Crossover '08—set for June 6-7 in Indianapolis—will add to the spiritual results that have been amassed since the inaugural outreach prior to 1989's SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas. Nearly 40,000 individuals have prayed to receive Christ as a result of the annual evangelistic effort. Dozens of new Southern Baptist churches have been planted and thousands have participated as Crossover volunteers from churches across North America.

This year's Crossover, prior to the SBC's June 10-11 annual meeting at the Indiana Convention Center, will be jointly sponsored by the SBC North American Mission Board, the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and Crossroads Baptist Association in Indianapolis.

Crossover '08 expects eight new churches—one Hispanic, one Chinese, one African-American and five Anglo—to be by-products of the outreach, said Jimmy Kinnaid, NAMB's Crossover coordinator.

"Our goal is that when we leave Indianapolis, we will, at

□ See Crossover leaders ... *Page 2*

**Breaking free from addiction**

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**London**—When he visited the Celebrate Recovery group sponsored by Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London last spring, Kenneth Parker had been sober for 10 years. Whiskey, cocaine, marijuana and pills no longer controlled him.

However, he still struggled with a pair of painful losses from the 1990s: A sister who died in a car accident and a younger brother from injuries sustained in a fire.

Though the memories haunted him, until joining the support group modeled after a program from Southern California's Saddleback Church, Parker rarely spoke in public.

In late February, he gave his testimony to the group which attracts approximately 100 people to its weekly meetings, making it one of the largest in Kentucky.

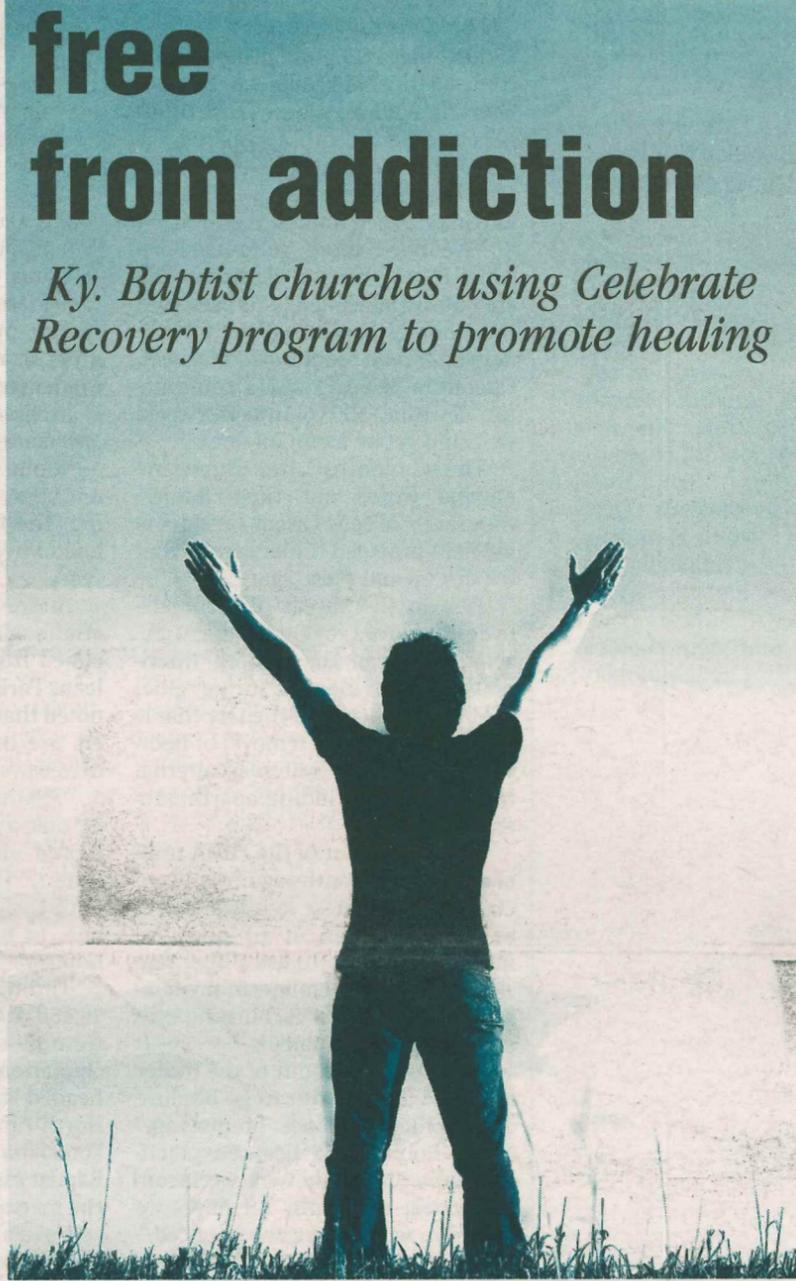
"It's a blessing to be able to go and talk to people," noted Parker, 40, a self-employed mechanic who accepted Christ as Savior last year and is a member of Hawk Creek.

"What it's all about is to reach somebody," he said. "Telling others about your situation, people can identify with it and open up. There's a lot of good that has come from it. People have joined the church and turned away from drugs and violence."

Some who come to meetings do not think they need to be there.

That is what Shelley Hickcox

□ See Celebrate Recovery ... *Page 6*



*Ky. Baptist churches using Celebrate Recovery program to promote healing*

**Survey: Unchurched may prefer more traditional church buildings**

By Tobin Perry  
Baptist Press

**Nashville (BP)**—People who do not go to church may be turned off by a recent trend toward more utilitarian church buildings. By a nearly 2-to-1 ratio over any other option, unchurched Americans preferred churches that look more like a medieval cathedral than what most think of as a more contemporary church building.

The findings come from a survey conducted by LifeWay Research for the Cornerstone Knowledge Network, a group of church-focused facilities development firms.

"Despite billions being spent on church buildings, there was an overall decline in church attendance in the 1990s," said Jim Couchenour, director of marketing and ministry services for Cogun, Inc., a founding member of CKN. "This led CKN to ask, 'As church builders what can we do to help church leaders be more intentional about reaching people who don't go to church?'"

When shown four photos of church exteriors and given 100 "preference points" to allocate be-

tween them, survey participants used an average of 47.7 points for the most traditional and Gothic options. The three other options ranged from an average of 18.5 points to 15.9 points.

"We may have been designing buildings based on what we think the unchurched would prefer," Couchenour concluded. "While multi-use space is the most efficient, we need to ask, 'Are there ways to dress up that big rectangular box in ways that would be more appealing to the unchurched?'"

"Quite honestly, this research surprised us," acknowledged Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. "We expected they'd choose the more contemporary options, but they were clearly more drawn to the aesthetics of the Gothic building than the run-of-the-mill, modern church building."

Stetzer suggested that the unchurched may prefer the more aesthetically pleasing look of the Gothic cathedral because it speaks to a connectedness to the past. Younger unchurched individuals were particularly drawn to the Gothic look.

Those between the ages of 25 to 34 used an average of 58.9 of their preference points on the more ornate church exterior. Those age 70 and older only used an average of 32.9 of their points on that particular style.

"I don't like modern churches, they seem cold," said one survey participant who chose the Gothic design. "I like the smell of candles burning, stained-glass windows (and) an intimacy that's transcendent."

More than half of the unchurched indicated the design of a church building would in some way impact their enjoyment of a visit to church. Twenty-two percent said the design would strongly impact their enjoyment, while 32 percent indicated it would only have some effect. More than one-third said it would have no impact whatsoever on their visit.

**"Buildings don't reach people"**

Stetzer noted that despite these survey results, church buildings that look like a cathedral are in decline. Just because an individual has a preference for an aesthetical-

ly pleasing Gothic church does not mean they will visit if that is the only connection point they have to the congregation, he pointed out.

"Buildings don't reach people, people do," Stetzer said. "But if churches are looking to build and are trying to reach the unchurched, they should take into consideration the kind of building. Costs and other considerations will play into the decision, but the preferences of the unchurched should be considered."

The survey also looked at what unchurched individuals thought about other elements of church design, as well as what sociologists call "third place" gathering spots. First place gatherings are where a person lives, Stetzer noted, while second place gatherings are where a person works. Third place gatherings are where a person goes "to hang out," he said.

"CKN wanted to give churches another tool for churching and unchurched people to connect well to each other," Stetzer added. "One of the things this study revealed is the importance of space in relationships."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Apr. 16.

## Urgency heightens around Operation NOAH

*Needs mounting as FEMA shuts families out of trailer homes*

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

**New Orleans (BP)**—Plans to discontinue use of FEMA trailers in New Orleans have added a new sense of urgency to Southern Baptists' Operation NOAH Rebuild, a three-year initiative to rebuild or repair Hurricane Katrina-ravaged homes.

"We need more volunteers because FEMA wants to get homeowners out of the trailers and back into their homes because of the formaldehyde threat," said David Maxwell, Operation NOAH Rebuild coordinator. "If we had 500 volunteers a week, we could get an awful lot done."

Thirty months after Hurricane Katrina wiped out their homes, thousands of New Orleans residents in FEMA-provided trailers are having to pack up and move again.

Due to the threat of formaldehyde produced by a chemical reaction between the trailers' interior walls and manufacturing glue, FEMA announced in February that it would expedite the removal of flood victims from the trailers to alternative housing, including apartments and hotels.

"We moved out of the FEMA trailer about four months ago," said Leticia Robinson, whose family and other relatives—seven in all—now live in a two-bedroom house. "I became sick and so did members of my family. We had headaches, burning eyes and respiratory problems."

"I wanted to get out of the trailer and yet I didn't want to go because of the inconvenience of moving," added Robinson, a licensed practical nurse. "Not only were we inconvenienced, the family members we moved in with are inconvenienced."

Robinson's home on St. Roch Avenue in New Orleans' Seventh Ward was inundated with 10 feet of wa-



**NO PLACE TO GO** David Maxwell (right), coordinator for Southern Baptists' Operation NOAH Rebuild in New Orleans, meets with Nathaniel and Janice Levi, who have been forced to leave the FEMA trailer they have occupied since Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home. (BP photo)

ter from Hurricane Katrina flooding. The family lost everything and had to live in a FEMA trailer for two years.

Andrew Thomas of FEMA public affairs said use of the trailers has declined from a peak of 23,280 in Orleans Parish down to 7,282 today. He noted that nearly 6,800 of these trailers are on sites such as residents' driveways and front yards.

"FEMA's goal is to have every family now a resident in a FEMA trailer moved into permanent housing by June 1," Thomas said. "We will work with each of these families, one-on-one, to help them return to their homes."

Through the end of March, some 18,450 Southern Baptist volunteers from 49 states have participated in Operation NOAH Rebuild, spearheaded by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, the Louisiana Baptist Convention and Baptist associations and churches in the metro New Orleans area.

Volunteers have rebuilt 136 homes from gut-out to completion and another 1,160 flood-damaged homes and churches have been re-

paired. The rebuild, started in April 2006, was scheduled to end on Aug. 31, 2008, but now has been extended to Aug. 31, 2009.

"We need skilled carpenters, dry-wall people, plumbers, electricians, framing carpenters and finishing carpenters," Maxwell said, adding that skilled team leaders are particularly needed.

"We also want and need people who may not do carpentry work, but who can do evangelism," he emphasized. "All the work we're doing down here as Southern Baptists earns us the right to share the gospel. We encourage teams that can't do construction to come and do evangelism in different ways."

Operation NOAH Rebuild can house 600 volunteers a week, 460 of them at Household of Faith Church, a 74,000-square-foot facility in east New Orleans. Another 142 can be housed at Hopeview Baptist Church in St. Bernard Parish.

"God has blessed," Maxwell said. "We've had a lot of volunteers but we live or die with the volunteers. If they stop coming, Operation NOAH Rebuild will be over."

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Church fights for use of vacant store.** An Illinois church has gone to court to fight a city ruling that it cannot use a former Wal-Mart store for worship. Carlinville Southern Baptist Church recently purchased the unused 60,000-square-foot facility, which was zoned commercial. The church applied to have the property rezoned for religious purposes, but was denied because of its tax-exempt status. The city filed a lawsuit in state court seeking an injunction to prevent the church from renovating the facility or moving any of its offices to the site. The church countersued in U.S. District Court, alleging violation of its First and Fourteenth Amendment rights. The church was recently allowed to begin renovating the building, but the court has yet to rule on the matter of allowing the church to also worship at the property.

**Historic Wis. church destroyed in explosion.** American Baptist Churches USA officials are sending aid in the aftermath of a gas explosion that leveled a nearly century-old sanctuary of one of its churches. First Baptist Church of Oconomowoc, Wis., was destroyed in the April 2 explosion. Local authorities blamed the gas-line breach that caused it on equipment being used to place new city sewer lines in the area. Nobody was in the church at the time, but the incident injured seven people, including firefighters and a utility worker. The 35-member church met April 6 and voted to rebuild. The sanctuary, built in 1912, was a landmark in the lakeside community, located about 30 miles west of Milwaukee.

## Newest Baptist Hymnal includes 'good mix' of old and new songs

**Nashville (BP)**—The mystery is over. The songs included in the new Baptist Hymnal have been chosen. "Amazing Grace" is there, as well as "Holy, Holy, Holy." So are "Sanctuary" and "Shout to the Lord."

"There is a good mix of hymns, worship music and praise choruses," noted Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship. "We have composers from Beethoven to Fanny Crosby to Travis Cottrell represented in this hymnal."

The new hymnal contains 674 hymns and worship songs.

"About 300 of these songs are new ones to our hymnal," Harland said. "Of these 300, about 200 have been published in other hymnals and about 100 are brand new hymns and songs that haven't been published in any hymnal before."

"The selection process was arduous," he added. "There are many hymns and worship songs that are wonderful, spiritually uplifting songs, but our task was to choose the best, most theologically sound

songs we could."

Because the theology of the hymns and songs is so critical, a committee made up of theologians and musicians looked at every hymn to make certain the theology was trustworthy before the song moved forward to the next level of consideration.

Jon Duncan, state music director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, served as leader of the theological overview committee.

"The hymnal is more than a 'song book' to meet a utilitarian need for the congregant," Duncan said. "This hymnal, as with past editions of the Baptist Hymnal, serves many functions, including providing a historical document of doctrinal beliefs of the family of faith known as Baptists."

LifeWay already is processing orders for the new Baptist Hymnal and offering a discount to churches pre-ordering the pew edition before its release. The hymnals will ship on or before Aug. 8.

## Crossover leaders hope Indianapolis impact is eternal

*Continued from page 1*

the same time, ensure that the gospel stays there and spreads," he noted. "We want Southern Baptist churches to be strengthened and new churches started. We want Indianapolis to be a place where Jesus is known even better after Crossover '08 and the convention."

John Rogers, missions and evangelism team leader for the Indiana convention, said the state convention and NAMB are both playing support roles to the local Crossroads Association for Crossover '08.

"It's their heart, their vision and their strategy," Rogers emphasized. "When it's locally led and locals take ownership, we think the results will be longer lasting. We see Crossover '08 as a process, not an event."

During the days leading up to the SBC annual meeting, volunteers are being enlisted from dozens of SBC churches in Indiana and around the nation to take the gospel to Indianapolis' inner-city and metro areas.

Kinnaird said Crossover '08 strategic events will include 27 block parties in African-American, Korean, Hispanic and Anglo neighborhoods; door-to-door evangelism spearheaded by eight local churches; projects to fix as many as 10 homes in the Indianapolis area alongside NAMB's World Changers ministry; repair and renovation of a school playground or local park by NAMB's Baptist Builders ministry; and roving Intentional Community Evangelism teams who will blanket Indianapolis' core-city area, witnessing to those they meet on the streets.

Rogers also noted that Crossover '08 will entail extensive follow-up. "We want to see baptisms as a result of Crossover '08, which will help our churches grow," he said.

Leading the efforts for the seventh consecutive year is Victor Benavides, NAMB's urban center evangelism coordinator. Benavides said a minimum of 40 ICE volunteers from across the country will travel to Indianapolis to share the gospel.

"We look for high foot-traffic areas to witness in," Benavides explained, "like busy intersections and bus stops, shopping centers, apartment complexes and even outside liquor stores."

Echoing Kinnaird and Rogers, Benavides said he wants to see Crossover '08 bear lasting results.

"We want to impact the areas of prayer, outreach, visitation, building relationships, the assimilation of people into local churches and starting new churches, long after the ICE teams are gone," he noted. "We want to help make churches healthy in all these facets."

## Paintsville church planter is proud to be Kentucky Baptist

By Ken Walker  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Paintsville**—Now one of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's most enthusiastic ministry partners, Jason Hutchinson was not always as committed to the Baptist denomination as he is today.

Before affiliating with the KBC in 2006 to launch one of its High Impact church plants, Hutchinson said he seriously considered becoming non-denominational to avoid the Baptist label. Since then, he has gained a deep appreciation for the convention and its funding source, the Cooperative Program.

It is difficult for Hutchinson to even place a value on the suggestions and advice he has received from convention staff, adding that the interaction is what persuaded him that becoming a Kentucky Baptist church was the wisest choice.

"I do have an appreciation for it," he said of the Cooperative Program and the state convention staff. "Just knowing that they're there and they're not just going to talk about (church planting) but they're going to help. They're going to do what they can to help you with missions."

Mountain Community Fellowship in Paintsville, where Hutchinson serves as pastor, now has 100 to 120 attending Sunday services in its

converted office complex location. The church has also seen 20 people accept Christ, including two families who decided to follow Jesus last spring.

One was a couple who had been living together prior to their conversion, along with the woman's 14-year-old son, who has since sensed God's call to the ministry. The other was a family of five headed by a single mother who led her four children to faith in Christ.

"We want to stress we're a missionary church," he noted. "We're on mission wherever we are, taking the gospel home and sharing it with family and friends. That has gotten across the DNA of our church better than anything else."

Hutchinson said he believes the church's effectiveness is a result of the strong foundation of support laid by the KBC.

"In church planting, you need substantial resources and the KBC has put substantial resources into this," he explained. "They put their money where their mouth is."

Hutchinson recalled changing his mind about affiliating with Kentucky Baptists after meetings with Larry Baker, KBC's director of new work and associational missions; Mountain Missions Director David Aker, and Randy Jones, leader of the convention's missions growth team.

While in a meeting to discuss a different planting effort, Hutchinson heard Jones break into tears over the lost during a prayer time. He said those tears touched his heart.

"I came out of the meeting and called a friend and said, 'I'm about as blueblood a Kentucky Baptist as you can get,'" Hutchinson recalled. "I've always encountered that same spirit, that same desire, in the state convention."

### With the help of CP

While not all of Mountain Community's funding is directly attributable to the Cooperative Program, the KBC's training programs, church planting efforts and Hutchinson's salary—a combination of Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and state convention funds—all come from CP monies. So did the funds that helped provide the pastor's education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Baker pointed out that the Cooperative Program played a key role in forming the Paintsville church even before it applied for a High Impact grant.

The church planter who attended a three-day training session with Mountain Community's core group decided he was not called to this field. Meanwhile, Hutchinson realized his vision did not match up

with the group he was part of at the seminar. The KBC staff was then able to help match Hutchinson and the other group, and the rest is history.

"We bring in church planters on occasion and allow them time to share what's working and what's not, and try to develop a network," Baker said of the cooperative nature of the effort. "We also have a reporting system that allows them to share prayer requests, what problems they're facing and what questions they have."

Baker said the exciting thing about all KBC church planting efforts is the new congregations' emphasis on reaching converts and the "de-churched," people wounded in the past who are reluctant to return to church.

Supporting Mountain Community Fellowship is just one way the gospel is spreading through the Cooperative Program in Kentucky. Throughout April, churches across the state are celebrating 83 years of combined missions and evangelism efforts during Cooperative Program month.

According to Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, it is an important focus because "the Cooperative Program has been the most consistent funding source for most Southern Baptist missions and ministry endeavors."

## Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team returns from Nicaragua

**Louisville**—Eleven Kentucky Baptists recently returned from an eight-day disaster relief mission trip to the Mosquitia region of Nicaragua.

While there, team members helped rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Felix last September. The trip was coordinated through the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The team was part of a larger Southern Baptist relief effort coordinated through Baptist Global Response, the Southern Baptist international development and relief organization. The recovery effort is scheduled to continue through July.

## Sunrise launches statewide effort to end child abuse

**Mount Washington**—In observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sunrise Children's Services is launching a statewide campaign called "Take a Stand Against Child Abuse." The monthlong campaign will culminate on April 23 and 25, as supporters gather in 11 cities to stand along a major highway for one hour to raise awareness of child abuse. All participants will wear T-shirts featuring a blue ribbon, the symbol of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"Child abuse happens in every community in our commonwealth. Sunrise strives to break the cycle of abuse by bringing healing and hope to victims of severe abuse and neglect," said Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise Children's Services. "By holding these 'Take a Stand' events, we will be a visible reminder to the public that victims of child abuse are everywhere. Our presence will be a sign of our commitment to stopping child abuse."

In addition to raising awareness, the Take a Stand campaign will raise money to help provide children in Sunrise's care with gifts at Christmas.

Take a Stand events will be held April 23 in Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Louisville, Morehead, Mount Washington, Owensboro, Pikeville and Somerset; and April 25 in Danville and Lexington. For times and locations, visit [www.sunrise.org](http://www.sunrise.org).

## Parrett named to KBC missions mobilization post

**Louisville**—Teresa Parrett, who has served as a regional consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention since 1999, has been named Kentucky missions mobilization coordinator for the KBC.

Parrett was elected March 27 by the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee.

In her new role, Parrett will be responsible for connecting long- and short-term volunteer missions teams with KBC churches, associations and other ministries in need throughout the state. In addition, she will direct the work of the state's Mission Service Corps missionaries, as well individuals involved with Missionaries on Short Term.

Since 2005, Parrett has worked with Appalachian Regional Ministry and Director Bill Barker, who shifted from the KBC to the South-



Teresa Parrett

ern Baptist North American Mission Board in January. In her role with ARM, Parrett helped ministry centers throughout Kentucky's Appalachian region obtain food, clothing and other necessities.

She also mobilized volunteers for a number of short-term mission projects in Eastern Kentucky. According to KBC's missions growth team leader Randy Jones, Parrett connected more than 20,000 short-term missions volunteers to churches, associations and other ministries in the region in 2007 alone.

Eric Allen, KBC's mission service and ministries director, noted that by "broadening her responsibilities," Parrett will continue the work she was doing in Eastern Kentucky "on a statewide basis."

"I think we'll see many additional volunteers coming into our state

and helping us to reach our communities because of her work," Allen added. "I'm fully confident that Teresa will take missions mobilization in Kentucky to the next level."

Parrett, who also is a Mission Service Corps missionary, has helped coordinate the annual Mountain Missions Conference and served as editor of the Mountain News and Views publication.

Parrett also is discipleship training director for Rockcastle Baptist Association and serves on the association's executive board. She is a member of Pine Hill Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, where she teaches Sunday school and directs vacation Bible school.

"Teresa has a broad understanding of the work being done by our KBC staff members, is known by the DOMs across the state, has a deep ongoing relationship with Christ and gives great attention to the needs of people," Jones said.

## CP giving remains behind budget through March

**Louisville**—Cooperative Program gifts dipped slightly during the month of March, leaving the fund behind budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

According to Lowell Ashby, Kentucky Baptist Convention's business services team leader, March CP receipts totaled \$1,718,980. Churches have given a total of \$13,561,020 through March, which leaves total CP receipts \$438,980 (3.1 percent) behind budget, he said. This as the Eliza Broadus Offering recently reached the \$1 million mark for the first time in its 95-year history.

"It's appropriate to celebrate Eliza Broadus becoming a millionaire because it demonstrates the im-

portance of Kentucky Baptists' generosity," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "The challenge for all of us is to express that same generosity through the Cooperative Program, as it provides 90 percent of the KBC's budgeted funds for ministries and missions."

Ashby noted that \$10,438,980 is needed throughout the remainder of the fiscal year in order to meet budgeted projections. For that to be achieved, at least \$2,087,796 would need to be received from KBC churches in each of the remaining five months.

CP totals have remained behind the \$24 million budget throughout

the entire 2007-2008 fiscal year, Ashby added.

While giving is less than expected for the current fiscal year, the \$13,561,020 received to date is \$231,125 (1.7 percent) more than the \$13,329,895 received over the same period in the 2006-2007 fiscal year, he acknowledged.

"We are short of the budget goal, but the 1.7 percent received above the same period last year is a positive trend," Compton noted. "The budget goal is still within reach as our churches provide their timely and generous giving to CP. Many churches are continuing to experience the enormous impact of CP giving in connecting people to Christ."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

**DREW NICTER**  
News Director

**THOMAS C. TOWNSEND**  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Beware Oprah's New Age gospel

By Penna Dexter

Dallas (BP)—A recent Washington Post column has blogosphere feminists a little upset.

Charlotte Allen's "Women vs. Women" column last month was a tongue-in-cheek diatribe about how dumb women can be. Since I am a woman, I should be insulted. I am not, however, because—beneath the insults—there are some gems of truth and wisdom dealing with rising above feminist dogma and using our God-given gifts, including our brains.

Allen observed that women get hyper-emotional about things and rely on feelings to the extent that we're easily led.

She wonders how women can catapult chick literature, like Elizabeth Gilbert's "Eat, Pray, Love," to the top of The New York Times best-seller list. Or how Oprah Winfrey can be so influential among women. Or how we are more inclined to fall for "feel good gummy spirituality." She continued, "Women's foolishness is usually harmless. But it can be so ... embarrassing."

Embarrassing? Maybe. But not harmless. The cult of Oprah Winfrey and the self-centered New Age gospel she promotes is downright dangerous.

There is no question Oprah is a tremendous influencer of women. Dustin Benge, a young pastor and student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, wrote of her power on his blog:

"Working in the Louisville Brooks Brothers, I have begun to understand what impact she has on American women. Her show (recently) featured the Brooks Brothers ladies non-iron shirt. ... Before the show was over, we began to receive calls from women all-over Louisville and other surrounding towns and states wanting these shirts. When we opened our doors for business (the next day) we were bombarded with ladies looking for the 'Oprah shirt' for their wardrobe. I am extremely grateful for the advertisement and the business we are receiving from this plug. However, I

began thinking about how much influence Oprah has over the women of this nation."

Middle-aged women comprise the vast majority of Oprah's audience. For the four weeks ending May 5, 2007, 72.8 percent of visitors to Oprah's Web site were female; 66.4 percent were 35 or older. Many are inspired by her story.

Today, Oprah operates a vast media empire that encompasses her popular TV show, a satellite radio network, a magazine, a book club and even an acting career. She donates millions to worthy causes and practices hands-on philanthropy.

Oprah seems to have it all: beauty, a gorgeous wardrobe, business sense and a direct and engaging interview style. Oprah is open, transparent and makes women feel she is just like them. She inspires fans to improve their lives as she did hers.

## Dangerous teachings

But there is a real concern with regard to Oprah Winfrey and her tremendous influence. It's one thing to run out and buy a shirt she recommends. It's another to dabble in her eclectic mix of New Age spirituality.

For years, she has included her audience in her journey toward self-fulfillment and meaning, which she admits does not consist in material things or professional success. Oprah knows we are spiritual beings—and she has the money and the stage upon which to elevate her hand-picked spiritual guides and gurus who pull together their versions of truth from various religions and philosophies. Her beliefs are a far cry from biblical Christianity.

Oprah's current favorite "teacher" is Eckhart Tolle with whom she is hosting a 10-week interactive "webinar." More than half a million people in more than 125 countries signed up for this live online gathering based on Tolle's bestselling (thanks to Oprah) book, "A New Earth." Tolle describes himself as a "spiritual teacher," and his lesson is that humans should distance themselves from their egos and open up to a "higher self." Do not create your

own suffering by stressing over the past or the future, Tolle advises. Live in the now. Oprah said this message is aimed at helping people "with spiritual growth" and "the languaging of new consciousness."

What does that even mean?

Actor Jim Carrey thinks he knows. As one of several celebrities endorsing the book, Carrey said it answers the universal question, "Who am I and why am I here?" Christians should find that answer in God's Word. We are made in the image of God to live in relationship with Him. The thing that blocks that relationship is sin. The remedy is Christ's forgiveness—not somehow attaining a new level of consciousness.

Tolle's message is one of many modern versions of the ancient quest to escape suffering and attain peace. He noted he draws from Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. He denies that he's offering a religion. But Christians who buy into this are in danger of having their faith side-tracked.

On her XM Radio station, Oprah has also been offering daily classes on the book, "A Course in Miracles." The author, Helen Schucman, claims that the book was dictated to her by an inner voice, which she identifies with Jesus Christ. The listener, though, is taught that there is no sin—contradicting one of Jesus' key teachings.

Lots of smart women love Oprah. Lots of Christians are fans. Fine, try her diet tips. Emulate her generosity. But remember, everything about Oprah's message is self-centered: "Discover, embrace and nurture yourself ... celebrate and honor you," her Web site states. Our Brooks Brothers seminary student has some better advice. "Pick up your Bible and begin reading the inspiring stories of women of faith."

Do you love Oprah's passion for life and for others? Do you share her taste for ancient wisdom? You can find role models in God's word—women who loved God, trusted Christ, and by faith, walked the path He laid out for them. In their examples, there is wisdom.

*Penna Dexter is a consultant for KMA Direct Communications in Plano, Texas, and co-host of "Jerry Johnson Live."*

## Sunday school claims 'other sheep'

By Darryl Wilson, director of the KBC's Sunday school department

I have been thinking about Jesus' words in John 10:16: "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." Jesus claims sheep that are not already in the sheep pen—some of them are in our communities.

His second sentence is interesting: "I must bring them also." Many people today have given up on outreach. They think someone else will do it. Some people wrongly say that outreach is the responsibility of those whose gift is evangelism. As a part of the body of Christ, we do what the Head tells us to do. We serve as His hands, feet and voices to go to, help, and share Jesus with the lost, hurting and unchurched sheep.

In His Great Commission (Mat-

thew 28:19-20), Jesus did not tell us to let the lost come to church before we do anything for them. He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." If we are Christians, we are His body and are to do what the Head tells us. We cannot make disciples of all nations without reaching out. We should use our gifts to love people to Jesus. When we accept Jesus as Savior and

Lord, we move from being sheep to being shepherd-stewards of His sheep. We join Him in caring for His flock (some of which are not already in the pen).

Sunday school is a great tool to mobilize the church to carry out Jesus' command. Senior adults are best reached by senior adults and teens are best reached by teens. But more classes (sheep pens and shepherd-teachers) are needed. New classes tend to be more evangelistic than

existing classes, often growing to 20 in enrollment and 10 in attendance within 12 to 18 months.

Sunday school helps us share the gospel with lost people more effectively than worship alone. Statistics from Andy Anderson ("The Growth Spiral") show that only about one out of 342 lost people accept a relationship with Jesus through 12 months of worship alone, while one out of every three lost people do so through Sunday school.

Here is my application question: Which lost/unchurched sheep has Jesus prepared you to shepherd? Care for them. Build relationships. Minister. Invite them to Sunday school. The personal invitation is still powerful today. Don't be afraid to ask but be patient if it takes 20 touches before you see results. Help the lost and unchurched listen to His voice calling them to become a part of His flock. If you don't go, they won't come. If you don't ask, they won't say yes.

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

## GIVING

## Choosing a trustee requires careful thought, planning

By Laurie Valentine

Both revocable and irrevocable trusts can be helpful estate planning tools. Whether you are using a revocable living trust as part of your plan for management of assets in the

event of incapacity, or an irrevocable trust for tax planning, one of the most important decisions as you plan the trust is your choice of trustee.

Under Kentucky law, the trustee may be an individual or a bank, trust company or other entity that has trust powers. An individual serving as trustee does not have to be a resident of Kentucky, nor do they have to be related to you.

As you select a trustee or successor trustee, think about the types of assets that are—or may be—in the trust. You will want to name a trustee who understands the management of those types of assets and who knows about taxes, investments and financial matters.

The trustee should be someone who is a self-starter. There is little supervision of the management of a trust. Your choice should be someone who will not neglect their responsibilities due to a lack of time, interest or knowledge.

Do not just assume the person or entity you wish to name as trustee is willing to serve; ask them before you complete your planning. If possible, allow them to review the trust agreement before it is signed to better assure that all necessary powers are granted and that they are clear on any special or unusual provisions.

Finally, make sure that you have selected a trustee who can be objective. Trustees must make decisions that affect the interests of both the income beneficiaries and the remainder beneficiaries. While family members may be appropriate choices, in some cases you may need to consider a professional, corporate or institutional trustee. Corporate trustees are accountable not only to the beneficiaries of the trust, but also to their own management, directors, auditors and other examiners.

The choice of trustee is a crucial decision in the establishment of a successful trust arrangement. Making the best choice requires thoughtful and careful consideration of many factors.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*



## Marriages, like homes, also require some spring cleaning

**Q: As the weather has gotten warmer, I have been trying to get my husband out of the house more often and go for walks or to the park, but he just doesn't show any interest. How can I get him out of the house?**

The season of spring usually invites more activity inside and outside the house. Maybe he is still trying to warm up from the winter and will need more encouragement. This is also a time for spring cleaning. Even if you cannot get him out of the house yet, maybe you could talk with him about some cleaning of a different kind: spring cleaning the marriage.

### MARRIAGE

**Sort through the clutter.** Sorting is needed to help determine correct priorities in the marriage. Sort through which areas are to be kept or discarded. What clutters your marriage?

**Throw out the garbage.** Garbage is anything in the marriage that contaminates or gets in the way. This can include words, names, labels or attitudes. What garbage has collected in your marriage that needs to be thrown out?

**Gather needed supplies.** Rags, towels, soap, cleaners, trash bags, storage bins, whatever the cleaning task, one needs to have the right supplies. Having what you need available to you for the care of your marriage may look more like babysitters, parents day (or night) out programs, marriage events, Bible studies, books, mentors or counselors. What supplies do you need to get the job done?

**Spend time doing chores that have been left undone.** Often, good activities that require time, effort or money are not given priority and are left undone. This might include dates, quality time, cards, vacations or playtime. What is not being taken care of in your marriage?

**Deep clean.** Deep cleaning involves studying the marriage and evaluating which areas need attention. It requires intensive work on neglected areas, as well as areas of the relationship that have had some attention but not enough. What areas of your marriage need more attention?

**Enjoy the fruit of your efforts.** It feels good not to breathe in dust and dirt, to see the sunshine clearly through the windows, or to discover misplaced items. If this is true for our homes, then it is true for our marriage that God intends to be a place of shelter for us in this world. How will you enjoy your cleaned-up marriage?—Valerie Vincent

**Q: I am preparing to get married, but come from a non-Christian family. Though I am a committed follower of Christ, I have not seen the role of a Christian husband lived out in the home. Exactly what are the responsibilities of a Christian husband?**

In short, you are to be a lover, leader, protector and provider. According to Ephesians 5:25, husbands should "love your wives as Christ loved the church." This love means that husbands are to be willing to make sacrifices for their wives, to nourish them spiritually, to cherish them through active caring and tenderness, and to attempt to accept and understand them as a partner in service for Christ. The godly husband is to protect his wife from distress and danger, being aware that this may be of a physical, emotional or spiritual nature.

The leadership of a Christian husband is not to be harsh (Colossians 3:19). The husband is neither a dictator to his wife nor is he a parental figure. As "the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church," the husband is to lead in such a way that he provides out of the resources that Christ has given to him (Ephesians 5:23). "Head" does not refer to the man as the source of the woman, but to the spiritual leadership he is charged with providing. This leadership, modeled after Christ, should be strong, yet humble, and more prone to servanthood, self-discipline and self-sacrifice than to arrogance and self-exaltation.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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



## Eliza Broadus Offering vital to Ky. missions

When the television program "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" was at the peak of its popularity, we were dreaming of the day that the Eliza Broadus Offering for Kentucky missions would reach \$1 million.

Named for Eliza Broadus, an early leader of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, this offering provides significant funding for a variety of ministries across Kentucky. So, after finding a shirt that says, "I just want to be a millionaire ... And that's my final answer," we created an Eliza for our office and continued to promote the offering and the dream.

This year the dream became reality. The Eliza Broadus Offering exceeded the million-dollar goal for 2007-2008 and even exceeded the goal we already have set for 2008-2009. At the end of March, this year's total was \$1,053,504.38. And reaching that goal is important for several reasons.

First and foremost, all of the ministries that were budgeted for this year will receive their full funding. It is very difficult to learn midway through the year that funding is falling short and expenses will have to be cut. For some of our ministries—depending upon the timing of the event—when there is a shortfall in the offering it is often too late, forcing us to make cuts in other programs.

Growth in the offering demonstrates our commitment to reaching the lost in this state. Kentucky is a mission field, with a higher percentage of lost people in some areas of the state than in some countries around the world.

People often ask, "What does the Eliza Broadus Offering pay for?" The answer is: Not much—by itself. EBO funds, however, combined with Cooperative Program dollars, as well as the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds that come back to Kentucky, make a tremendous impact. Ministries through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team depend on EBO funding. For instance, in the area of church planting, the North American Mission Board often will provide matching funds. Thus, every dollar given through EBO for church planting is worth double

because those dollars enable us to receive matching funds from NAMB.

In a number of KBC missions growth team areas, CP provides only salaries and travel, while EBO supplies funds for ministry expenses. EBO has purchased vans for use in Eastern Kentucky, provided for international student ministries and training in witnessing to persons of other faiths. EBO helps with language missions, church and community missions, disaster relief, Kentucky Changers and much more.

The Eliza Broadus Offering is also essential to smaller ministries across our state. Many church- and association-based ministries, as well as ministries led by Mission Service Corps missionaries, apply for funding from Kentucky WMU. Crisis pregnancy ministries, food and clothing ministries, language missions, Friendship International outreach, homeless ministries and tutoring are among the applicants each year. Imagine the thrill of receiving a grant from the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Eliza Broadus funds also are important to the work of Kentucky WMU in missions education. EBO funds help with missions events, missions education training and camps. The state missions DVD and other materials that are available to Kentucky churches free of charge are made available through the offering.

Exceeding the \$1 million goal is a special celebration. Kentucky WMU has designated the overage from the 2007-2008 offering for evangelism, including Crossover 2009 when the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting comes to Louisville. During the week preceding next year's convention, there will be several special evangelism activities. As a result of these efforts, plans for new churches also are underway. EBO will play a major role in providing resources for these ministries and new church starts.

Thank you Kentucky Baptists for giving so generously. We look forward to what God will do through the offering this year and beyond.

Joy Bolton is executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Joy Bolton

## Cooperative Program: Keep it going

By Bob Simpson

**Columbia, Md.**—I am a professional communicator. That's what I do. Some say I am gifted at it. Others might disagree.

What I do know is that communication is the hardest thing in the world to fully accomplish. When it happens, it is a beautiful thing. When it falls short, it can be a mess.

I am saying this because I fear that I (and others) have not done an adequate job of communicating what it is that we as Southern Baptists do that is making an incredible difference in our world. That is, we cooperate. We don't always do it pretty, but we cooperate.

At its core, what we are doing together is incredible. The struggle we have as communicators is how to articulate the story so that all Southern Baptists fully comprehend the depth of Kingdom ministry that is being done every year—together.

I am indebted to a book entitled, "One Sacred Effort: The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists," written by Chad Owen and David Hankins. The book challenges pastors and church leaders to communicate to all Southern Baptists by doing three things:

**Tell them of the great need.** Owen and Hankins write, "The Cooperative

Program is not merely a 'fund-raising' for denominational programs. It is a lifeline for the most important enterprise in the world. The CP is worthy of the attention and support of every church because its aim is the fulfillment of the Great Commission."

**Tell them of the great strategy.** The Lord's strategy outlined in Acts 1:8 has not been rescinded in the 21st century. The Cooperative Program is a fantastic way for the local church to get its arms around how to be fully engaged in reaching a lost world for Christ at home and "to the ends of the earth" all at the same time.

Owen and Hankins identify four characteristics that make CP mission-critical. First, CP is coherent rather than chaotic. There is a plan and it works. Second, CP is constant rather than spasmodic. The revenue stream for funding our worldwide missions effort is there year in and year out. Our missionaries do not have to spend one moment of their precious time raising support. They spend each day doing missions and winning folks to Christ. Third, CP is comprehensive rather than isolated. While short-term mission trips to any one part of the nation or world are great, and church/state conven-

tion partnerships with a particular country are valid, without the Cooperative Program, there is no overarching and ongoing missions strategy. It's not either/or; it's both/and. And lastly, CP is cooperative rather than competitive. Churches of all sizes can be synergetic in doing so much more together than can be done by one church at a time.

**Tell them of the great results.** The Cooperative Program supports thousands of missionaries in both the international arena and North America; thousands of seminary students, thousands of volunteers who serve each year on the mission field or through disaster relief; moral and ethical concerns in our culture; and many other Kingdom endeavors, all of them exciting, verifiable, amazing and all because we cooperate.

Tell everyone how pivotal it is that we not "grow weary in well-doing." W.C. James was national Woman's Missionary Union president in 1925 and served on the Future Program Commission which recommended the adoption of the Cooperative Program. More than 30 years later, as she resided in a nursing home, she said, "Tell Southern Baptists to keep it going." If you agree, shout, "Amen."

Bob Simpson is associate executive director of the Maryland/Delaware Baptist Convention and executive editor of the convention's newsjournal, BaptistLife

## Celebrate Recovery groups springing up in KBC churches

### The basics of Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery's eight recovery principles based on the Beatitudes found in the Gospel of Matthew:

**Realize** I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.

**Earnestly** believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover.

**Consciously** choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

**Openly** examine and confess my faults to myself, to God and to someone I trust.

**Voluntarily** submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.

**Evaluate** all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others.

**Reserve** a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.

**Yield** myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.

### Upcoming events

For those churches interested in beginning a Celebrate Recovery program, upcoming regional events will be held:

■ April 19, Oklahoma City

■ May 3, Toronto

■ June 7, Annapolis, Md.

■ June 14, Chicago

For more info, visit [www.celebrate-recovery.com](http://www.celebrate-recovery.com).

*Continued from page 1*

thought when she brought her disabled sister to the group at Buffalo Lick Baptist Church in Cadiz in the fall of 2006.

### "We all have problems"

Hickcox's sister, Janet, was in the final stages of a fatal bout with chronic lung disease, and also suffered severe anxiety and panic attacks.

However, after attending Celebrate Recovery, Hickcox discovered she too had problems, particularly her workaholic tendencies. The habit kept driving her even after she retired from a finance company and started a business on eBay, the Internet-based auction network.

"As much as we hate to admit it, we all have problems," said Hickcox, whose sister died last September. "When I think I was available to help Janet, be with her that last year and be able to hold her and see her go on to heaven, that was amazing.

"In the past, I might have complained about all I had to do instead of appreciating how wonderful it was to be there. I think it's wonderful for our area that a church will open its doors for something beyond a worship service."

Such stories are common throughout the Celebrate Recovery network.

Over the past 15 years the program has spread to an estimated 8,000 groups nationwide and another 2,000 on such continents as Asia, Europe and Australia.

The exact number in Kentucky is not clear. The group's Web site lists 23 host churches, nine of them Baptist, but the list does not include Hawk Creek or several other KBC churches.

Saddleback launched its group with 43 people, designing it as a place to help those struggling with bad habits by showing them the loving power of Christ through the recovery process. Today, nearly 10,000 individuals have gone through Saddleback's program, about 70 percent from outside the congregation.

Although not billing itself as a Christian version of Alcoholics Anonymous, Celebrate Recovery includes a biblical foundation for AA's famed "12 Steps" to sobriety on its Web site. It also lists "Eight Recovery Principles" from Matthew's "Beatitudes" that participants follow as they seek to overcome bad habits.

Because it is a Christian-based program, judges are reluctant to order defendants convicted of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol to attend CR meetings. However, several in Kentucky have listed them as an option to fulfill court-ordered treatment sessions.

"We believe the success of Celebrate Recovery is found in the true 'Higher Power,' Jesus Christ," said Jim Kircher, CR's national director who is based in Austin, Texas. "When someone finds a relationship with Jesus, people have a great chance of success in turning their lives around."

That Christian component is a key, according to Dominick Capobianco, leader of Hawk Creek's group. He predicts that in the coming decade Celebrate Recovery groups in

Kentucky will outnumber those sponsored by Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.

"My background and support group for years was Alcoholics Anonymous," Capobianco noted. "When Christ told me, 'I want everyone to know I am the Way,' Celebrate Recovery is what He's wanting people to know. He's wanting His people to have a chance at salvation."

### Beyond drugs & alcohol

Despite its reliance on Jesus Christ instead of the generic "Higher Power" favored by AA, Celebrate Recovery groups are similar in format. Many enjoy a weekly meal and fellowship time before dividing into smaller discussion groups for such problems as addictions to alcohol or drugs. At Hawk Creek, there are also groups for people struggling with food addictions, divorce, and life hurts, as well as one for teens.

Among the small groups at Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia is one for women who are co-dependent, meaning they make excuses for a spouse's addictions and often enable him to continue that habit.

While it is not a church growth program, sometimes support groups lend themselves to expansion. That is what happened at Hawk Creek, which doubled in attendance to more than 500 since it began hosting Celebrate Recovery more than a year ago.

Pastor Trevor Barton explained that one reason participants find hope is they can identify with others who have been trapped in similar problems but have found solutions.

"It's not your typical Baptist evangelism ministry," Barton noted. "But the program is built on the Word of God. We've seen numerous people try Christ and become viable, active members of our fellowship and other churches. They've got acceptance and hope."

### Support network thrives in small congregation

Cadiz—Buffalo Lick Baptist Church proves that a small congregation can start a successful Celebrate Recovery program.

Despite average Sunday attendance of less than 50, the Trigg County church recently started its fifth year of Friday night meetings. The support group averages a weekly turnout of 35 and draws participants from Hopkinsville, Princeton and other cities in western Kentucky.

However, leader Wayne Hewell and his wife, Diane, warn that starting the ministry is not an easy task.

Recently, an elderly member of Buffalo Lick told Hewell she hated Celebrate Recovery because she thought it was a financial burden on the church. Ironically, until the past year, it had been completely self-supporting, even attracting a grant from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Hewell noted.

"You're not going to make all the people happy with a program like this," he acknowledged. "Still, Rick Warren says it's the closest thing he's seen to the church in action."

In 2003, Hewell became interested in doing something productive with his forthcoming retirement. One evening, he heard President George W. Bush discuss faith-based programs that help people who "fall through the cracks" of society.

Soon after, Hewell learned about Celebrate Recovery and decided to investigate. That led him to attend an annual CR summit at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

That same year he met John Baker, founder of the program and a recovering alcoholic who at

one time was estranged from his wife. Hewell said he was hooked.

"Celebrate Recovery is not about building a church in numbers, but restoring lives and changing habits," Diane Hewell pointed out. "As a side benefit, churches are strengthened."

A strong core group is essential to starting a Celebrate Recovery group, she added, noting the Buffalo Lick group launched with eight reliable volunteers and now have about 10 who help lead discussions.

Pastoral support is another key. The official launch includes a series of eight sermons that spell out the program's basis and help people understand it, Hewell noted.

Celebrate Recovery is a much-needed initiative, said Vicky Lawson, director of the group connected with Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia.

"Two pastors have called me about it this week," she said. "I told them, 'Do you know how many people in your pews have these problems?' This program is so needed in our community and to help churches."

Still, she cautioned, it takes considerable effort and advised anyone interested in starting a group to attend a one-day training session offered in various locations (see related story).

Finding adequate leadership to conduct meetings is the biggest challenge, Lawson acknowledged, who has six small group leaders to conduct Franklin's meetings.

"I think it's more of a success because it's offering people a chance to have Christ in their heart through their recovery," Lawson said.

## Coming to a Church Near You...

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

Assimilation  
TOUR '08

### Closing the Back Door

What is your church doing to close the back door and help visitors make connections?

#### LEARN HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN:

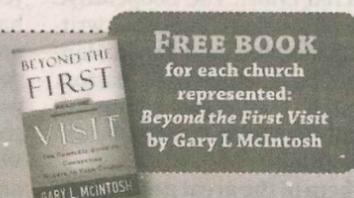
- Attract more first-time guests
- Improve your rate of assimilation
- Increase membership and involvement

#### EVENT LEADERS:

Steve Rice | Director,  
Discipleship and Assimilation Dept., KBC

Darryl Wilson | Director,  
Sunday School Dept., KBC

Plus, guest presenters at each location!



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

FREE  
EVENT!

For more info and optional registration:

[www.kybaptist.org/at08](http://www.kybaptist.org/at08)

or call 592-489-3581

or 866-489-3581 (toll-free in KY)



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

All events are 6:30 pm — 9:00 pm

### Transition from a CD to a CGA

#### Ensure income and giving with a charitable gift annuity

Like many people, you may depend upon income from certificates of deposit.

If so, you probably wish interest rates were a lot higher than they currently are. You also may have been thinking about how to provide some kind of financial benefit to your church and/or other charitable causes, but did not feel you could give up that income-producing CD.

I am happy to inform you the Kentucky Baptist Foundation offers a solution to your need for more income and your charitable intentions: a charitable gift annuity.

A charitable gift annuity is an agreement between you and the Foundation under which—in exchange for your gift to the Foundation of cash or appreciated assets with a value of at least \$5,000—KBF agrees to pay you a fixed amount each year for the rest of your life. The payout rate depends upon your age; the older you are, the higher the rate.

A CGA also can be on one or two lives. For example, it can be on the lives of a husband and wife, or a parent and a child. Not only is the

payout partially tax free, but the gift portion of the plan is also tax deductible.

If you give appreciated assets, there likely will be capital gains tax savings as well.

The portion of your gift not needed to make the lifetime annuity payments to you will be available at your death for the benefit of the causes you designate in advance. You can specify for the remaining portion to be available to the charitable causes outright or to be held by the Foundation in a permanent endowment fund with only the earnings—not the principal—being paid to the causes in perpetuity.

Anyone age 50 or older is eligible. The newly suggested single-life rates range from 5.1 percent at age 50, to 10.5 percent at age 90. Other rates are: 6.1 percent at age 70; 7.6 percent at age 80; and 8.9 percent at age 85.

As you anticipate the maturity of your CD, consider using it for a CGA. Laurie Valentine and I are awaiting your toll-free call to assist you.

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

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



### Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottko

#### Across

- 1 Stop! (arch.)
- 3 Son of Tahath (1 Chronicles 6:24)
- 8 Father of Simon Peter
- 10 Assyrian god, which had a house in Nineveh (2 Kings 19)
- 13 Jealous gems?
- 15 Nephew of Abraham
- 17 Pronoun
- 18 Linking verb
- 19 Home of the brave (abbr.)
- 21 Postember state
- 22 Reproved
- 25 "In the night \_\_\_\_ of Moab is laid waste" (Isaiah 15:1)
- 27 Dir.
- 28 Where Miami University is (abbr.)
- 29 Hectare (abbr.)
- 31 Of starch (comb. form)
- 33 Pilfers (colloq.)
- 35 Musical abbr.
- 36 Where "The Music Man" was set (abbr.)
- 38 Figure on many TV crime shows (abbr.)
- 39 Hardwood
- 40 Son of Joktan (Genesis 10:26)
- 42 Son of Salah (Genesis 10:24)
- 44 Exclamation
- 46 Metric abbr.
- 47 Part of middle-school curriculum (abbr.)
- 48 Word in a command
- 50 Big \_\_\_\_, CA
- 51 Age of Jehoiachin when he began his reign

	1	2		3	4	5	6	7		
8			9		10				11	12
13				14					15	16
17				18			19	20		21
		22				23			24	
25	26									29
					27			28		30
31										
			32						33	
35										39
			40					42	43	
44	45									48
										49
50						51	52	53		54
55										58
										60

- 55 Deception
  - 58 Too
  - 59 Commanded
  - 60 Strike
- #### Down
- 1 Domicile
  - 2 Chemical suffix
  - 3 Except that
  - 4 To free, with "of"
  - 5 Assign
  - 6 Hesitation sound
  - 7 Biblical exclamation
  - 8 "He is a \_\_\_\_, which is one inwardly" (Romans 2:29)
  - 9 Son of Ulla (1 Chronicles 7:39)
  - 11 Attired
  - 12 O.T. minor prophet (abbr.)
  - 14 First name of famed football coach
  - 16 Symbol of thorium
  - 20 "As \_\_\_\_ in summer ... so honour is not seemly" (Proverbs 26:1)
  - 22 \_\_\_\_, the Beloved Country (Paton book)
  - 23 Preposition
  - 24 Son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)

- 25 Eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 26 Mischievous child
- 29 Was told, KJV style
- 30 Question
- 32 Untruth
- 33 Where Durban is (abbr.)
- 34 Nineteenth-century American writer
- 37 Prepare for battle
- 38 AL lineup abbr.
- 40 Assyrian king mentioned in Hosea
- 41 Alter
- 42 N.T. epistle (abbr.)
- 43 City where David took "exceeding much brass" (2 Samuel 8)
- 44 Snake
- 45 With Aaron, he held up Moses' arms
- 49 City built by descendants of Benjamin (1 Chronicles 8:12)
- 52 To cause to be (suffix, Brit.)
- 53 Bk. of the Torah
- 54 Father of Hophni
- 56 Note of the diatonic scale
- 57 Singer Ames

#### Last week's solution

1	S	O	L	E	S	6	O	Z	I	A	S		
11	K	O	H	A	T	H	12	N	E	R	I	A	H
14	E	D	M	A	A	S	I	A	I	P	E		
18	N	O	M	A	H	O	L						
21	A	M	I	P	E	N							
25	N	A	M	E	T	H	28	S	T	A	I	R	S
31	N	A	H										
33	S	E	A	R	E	D	36	S	P	E	E	C	H
39	S	H											
43	T	H											
47	A	T	D	A	L	A	I	A	H				
51	N	O	T	I	C	E	53	F	L	O	W	E	D
55	N	I	G	E	R								

### 2008 SBC Ministers' Wives' Luncheon

Tuesday, June 10 at noon  
Indiana Convention Center



I found the one I love...I held on to him and would not let him go... Song of Songs 3:4 HCSB

Dr. Gary Chapman  
Speaker



Married to ministers, we are married to leaders. Dr. Chapman, internationally respected marriage and family life expert, will challenge us with his unique insight regarding our husbands - their needs, their minds, their hearts.

Purchase tickets at olivebaptist.org or call 850.475.1102 for more information.

WESTERNRECORDER + Your church newsletter  
TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE

## Military chaplains help amputees accept new realities

By Greg Trotter  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Capt. Darrick Gutting is the friendliest guy in Ward 57.

The 40-year-old Pennsylvanian sports the Army camouflage and a thin scar above his left eye, but his most distinctive feature is his smile.

He roams the halls, engaging passersby—soldiers and medical staff alike—in conversations that are equal parts jive and heartfelt concern.

Gutting is one of 10 military chaplains in the pastoral care department at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They come from, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Charismatic and evangelical churches.

The chaplains at Walter Reed provide spiritual advice and a listening ear to soldiers, staff and families. They also guide many amputee soldiers through the difficult process of coming to terms with a new reality.

As of Feb. 29—the most recent date available—705 amputees from Iraq and Afghanistan had been treated in Army facilities, including 555 at Walter Reed, according to a hospital spokeswoman. There are currently about 150 amputee patients at Walter Reed in some stage of healing and rehabilitation. Regardless of religious or cultural background, many of them wake up at some point and ask very similar questions: “Why did this happen to me?”

“As chaplains, we are not peddlers of religion,” noted Col. Charles Howell, senior chaplain at Walter Reed. “We allow them to ask the questions and then show them a host of answers out there.”

The chaplains face a range of

emotions among the amputees: anger, sadness, fear and joy, or some mixture thereof, Howell said. Some soldiers become angry at God, or the Army, he added. Others go straight to gratitude that they are alive at all.

“Everyone has a pretty good idea of what they project their life to be,” Howell explained, “but when you wake up with an injury that leads to amputation, you begin to realize things aren’t going to happen the way you thought.”

The chaplains help the patients transition—mentally and spiritually—back to some form of active duty or civilian life. Around 40 percent of them want to return to active duty, but only 14 percent actually do, Howell noted.

They are soldiers like Cpl. Jeffrey Reffner, 25. When he rolled up in his wheelchair, Gutting greeted him like a long, lost friend.

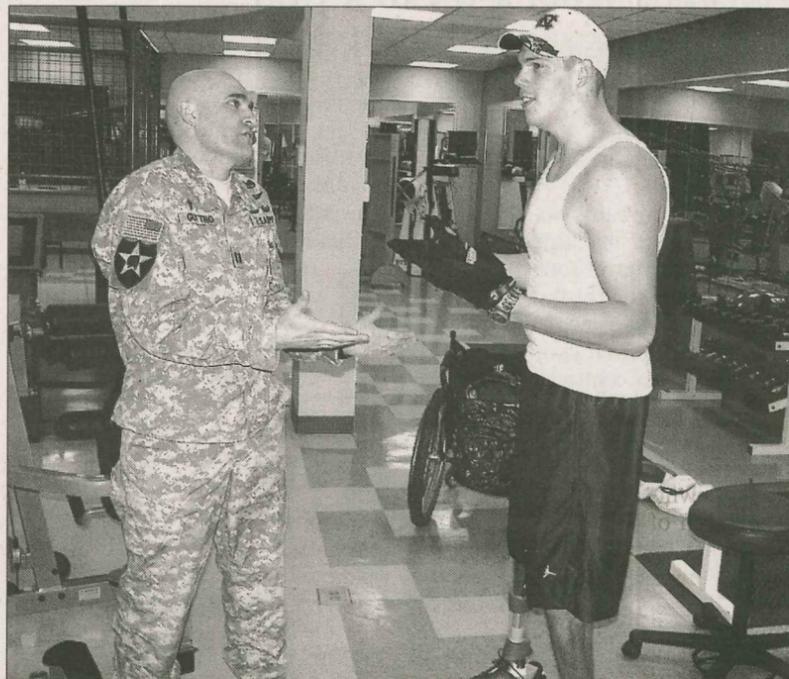
Reffner has been at Walter Reed since July 2006, when an improvised explosive device in Baghdad blew apart the front of his truck—and his left leg. He suffered a broken tibia and fibula below his knee, extensive burns, and muscle and nerve damage.

After the blast, doctors began talking amputation, but Reffner begged them to save his leg. After 23 surgeries he still has it. And he still has his faith.

“Every time I prayed, it got answered somehow,” Reffner declared.

Farther down the hall, Gutting spotted Sgt. Brent Hendrix, 23, in an empty weight room. He stood up slowly, carefully balancing his weight on his prosthetic right leg.

“He’s a tall drink of water, isn’t



**STANDING ON FAITH** Army chaplain Capt. Darrick Gutting (left) talks with Sgt. Brent Hendrix, who lost 2 inches in height when a roadside bomb in Iraq shattered his leg. Gutting is one of 10 military chaplains at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. (RNS photo by Greg Trotter)

he?” Gutting said, looking up at the 6-foot-6-inch Hendrix.

The soldier explained that he used to be two inches taller, and that the doctors are going to re-break his leg to give him back that lost height.

It is just one more step in a long journey for Hendrix. He was an infantryman on a raid in Iraq in June 2006, when his vehicle rolled over two roadside bombs. He woke up in Walter Reed with tubes coming out of his nose.

Hendrix has died twice, he noted—once for 58 seconds, and a sec-

ond time for two minutes. He has had close to 70 surgeries since the blast and was told he would never walk again.

Hendrix is walking now and can bench-press 275 pounds, an impressive feat by any standard.

“God still wants me around for some reason,” Hendrix acknowledged. “So I’m just waiting to see what He’s got in store for me.”

And for a moment, Gutting looked somber.

“We get through this together,” he said, “because not one of us is as good, or as strong, as all of us.”

## Welcoming Oneida's newest additions

### After several long months of waiting, OBI is proud owner of three new buses

It has been a long wait, but they finally arrived. I did not know how long six months could last. Though it was a long time ago, I still remember my wife being pregnant with our first child. Like all expectant parents, we were told it takes nine months for the baby to develop and eventually be born. That was more than 40 years ago and time does have a way of diluting our memories. But I do not remember that nine-month period lasting nearly as long as the past six.

Last September, I placed an order for three new full-sized school buses. At the time, I was told to expect them in December or January. In mid-December, I was told it would be January. In late January, I was told it would be February. February came and went. Finally, in mid-March I received a phone call that the three buses had arrived. Triplets, yeah!

Waiting six months for the buses to be “delivered” was nothing like waiting for our first child. When Kay gave me the news that she was pregnant forty-plus years ago, she said our baby would arrive in mid-August. He was born on August 12th—right on time. But the buses arrived nearly three months late. It’s a good thing our son did not arrive three months late.

This is the first time in our school’s history that we have purchased three new full-sized buses. We were blessed to be able to purchase four new 15-passenger buses in 2000 to replace our very old and much less safe 15-passenger vans. That also was a first. There had been growing criticism from safety officials about the use of the vans, especially to transport children. We spent

months trying to find good used buses, but we were only able to find old, well-worn buses. The board of directors quickly agreed to purchase the 15-passenger buses.

When we ordered those vehicles, we had four full-size buses that were purchased used years earlier. I knew in 2000 that the clock was ticking and we would have to eventually replace our big buses. I had every intention, however, of replacing them with good used buses again.

In early 2007, I began to look for replacements. I was especially concerned to find ones which met all of the Kentucky school bus safety requirements. This state has some of the most stringent requirements in the U.S. After months of looking, it became obvious that we would have to purchase new buses if safety were the priority.

As in 2000, the board quickly agreed to purchase new buses. With their blessing and the unbelievable response of hundreds of friends during the Christmas season, the buses are not only now here, but they are paid for as well.

The new buses won’t help us win more ball games or help our track and cross county teams run any faster. But when we arrive to compete, we will no longer have the oldest and rustiest buses on the lot. I often tried to park away from the other buses so people would not notice. Now I think we will park up front so everyone will know that Oneida Baptist Institute has buses just as nice and new as anyone else’s.

I want to thank all of our friends who made this possible. May God bless you all.

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

## Preparing spiritual food

### Culinary student now trains for different type of calling

As an 18 year old, first-year student Jonathan McCain thought he knew what direction the rest of his life would take.

“I have always liked to cook,” Jonathan said. “So I applied to culinary school before I graduated ...

and I got accepted. About two months before I was to start culinary school, I started having panic attacks and got really depressed. I just wasn’t at peace with what I thought was going to be my calling in life.

“I began to discuss my feelings with my parents and they suggested that maybe God was calling me to do something else,” he continued. “They told me to pray about my situation and see if God was calling me to go to Clear Creek and prepare for a calling to youth ministry.”

Jonathan’s father, Terry, is pastor of Mason Baptist Church in Williamstown and is currently attending Clear Creek through our online program.

“I prayed about my situation that night,” Jonathan recalled. “The next morning I had a peace that God was calling me to go to Clear Creek. So now here I am studying to-

ward a bachelor’s degree in church ministries.

“I love working with youth,” he added. “I understand them more and am able to communicate with them. ... I got into a concert band in fifth grade and have been playing the trumpet and tuba since then.

“My mom directs the choir at our church and I get to help her with that. On Sunday nights, I sometimes get to lead the worship myself.”

Jonathan also has found new friends in his short time at Clear Creek. “I love living in Kelly Hall, the single-male dorm,” he noted. “It was really hard for me to make friends in the past because we moved around

so much. Now I have made a lot of friends who are really interested in getting to know me.

“My favorite class so far is recreation and sports ministry,” Jonathan added. “I like how it trains us to minister to people through sports programs at the church.”

And that is just what Jonathan needs as he now trains to prepare spiritual food.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

## Baptists active following raid on Texas polygamist sect

**Eldorado, Texas (ABP)**—A raid on a polygamist Mormon splinter group in rural Texas has resulted in Baptists helping hundreds of children seized from the sect's compound on suspicion of abuse.

As of April 9, state officials had removed 416 children from the Yearning for Zion Ranch near Eldorado, Texas. They were accompanied by 139 adult women who voluntarily left the compound.

Texas Baptist churches, agencies and missions organizations have responded by offering ministry to the relocated—and sometimes traumatized—former residents of the compound, owned by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

First Baptist Church of Eldorado was one of the first institutions involved, making its facilities available to house between 70 and 80 women and children removed in the first wave of the raid April 4-6.

The church also allowed state agencies to use two 25-seat church buses to transport more than 180 women and children from the 1,619-acre compound to the church building and to another shelter at the

town's civic center.

Until the women and children were relocated to the nearby city of San Angelo, Community Baptist Church in Eldorado—along with local Methodist and Church of Christ congregations—provided food and volunteers to serve meals at the two shelters.

Once the children were in San Angelo, Baptist Child and Family Services took the lead role in the massive, multi-site shelter operation there.

Officials with the San Antonio-based agency and its incident-management team supervised the shelters in San Angelo at the request of the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management. By April 8, seven shelters were operating on the grounds of Fort Concho—a historic frontier outpost—and another shelter several miles away.

Fifty Baptist Child and Family Services staff members served onsite at the San Angelo shelters, working 12-to-16-hour shifts, and the agency spent about \$200,000 on the effort.

The organization also provided a mobile food-service unit in San Angelo, staffed by Texas Baptist Men disaster relief volunteers.

"We are in San Angelo purely and simply to take care of women and children," said Baptist Child and Family Services President Kevin Dinnan, who was named onsite incident commander for the shelters.

"We were not part of the circumstances that brought them here and have no input in what will happen in the future," he added. "We're here to make sure they have safe, clean places to sleep, access to medical care, healthy food and people who care about them."

Shelter operations are complicated by the group's religious beliefs, officials with Dinnan's organization noted. FLDS adherents eat only organic, non-processed foods and do not allow their children to play with certain toys.

Cultural briefings for state investigators and caseworkers, quoting individuals who have left the FLDS group, warned that the color red is offensive to members since it represents evil. Another explanation is that the color is reserved for Jesus, since sect members believe Christ will wear a red cloak when he returns to usher in the apocalypse.

Buckner International President



Ken Hall affirmed Baptists across the state for demonstrating a great willingness to offer their services in support of the displaced women and children from the ranch.

"This situation is a good example of how Texas Baptist ministries have made themselves available ... to serve the needs of these children," Hall said. "This is a testimony to how sister groups like Buckner, Baptist Child & Family Services and Texas Baptist Men have been there to serve the needs of the local church, which in this case has served as a fantastic first-responder."

### UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Women and children taken from the FLDS ranch in Eldorado, Texas, stand outside their shelter nearby San Angelo. Texas Baptist Child & Family Services is helping coordinate their care at the request of state officials. (ABP photo by Craig Bird)

## Group urges Olympics boycott

**Washington (RNS)**—A federal religious freedom watchdog panel has urged President Bush to boycott the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics unless "there is substantial improvement" in China's treatment of Tibet.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said China must open "direct and concrete talks" with the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual and political leader of Tibetan Buddhism, before Bush attends the opening ceremonies.

If those talks do not occur, the nine-member commission called on Bush to first visit the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, and urged Bush to request a meeting with Chinese political prisoners or dissidents during his visit.

Tensions flared last month between Tibetans and Chinese forces after peaceful protests against Chinese control grew violent. On April 6, the Dalai Lama called the recent

violence the result of "pent-up physical and mental anguish of the Tibetans and the feelings of deep resentment against the suppression of the rights of Tibetan people."

The idea of boycotting the opening ceremonies has been suggested by some Democratic leaders, but White House spokesman Tony Fratto has told reporters Bush still plans to attend.

The panel called on China to end "patriotic education" programs of Tibetan monks, allow expressions of devotion to the Dalai Lama and repeal laws that say Beijing must approve new lamas.

"Religious freedom cannot be ensured without recognizing the authority of the Dalai Lama, his centrality to the beliefs of Tibetan Buddhists, and their steadfast loyalty to his leadership despite severe restrictions," panel chairman Michael Cromartie said.

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Supreme Court to hear religious monuments case.** The U.S. Supreme Court decided March 31 to review the case of a 33-year-old religious organization that wants to have its tenets posted in a Utah municipal park near a monument of the Ten Commandments. The justices will consider the case of Pleasant Grove City v. Summum after the Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the city should erect the church's "Seven Aphorisms" monument. The church was incorporated in 1975. According to its Web site, Moses received the "aphorisms that outlined principles underlying Creation and all of nature" during one trip to Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments on a second trip to the mountain.

**Copeland, Dollar fail to meet deadline.** Two television ministries still are refusing to comply fully with a U.S. Senate committee's probe into their financial records. Televangelists Kenneth Copeland and Creflo Dollar failed to provide the requested information by the March 31 deadline, according to a statement from Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, the minority leader on the Finance Committee. Grassley had asked Copeland and Dollar to submit the documentation he is seeking by the end of March. Grassley said he would continue his dialogue with both ministries.

**Teacher resigns over role in TV program.** Kent Dobson, a Bible scholar and son of a prominent evangelical pastor, resigned from his teaching job at a Christian school over his role in a Discovery Channel program, "Jesus: The Missing History." Dobson resigned from his job at North-Pointe Christian High School in Grand Rapids, Mich., after it "was apparent to both Kent and the board that some of the views expressed on the program were outside of the Statement of Faith of NorthPointe Christian and therefore his resignation was given and accepted," the school's superintendent, Jim Hofman said in a statement. Dobson is the son of Ed Dobson, former leader of the now-defunct Moral Majority.

**Survey: Journalists admit liberal leanings.** Just 6 percent of national journalists describe themselves as conservative, compared with 36 percent of the overall population, according to an annual survey released in March by the Pew Reach

Center for the People and the Press. The State of the Media report said 2 percent of the journalists and news executives surveyed consider themselves very conservative, while 53 percent of national journalists described themselves as moderate, 24 percent as liberal and 8 percent as very liberal. Overall, only 8 percent of journalists at national media outlets said they attend church or synagogue weekly. Almost two-thirds of the journalists in the survey admitted that their political leanings impact their reporting.

**NCC projects big costs due to global warming.** Global warming may force faith organizations to significantly increase spending on humanitarian efforts—including refugee resettlement, feeding the hungry and disaster relief—according to a new study by the National Council of Churches. More financial resources and volunteer services will be needed due to global climate change, which is expected to increase the lack of food, shelter and water available, especially among the poor, the study noted. Also, in order to maintain current service levels, churches will need to double their spending on food security in developing countries and increase funding for hurricane disaster relief by more than 40 percent, according to the report.

**Ministry launches terrorist prayer campaign.** An Army Reserve chaplain has decided to do his part in the war on terror: He has co-founded an Internet ministry to pray for terrorists. "Adopt a Terrorist for Prayer" was launched in March and features a catalog of photos of people designated by the FBI or the State Department as participants in or sponsors of terrorism. "In a sense, it's a spiritual conflict and we're not using spiritual resources," said Thomas Bruce, a co-founder and spokesman for the ministry at www.myatfp.com. "I felt that the church of Jesus Christ was not engaged." Bruce, whose ministry is based in Colorado Springs, Colo., said he was inspired to start the effort after attending a conference of Christian military ministries last year. "If they start converting, as did the Apostle Paul, then terrorism as a strategy for advancing militant Islam will fail and the whole world will know something spectacular about the one true God," he says in a video posted on YouTube. Bruce said he has received mostly positive reactions to the project.

## IN RECOGNITION

### of Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders

The 2008 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.



We Need Your Help To Gather the Following Information:

- Full name of deceased
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
- Name of church where member, association, state where located
- Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before August 29 to:



Executive Office  
PO Box 43433, Louisville KY 40253-0433  
ATTN: Wanda Karolyi  
e-mail address:  
Wanda.Karolyi@kybaptist.org

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for residents of Piauí state in Brazil where recent floods and mudslides have forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

■ Pray for partnership missions fact-finding teams that are preparing to travel to Tanzania in May.

■ Pray for those volunteers participating with the evangelism project in Brazil in June.

■ Pray for the ongoing search for missions awareness trainers to work throughout Kentucky.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI  
COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Diana Reis recently retired after 30 years as secretary of Main Street Church.

■ **BURLINGTON**—Bellevue Church will hold revival services April 18-19, 7 p.m.; April 20, 8:45 & 11 a.m., and 7 p.m., with **Phil Ellis**, pastor of First Church of Jamestown, as evangelist. **Frank Merrill** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will hold revival services April 18-19, 7 p.m.; April 20, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with **Lincoln Bingham**, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Church in Louisville, as evangelist. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cedar Grove Church will hold revival services April 16-19, 7 p.m.; April 20, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with **Danny Laster** as evangelist. **Gerald Jones** is pastor.

■ **CUMBERLAND**—Cumberland Missionary Church will hold revival services April 23-25, with **Dave Hammond**, pastor of Faith Church in Myra, as evangelist. **Dennis Williams** is pastor.

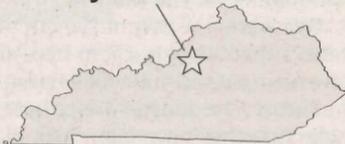
■ **DEMOSVILLE**—Unity Church will hold revival services April 20, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; April 21-24, 7 p.m., with **Scotty McDowell** as evangelist. **Bobby Barnes** is pastor.

■ **EARLINGTON**—Suthards Church will hold revival services April 20, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; April 21-23, 7 p.m., with **Bob Morrison** as evangelist. **George Brooks** is pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—Muldraugh Hill Church will hold revival services April 20-23, 7 p.m., with **Buddy Crabtree**, pastor of First Church of Russellville, as evangelist. **Victor Stansbury** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

## Shelbyville



The Women of Worth ministry of Highland Church will host its annual Women's Spring Conference April 18-19, titled "Simplify to Serve—How Can We Simplify Our Lives to Better Serve Christ?" **Debbie Robbins** will serve as keynote speaker. For more information, contact **Marta Elcessor** at [wowhbc@aol.com](mailto:wowhbc@aol.com) or call (502) 633-3516.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will hold its annual Youth Rally April 19, 6:30 p.m. Pastor **Matthew Perry** will speak and **Colt Harrington** will lead worship. For more information, visit [www.boonescreekchurch.com/youthrally](http://www.boonescreekchurch.com/youthrally).

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Jerry Rankin**, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, will speak at Westport Road Church April 20, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., and at Beechmont Church, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Westport Road Church at (502) 425-2350, or Beechmont Church at (502) 368-5806.

■ **MONTICELLO**—New Salem Church will hold revival services April 20-23, with **Billy Howell** as evangelist. **Greg Haynes** is pastor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

17 Assimilation Tour, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.

17 Iron Sharpening Iron, My Old Kentucky Home State Park, Bardstown.

18-19 4:00, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

18-19 Exalt, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

18-20 All State Children's Choir, Cedarmore Conference Center.

21 Senior Living Celebration, Northside Baptist Church, Princeton.

21 Iron Sharpening Iron, Moonlite Bar-B-Q restaurant, Owensboro.

21-22 Developing & Managing People, Baptist Building, Louisville.

22 Assimilation Tour, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.

22 Senior Living Celebration, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

24 Iron Sharpening Iron, Baptist Building, Louisville.

24 Senior Living Celebration, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

24-25 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

24-26 Ministers in Transition, Hawthorne Hotel, Louisville.

25 Children's Bible Drill, Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland, and Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

25-26 Literacy Missions Conference, Cumberland Inn, Williamsburg.

25-26 Women's Missionary Union Resource Team Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.

25-27 All State Children's Choir-West, Jonathan Creek Conference Center.

26 Children's Bible Drill, Saint Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

27-May 3 MissionsFEST, Boone's Creek Baptist Association.

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

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Highland Church will hold revival services April 20-23, with **Scott Ogle**, associate pastor at Pleasant Valley North Church in Rome, Ga., as evangelist. **Gary Elcessor** is pastor.

■ **WACO**—Waco Church will hold revival services April 20-24, 6:45 p.m., with **Wayne Spivey**, pastor of Cynthia Church, as evangelist April 20; **Joey Kays**, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Berea, as evangelist April 21-22; and **Ed Hubbard**, pastor of White Lick Church in Berea, as evangelist April 23-24. **Fred Livin-**

good is pastor.

■ **WALLINGFORD**—Foxport Church will hold revival services April 16-19, with **Doug Brown** and **Wess Cooper** as evangelists. **Carl Hall** is pastor.

## What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. E-mail: [drew.nichter@kybaptist.org](mailto:drew.nichter@kybaptist.org)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**PARTNERSHIP:** Mega-church campus in Florida seeks to partner with church or individuals to help plant new church or campus in the Louisville, Lexington or northern Kentucky area. Financial and staff assistance with the new work is possible. If God is leading you in this direction, please contact us at [pastorncs@aol.com](mailto:pastorncs@aol.com).

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Fayette and Haywood Baptist associations (serve both together). These rural associations have 32 churches between and are looking for someone who feels called to associational work. Send resumé to Fayette Baptist Association, 12975 Hwy 64, Somerville, TN 38068.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor, Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Requirements: graduate of seminary, divinity school or Bible college; minimum 5 years pastoral experience; able to work with multi-staff, leadership council and deacons consisting of men and women. Congregation of 500 with 200-250 average attendance. Find more information about our church at [www.rosemontbc.net](http://www.rosemontbc.net). Send resumé to Rosemont Baptist Church, 556 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503, Attn: Pete Barker.

**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:** Worship pastor. Historic First Baptist Church of Somerset, Ky., will begin new contemporary worship services this fall in a newly renovated worship center. These new worship opportunities will complement the existing traditional worship services that are vibrant and growing. The church is seeking a dynamic worship pastor for the contemporary worship services only. The ideal candidate would have experience in leading worship, developing a praise band, being a team player, and connecting with the community. Interested candidates should submit a resumé, DVD that presents their giftedness, and a cover letter indicating their interest. The church will provide excellent compensation and benefits including annuity, health and life insurances. Those interested, please submit your information by June 1 to: Dr. French Harmon, senior pastor, First Baptist Church of Somerset, 128 North Main St., Somerset, KY 42501.

**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:** Full-time minister to students. Very good position for recent college graduate—emphasis on youth grades 7-12, but includes ministry to all students. Please send resumé to: Jamestown First Baptist Church, PO Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629, Attn: Personnel Team.

**SEEKING:** Pianist (contemporary and traditional). Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings and evenings. Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Personnel Committee. M. Hughes, (502) 223-7166; Office [@evergreenbaptistchurch.us](mailto:@evergreenbaptistchurch.us).

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Lancaster Baptist Church, a rapidly growing Southern Baptist church near Lexington (average Sunday attendance: 500), ministering to a congregation of all ages with strong participation of young adults. LBC seeks a pastor to lead the church in glorifying God by obediently making and equipping fully devoted followers of Christ in Central Kentucky and throughout the world, by the power of the Spirit. Please submit resumé to LBC Pastor Search Team, 201 Richmond St., Lancaster, KY 40444.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor for First Baptist Church, East Bernstadt, located one hour south of Lexington near London, Ky. If the Lord is leading you in this direction, send cover letter, resumé and salary history to Associate Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 266, East Bernstadt, KY 40729.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister/director for Baptist church in Beechmont neighborhood (Louisville); Sunday and Wednesday services; adult and children's choirs. Please contact Beechmont Baptist Church, (502) 368-5806.

**SEEKING:** Director of children's ministries. Brand new children's center and an exciting new direction in children's ministry. 252 Basics Curriculum. Send resumé to: Pastor, Clarksburg Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Clarksburg, WV 26302.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Providence Baptist, a rural community church near Campbellsburg, Ky. (160 average morning attendance). Please call (502) 532-6141, or send resumé to [johnmarkandleslie@netzero.net](mailto:johnmarkandleslie@netzero.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister. If interested, please send resumé to Great Crossing Baptist Church, 1061 Stamping Ground Road, Georgetown, KY 40324.

**SERVICES:** Relocating? Let the professionals at Apex & Robert E. Lee take care of the move for you. Call (800) 766-1902; or e-mail [janet.jones@apex-moving.net](mailto:janet.jones@apex-moving.net).

**TOURS:** Holy Land pilgrimage, Nov. 12-21. Deluxe hotels; 2 buffet meals per day; all entrance fees; r/ trip air from Nashville or Atlanta only \$2,479. Contact Pastor Jack Studie for a color brochure: (270) 475-2197; or [jstudie@aol.com](mailto:jstudie@aol.com). We offer experience you can trust—our 16th tour to Israel.

# Stein challenges foes of intelligent design in 'Expelled'

By Michael Foust  
Baptist Press

**Beverly Hills, Calif. (BP)**—Actor, commentator and comedian Ben Stein promises he has not lost his mind. Well, he says with his famous dry monotone humor, at least not in this instance.

On the contrary, Stein—whose documentary film "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed" opens April 18—said he believes he is involved in one of the leading cultural and political battles of his life: The fight for academic freedom against an establishment that teaches Darwinian evolution as fact. Intelligent design—the belief that certain aspects of the world are so complex that they must have been created by an intelligent being, instead of by a random process—deserves a place at the academic table, he insists.

"I think I'm engaged in a struggle that's very much uphill in which the establishment is very much against me," he said during a recent conference call with reporters. "But I'm a rebel to my core ... and happy to be in an uphill struggle, as long as the cause is right."

Obviously, conservatives and supporters of intelligent design do not believe Stein has lost his mind. Rather, they believe "Expelled" has a chance to dramatically change the landscape in the ongoing struggle between evolution and intelligent design.

## Making his case

In the film, Stein travels the globe, interviewing scientists, philosophers and doctors who believe in evolution and those who believe in intelligent design. In case after case, Stein recalls the story of ID supporters who lost their jobs or could not get tenure because of their supposed controversial beliefs.

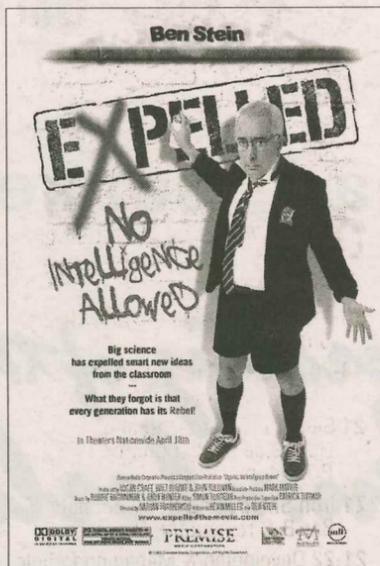
The documentary, rated PG for thematic material and very brief language, ends in a climactic scene with Stein interviewing one of the world's leading backers of evolution, atheist author Richard Dawkins.

Stein's humor is on display throughout the film, although supporters of evolution likely will not find it too funny. Christian conservative leaders support the film, which was screened at the recent National Religious Broadcasters meeting.

ID supporters, the film emphasizes, are facing staunch opposition in the academic world, in the media and in the courts.

"The case we're making," associate producer Mark Mathis explained, "is that there needs to be freedom in science; that we have highly qualified scientists who are being persecuted for unscientific reasons (and) are being driven (away) by a philosophy. That is the core content of the film—the persecution of scientists needs to stop."

A secondary theme is that evolution, taken to the extreme, can have deadly consequences. In one part of the documentary that likely will stir controversy, Stein tours a Jewish concentration camp and interviews an expert who argues that evolution was a contributing factor to the Holocaust. For Stein, who is Jewish, the moment was personal.



**INTELLIGENT DEBATE** In his new movie, "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed," actor and political commentator Ben Stein argues that intelligent design deserves a place in an academic world that largely teaches Darwinian evolution as fact. The film opens nationwide April 18.

Some critics will say the documentary unfairly links evolution to the Holocaust, but Stein said he believes the film showed restraint. One person in the film remarked that evolution was a necessary, but not sufficient, cause of the Holocaust.

"If I had my way about this movie—which I didn't, because I was not one of the producers—I would have had much more of it (be) about Nazi Germany," Stein noted. "The unequivocal nature of the evidence that Darwinism had a big part to play in rationalizing the Holocaust for the Nazis is so painful and so horrible that I think we touched on extreme, extreme restraint."

The film, Stein stressed, does not equate evolutionists with Nazis.

"What we're saying is that the Nazis thought they were carrying out Darwinian ideas in the sense of eliminating inferior races and making mankind healthy and so forth."

Although the Nazi element might get the media's spotlight, the majority of the documentary focuses on the ongoing fight for academic freedom by supporters of intelligent design.

## Intelligent design proponents

Stein interviews, among others, Guillermo Gonzalez, a supporter of ID and an astronomy professor at Iowa State University who was denied tenure, as well as Caroline Crocker, a biology teacher at George Mason University, who was forced out because she questioned Darwinian evolution and introduced intelligent design in the classroom.

Stein also speaks with Richard Sternberg, a biologist who was ridiculed and harassed by his peers at the Smithsonian Institution for allowing the publishing of a pro-intelligent design paper in an academic journal. Sternberg's plight received national attention in 2005-2006 and even led to a congressional investigation that found top officials had desired to make Sternberg's life at the museum as difficult as possible and encourage him to leave.

Stein also interviews Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary philosophy professor William Demb-

ski, one of the nation's leading supporters of intelligent design.

Getting involved in the project, Stein remarked, was not a difficult decision.

"I was always interested in Darwinism because I never thought it gave a particularly coherent explanation of how life originated and developed," he said. "I also was extremely concerned about the social implications of Darwinism and the moral, ethical and human costs of Darwinism."

As he became further involved in the project, Stein noted that he also began to see it as a free-speech issue.

In addition to Dawkins, the film includes interviews of several prominent backers of evolution, including atheist PZ Myers, a biologist at the University of Minnesota Morris, and Eugenie Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education.

Some of the pro-evolution scientists and philosophers in the film have claimed the interviews were conducted under false pretenses—a claim Stein and the producers reject. Mathis said he contacted each person, telling him or her they were working on a film about the cultural intersection of evolution, religion and intelligent design.

They were told, "You, Mr. or Mrs. Scientist, are an outspoken person on this topic. Would you like to do an interview with us on this film? And you'll be paid." And they said, "Sure, we'd love to," because they do this sort of thing all the time," Mathis noted.

In some instances, he explained, questions were sent in advance. After the interview was done, the person signed a form giving the producers the rights to use the footage as

they deemed necessary. Those who believe in evolution, Mathis said, are given ample time in the film to explain their position.

"We think we were very above board with them," Mathis maintained. "The people who want to attack the film are raising some issues that are really kind of irrelevant issues ... and not addressing the content of the film."

## Stein vs. "Intelligentsia"

The content, Stein agreed, should be the focus. Asked how he could question Darwinian evolution when those in academic leadership say it has been established as fact, Stein gave one of his patented half-serious, half-joking answers.

"The intelligentsia often is wrong," he said in a serious tone. "I'd say they're wrong at least as often as they're right. We aim to show them that they're wrong again. We're sick of being pushed around by the intelligentsia."

He then added jokingly, "Even though I am one of the intelligentsia, we don't like to be pushed around; we don't like to be pushed around by other members of the intelligentsia, and I don't even like pushing myself around."

Mathis insisted that the "biggest part" of the debate over evolution is not about science but a worldview.

"If you acknowledge this idea that design can be detected scientifically in the universe, then you open up the door to saying, 'Maybe this atheistic view isn't true,' (and) the entire worldview of people who are atheists crashes down around them," Mathis said. "This is a foundational concept for people who believe this way. So they defend it with incredible vigor."

## Southern students give 'Expelled' two thumbs up

**Louisville (BP)**—Some 200 students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville recently got a free sneak preview of the upcoming documentary "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed," giving the new film high marks.

"Expelled" documents the hold that Darwinian evolution has on contemporary science, particularly as it exists within major research universities. The documentary's on-screen host, Ben Stein, shows how even the slightest departure from the Darwinian party line in favor of alternate theories of human origins, such as intelligent design, often brings swift academic and personal discredit.

"One of the great strengths was the candid interviews it had with many atheists," said James Parker, professor of worldview and culture at the seminary. "For example, (evolutionist) William Provine went down the list of implications of atheism. ... His candidness was shocking and appalling in one sense, but in another sense, it was great because it gave you a feeling for the implications of atheism."

Callie Nolen, a master of arts student from Mount Juliet, Tenn., said "Expelled" challenged her to a deeper study of the Christian worldview and its chief competitor.

"This film deeply moved me," Nolen remarked. "The global implications of the Darwinist worldview presented in the movie shocked me regarding its gross devaluing of human life and confronted the subtle prejudices of my own heart. I came away challenged to study in more arenas of science and to add my voice to those challenging the Darwinist grip on science academia."

David Schrock, a master of divinity student from Mendon, Mich., said the film clearly demonstrates the worldview thinking present within the enterprise of science—which makes science an important venue for Christian influence.

"Ironically, Stein points out that science is as much a worldview-shaping belief system as any major religion, Christianity or otherwise," Schrock noted. "Stein not only exposes the academic elitism of the modern academy and their slanted unwillingness to admit theories that propose design, no matter how anonymous the designer may be, (but) he also extends the argument to include the social and political ramifications that this kind of worldview fosters and has historically created."

Courtney Tarter, a master of divinity student from Minneapolis, Minn., said the movie helped her understand more clearly the arguments made by evolutionists and reminded her of the importance of being able to engage cultural issues biblically.

"My initial impression of the movie was sadness, especially when I heard Richard Dawkins talk about the ignorance of those who believe in intelligent design and Christianity," Tarter noted. "It made me realize that the god of this world really has blinded the minds of people to think that God is only for the ignorant. It gave me a greater desire to see people come to Christ and to know the God who created them. ... As Christians, it is so important for us to know the arguments, to engage with those opposed to us, but most importantly to know and believe our Bibles."

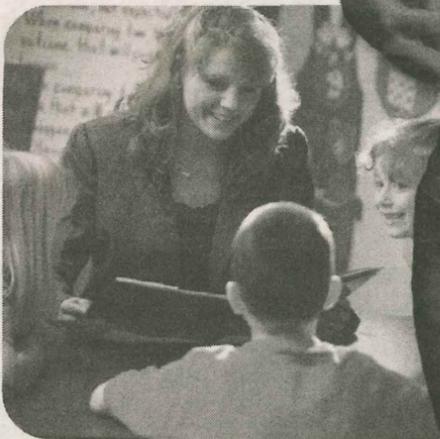
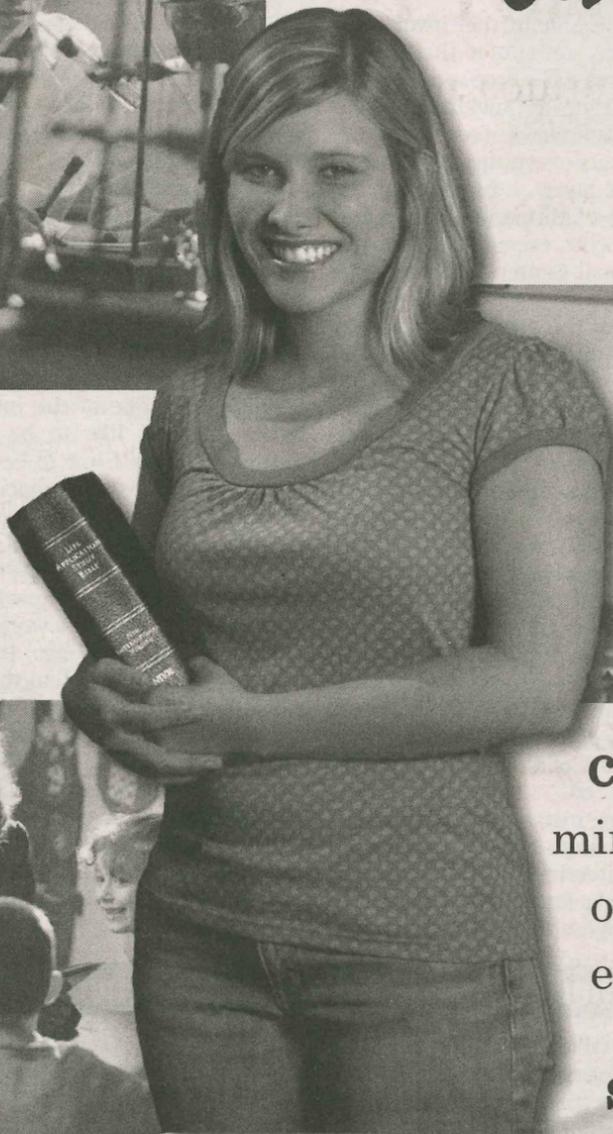
*"The case we're making is that there needs to be freedom in science; that we have highly qualified scientists who are being persecuted for unscientific reasons (and) are being driven (away) by a philosophy."*

Mark Mathis, associate producer of the film "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed."

# aspire

to lead, serve, grow

*University of the  
Cumberlands*



**choose** from more than 40 majors, minors and pre-professional programs or opt for our 100% online advanced education degrees and certifications

**study abroad** in China, England, France, Spain or South Korea

**participate** in one of our 20 sports programs

**serve** in a missions or community outreach program

**Call (800) 343-1609  
to schedule your visit today!**

**UNIVERSITY** of the  
**CUMBERLANDS**

www.ucumberlands.edu • Williamsburg, KY • (800) 343-1609

