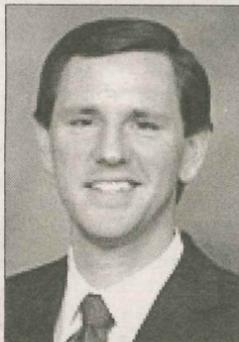


April 22, 2008  
Vol. 182, No. 17**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**  
Kentucky Baptist pastor Paul Chitwood is the new International Mission Board chairman. *Page 2.***Kentucky**  
Cooperative Program draws pastor back to the SBC. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**  
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Churches can find an ally in secular media. *Page 5.***Resources**  
McNeal encourages Kentucky Baptists to live intentionally. *Page 8.***Study: Americans' favorite book remains the Bible****Rochester, N.Y. (RNS)**—The Bible is the favorite book of all time for American adults, regardless of demographic group, according to a new 2008 Harris Interactive Poll.

Researchers said it is rare to find such consensus among Americans, regardless of gender, education level, geographic location, ethnicity or age. Yet, more than 2,500 Americans surveyed in an online poll agreed that the Bible is their No. 1 favorite book.

The poll also found that political affiliation did not affect novel preference—Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike agreed on the Bible and "Gone With the Wind" as their top two favorite books.

According to the survey, America's favorite books are:

1. the Bible
2. "Gone With the Wind," by Margaret Mitchell
3. "Lord of the Rings" (series), by J.R.R. Tolkien
4. "Harry Potter" (series), by J.K. Rowling
5. "The Stand," by Stephen King
6. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown
7. "To Kill a Mockingbird," by Harper Lee
8. "Angels and Demons," by Dan Brown
9. "Atlas Shrugged," by Ayn Rand
10. "Catcher in the Rye," by J.D. Salinger

**Expanding Upward****Churches taking sports ministry beyond basketball****By Ken Walker**  
*State Correspondent***Paducah**—Although Olivet Baptist Church has not been active in Upward basketball, this spring it has joined a growing roster of churches offering other sports through the evangelistic youth program.

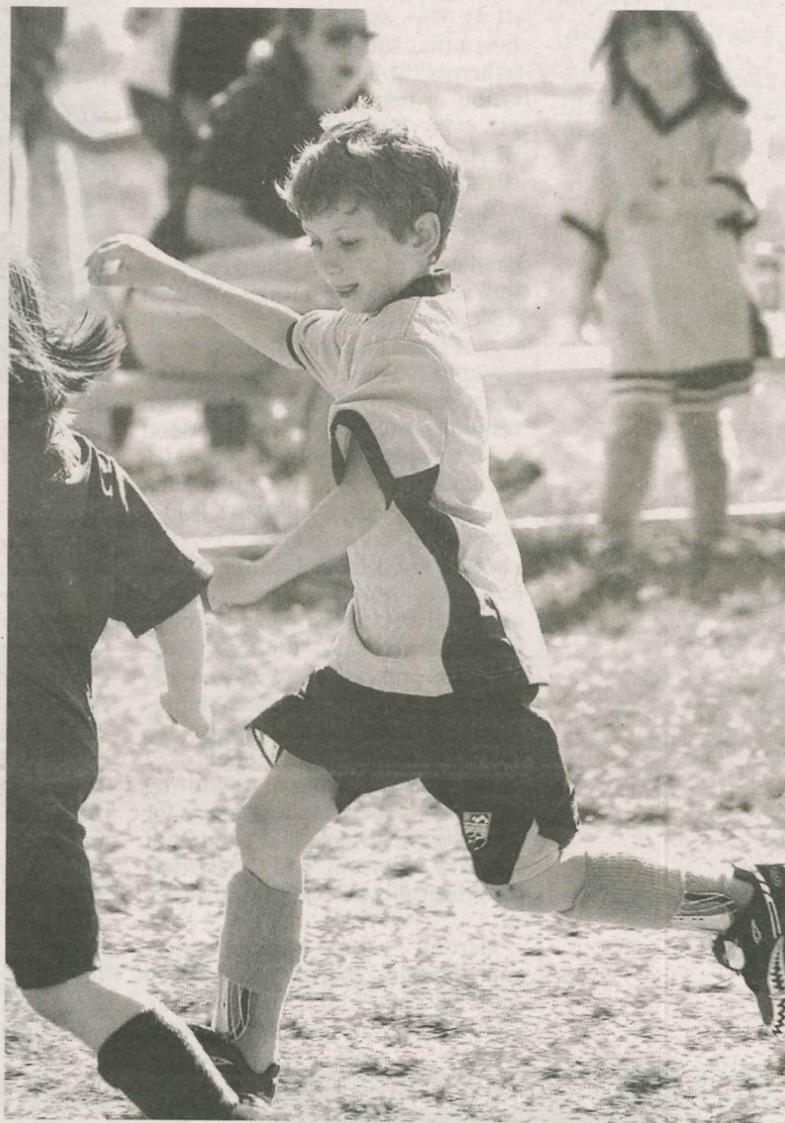
While Olivet is only the second Kentucky Baptist church—and third in the state—to offer Upward soccer, within the organization the sport is growing rapidly.

It now ranks second to basketball, with more than 64,000 participants and 10,000 coaches in 436 programs for 2007-2008, according to Upward Unlimited.

Olivet Baptist Pastor Skip Parsons became interested in soccer after his son played in a basketball league sponsored by Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah.

"We're not capable of doing basketball which is a matter of having a gym," Parsons acknowledged. "I saw what an opportunity it was to minister to the unchurched in our community, as well as our own kids."

Games on Olivet's field began March 22, with 81 children in kindergarten through sixth grade competing on 14 teams. The season will conclude with an awards banquet May 19.

Chris Prescott, Olivet's youth and activities minister, directs the league. Despite a lack of soccer ex-  
□ See Upward ministry ... *Page 6***TAKING AIM** A young competitor at Lone Oak First Baptist Church's Upward soccer ministry prepares to kick the ball. The Paducah church reports 81 children have participated in the league this year. (Photo courtesy of Bob Martin)**In New Orleans, joy abounds as Franklin Avenue returns home****By Karen Willoughby**  
*Baptist Press***New Orleans (BP)**—Once again, members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans are worshipping together in their own church facility.

"We're baaaaaack, y'all!" pastor Fred Luter Jr. exulted April 6 as the congregation displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 exploded in applause.

The 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. services were standing room only in the fan-shaped worship center, a design identical to its pre-Katrina facility. People gathered in side rooms watching closed-circuit television; others filled the foyer and spilled out onto the sidewalk. Church leaders estimated more than 4,000 people attended.

Luter's wife, Elizabeth, welcomed people to the service. "We are now, more than ever before, a people with purpose," she said, referencing Isaiah 62:10. "Franklin Avenue will be known as a desirable place."

**FROM DISASTER TO DANCING** Fred Luter Jr., pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, preached from Habbakuk during the church's first worship services at its renovated facilities since Hurricane Katrina.

The Luters' home flooded following Katrina. They relocated to Birmingham, Ala., to live with their daughter. In the months and years following the disaster, Luter traveled to New Orleans and also to Houston, Baton Rouge, La., Baltimore and Memphis, Tenn., ministering to his

scattered flock.

At the inaugural service Luter stood at the same oak pulpit where he has preached since 1986. Virtually every statement the pastor made was echoed with the congregation's exuberant approval.

Everybody has foes and Hurricane Katrina was a formidable foe, Luter said, preaching from the Old Testament book of Habbakuk.

"What can be said about the worst natural disaster in the history of our nation and how that disaster affected so many of us? ... We've been affected ... but now that you're back in your own pews ... our disaster has turned into dancing."

Habbakuk, Luter pointed out, could have put his faith in figs, grapes, olives, sheep or cattle, but instead, he was unwavering in his faith in God.

"His faith didn't depend on what he expected from God, but on God Himself," Luter preached. "Our faith is tested when things are not going well."

Both services included recognition of First Baptist Church of New Orleans, the congregation that provided a home for Franklin Avenue's worship services since September 2005. David Crosby, First Baptist's pastor, and Luter shared a private word and a bear hug that left both of them wiping tears from their eyes.

"In 36 years of ministry," Crosby said, "this has been the greatest thing in my ministry. ... One thing Katrina taught me is that there is only one race, the human race"—to which the Franklin Avenue congregation expressed their enthusiastic agreement. "Maybe this happened so we could get some things straightened out."

Alexander Berkley was one of about 30 people who joined the church April 6. He had been regularly attending the services at First Baptist Church with his wife, Brenda, he said, but waited to join until the congregation was back home.

"Coming back home is a special moment," he declared.

## Kentucky pastor tapped as IMB board chairman

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

**Dallas (BP)**—Kentucky Baptist pastor Paul Chitwood is the newest chairman of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington and former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was elected to the post at IMB trustees' April 7-9 meeting in Dallas.

At the meeting, IMB trustees heard that Southern Baptist churches across the country are catching a vision of taking the gospel to people who have never heard—even when there is no missionary to help them.

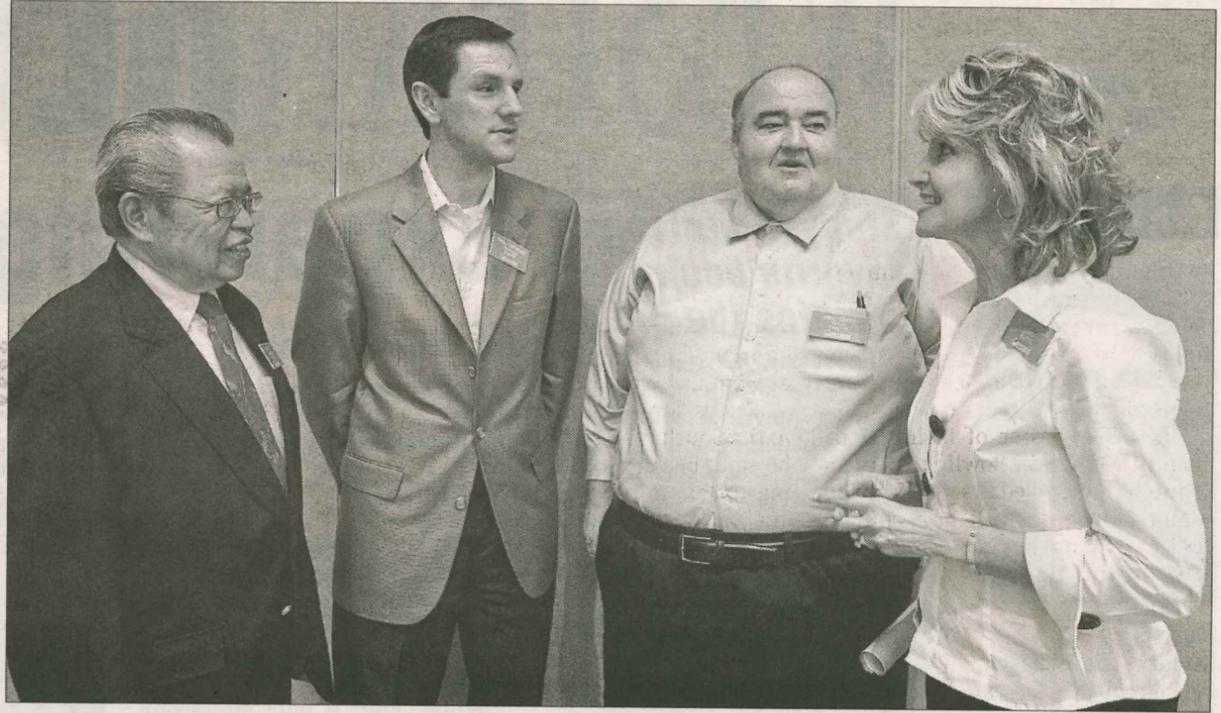
In the past two years, about 125 congregations have accepted the challenge of taking the gospel to unreached people groups in West Africa.

Bartlett Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn., is one of many churches nationwide that has taken responsibility for getting the Good News to a people group in West Africa that has no long-term missionary, said Randy Arnett, the IMB's leader for work in that region.

"In 2004, I looked at our region and asked how we were going to reach all the micro people groups there," Arnett said. "I looked at the numbers and saw there was no way we were going to put missionaries with all those people groups. We just didn't have the personnel."

Arnett's team began recruiting churches to develop a strategy for those people groups that would not hear any other way, and the Bartlett congregation was one that responded.

Bartlett pastor Michael Priest and missions chairman Becky Babcock led the church to adopt the Vigie people group of Burkina Faso



**NEW LEADERSHIP** Newly elected IMB trustee officers are (from left) first vice chairman, Simon Tsoi of Phoenix.; chairman, Paul Chitwood of Mt. Washington; second vice chairman, Mike Smith of Jacksonville, Texas; and secretary, Debbie Brunson of Jacksonville, Fla. Chitwood is pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington and former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

and sent teams to West Africa several times to get acquainted with village leaders, Arnett said. They found no openness to the gospel until last December when four women from Bartlett gave up Christmas with their families to visit the Vigie. On Christmas Eve, the first Vigie woman accepted Christ.

"There has never ever, ever, ever been a Vigie who has stood before the throne and sang, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb,'" Arnett said. "Was there a missionary there leading that? No, (the Bartlett women) did it on their own."

Churches of all sizes are accepting the challenge of fulfilling the Great Commission themselves, Arnett said. In 2006, 15 congregations

agreed to take responsibility for West Africa people groups; in 2007 that number jumped to 86. In an early April summit meeting in Greenville, S.C., an additional 35 congregations signed on, bringing the current total number of churches focused on West Africa to about 125.

Southern Baptists have made tremendous strides in fielding new missionaries for service abroad, said Clyde Meador, the board's executive vice president, who brought the 2007 Field Personnel Report to the trustees. A lower-than-average attrition rate of 4.4 percent resulted in a net personnel gain of 163, bringing the total number of overseas workers to 5,271 at year's end.

Almost 80 percent of South-

ern Baptist overseas personnel are serving in long-term assignments, Meador noted, and, with the exception of 2000, the number of long-term missionaries has increased every year since 1993. A quarter of the long-term workers on the field at the end of 2007 were in their first term of service, and the number of short-term personnel overseas exceeded 1,000. The appointment of 92 new missionaries in an April 9 service at Sunnyvale First Baptist Church near Dallas brought the current international missionary count to 5,318. Seven of the new appointees are Korean-Americans, part of a growing stream of new missionaries emerging from Korean churches in the U.S.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Fort Worth pastor steps down.** Brett Younger, the embattled pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, is stepping down to take a position at McAfee School of Theology on the campus of Mercer University in Georgia. Church members voted March 9 to retain Younger as pastor by a 68 percent to 32 percent margin.

**Criswell trustees lay rumor to rest.** A rumor that Criswell College, started in 1975 by First Baptist Church of Dallas, would become part of nearby Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was laid to rest by the school's trustees at their regularly scheduled board meeting April 10. As the college and church continue to discuss their future relationship some suggested that Criswell might become part of the seminary's undergraduate program. That apparently was the motivation for the Criswell College trustees' vote, which was without dissent, that the college would not become part of the seminary.

**Southeastern trustees approve new majors, names.** Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved changing the name of its flagship degree program, the bachelor of arts in biblical studies, to bachelor of arts in Christian studies. Additional majors will be offered in pastoral ministry and missions. Trustees also renamed the undergraduate school The College at Southeastern, replacing Southeastern College at Wake Forest.

**Seminary trustees OK \$10 million budget.** Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a \$10 million budget at their recent meeting. Seminary President Jeff Jorg reported that enrollment was up at the Southern California, Colorado and Arizona campuses.

## Samford scholarships benefit ministers-in-training

**Birmingham, Ala. (ABP)**—In what may be the first program of its kind, Samford University has created a pre-ministerial scholars program aimed at students who are called to full-time ministry in traditional, church-related positions.

The Birmingham-based school announced the program April 10. In a press release, school officials said the institution plans to offer the scholarships to as many as 50 students over the next several academic years.

The merit-based grants will begin at about \$11,000 annually per student, with the potential of increas-

ing to \$16,000 annually for scholars who meet certain academic criteria. Samford recently admitted 16 high school seniors to the program for the fall semester of 2008. This group will represent the first freshmen to be awarded the scholarships, which are available to students of any denomination. A trial run of the program last year provided scholarships to eight undergraduates already enrolled at the school.

James Barnette, a religion professor who directs Samford's ministerial-formation program, said scholarship recipients must meet certain academic standards and dem-

onstrate a clear calling to, and giftedness for, traditional ministerial roles.

The students must feel called to such positions as senior pastor, associate pastor, other local-church staff minister, non-medical career missionary, hospital chaplain, campus minister, pastoral counselor or religion professor.

"Just as there are pre-med, pre-law and pre-pharmacy programs, Samford wants to develop a pre-ministerial program that will train up the most capable ministers of tomorrow," Barnette said, according to the Samford release.

## More cutbacks expected at Texas Baptist convention

By Ken Camp  
Associated Baptist Press

**Dallas (ABP)**—According to a Baptist General Convention of Texas report, the group's anticipated 2008 income falls \$5.3 million short of budget, requiring cutbacks in spending and staffing for the second time in as many years.

The report calls on the executive board to provide greater financial oversight—particularly regarding the convention's use of investment assets, which have dropped about \$27 million in seven years.

"The BGCT has come to this point because we sought to sustain and even expand our ministry during a time of financial challenge," said the report, compiled by board members Fred Roach and Elizabeth Hanna. "In the newly reorganized board, it became evident that the process review and oversight of the budget and financial condition of the convention was inadequate."

The 2008 budget anticipated "higher levels of income than can reasonably be expected," the report said.

In response to the anticipated budget shortfall, six convention positions have been eliminated in a cost-cutting measure. BGCT leaders also expect additional staff cuts.

The budget called for an approximately 8.5 percent increase in Texas Cooperative Program giving—about \$3.4 million. Through March 31, actual receipts are running at just below 95 percent of budget and at 94 percent compared to last year's giving. Full details of the necessary cuts have yet to be determined, BGCT Executive Director Randel Everett said.

## Cooperative Program draws back pastor to SBC

By Erin Roach  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Bowling Green**—Although Jason Pettus is pastor of a church that is a consistent leader in giving to missions through the Cooperative Program, he said he did not always believe in the giving plan's effectiveness.

Instead, he said, it was only after he saw how the program enables churches of all sizes to combine resources and fund hundreds of worldwide missions efforts that he became the staunch supporter he is today.

Pettus is pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, a church that ranked first in CP giving among all Kentucky Baptist churches last year and has given more than \$4 million to support missions through the plan to date.

### Missing missions

Pettus said his appreciation of the Cooperative Program grew over time. He was not raised in a Christian home, so he had no exposure to CP until he was saved in a Southern Baptist church at age 15, he recalled. Even then, he thought the Cooperative Program only supported missionaries.

As an adult, Pettus served at an interdenominational church that did not participate in missions giving.

"It was a seeker-sensitive church and most of the resources were put into good things," he explained. "They were put into ministries and making the worship services and events that the church did very appealing to unchurched people. I was there just over five years and

I saw over 1,000 people saved and baptized." It was a church, though, that operated independently and focused its efforts on their community, neglecting the Acts 1:8 imperative to share the gospel regionally, nationally and globally, Pettus observed.

"We always told ourselves we were a mission so we didn't have to give to missions," he added. "I just didn't feel like that was good or right. It's not what I saw in the early church, not what I saw in Scripture as what a church did."

Pettus sensed a desire to return to the Southern Baptist Convention, he said, because of its stalwart giving to missions through the Cooperative Program and its clear doctrinal stances.

"Being a part of a church that was giving to something beyond itself was really important to me," he explained.

In 2001, Pettus accepted the position at Living Hope. At that time, he said he still believed the Cooperative Program was simply about giving to international missions.

"What I've come to realize now is that it's actually much bigger and better than that," Pettus explained. "It impacts our state and our nation. It provides educational resources for pastors and church leaders so that they can better equip the church for God's Kingdom service."

When he arrived at Living Hope, Pettus did not need to convince the membership that the Cooperative Program was a worthwhile venture. The Kentucky Baptist church has been a missions-minded congregation since its inception in 1976, he noted, and consistently has given at



Jason Pettus

least 10 percent of its undesignated receipts through CP. In 2007, Living Hope led the state in total CP dollars given, exceeding \$417,000.

In addition to the 10 percent Living Hope currently gives to CP, the church gives another 7 percent to associational and other missions causes. And Living Hope members are not only giving to missions, they are going on mission. This year, the church is sponsoring trips to Honduras, Costa Rica, Japan, West Africa, Scotland, and South and East Asia. Living Hope is planning mission trips to Cleveland, New Orleans, Oklahoma and the town of Lynch in Eastern Kentucky. It also undertakes missions projects in its neighborhood.

KBC churches can encourage members to give more through the Cooperative Program, Pettus said,

by taking advantage of educational and promotional materials produced by the SBC Executive Committee, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board. A variety of CP literature also is available through the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

He reminds Kentucky Baptists that their Cooperative Program money also helps support six Southern Baptist seminaries around the country.

"By and large, Southern Baptists are blessed and receive biblical preaching from pastors who have been trained at Southern Baptist seminaries," Pettus noted.

### Responsibilities must be met

"We are blessed to be a blessing, and if we are not going to be a blessing and to give financially to people around the world that we may never know the name of or never be able to actually give a verbal witness to, then we're not fulfilling the responsibility to be a blessing," Pettus said.

At its last annual meeting, the KBC approved a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$24 million for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The budget includes a \$1.3 million challenge target for a total CP goal of \$25.3 million.

The KBC forwards 36.7 percent of its Cooperative Program receipts to the Southern Baptist Convention. The Kentucky Baptist Mission Board uses another 36.2 percent for missions and to strengthen churches in Kentucky. The remaining 27.1 percent is allocated to Kentucky Baptist entities and Christian education.

**Cooperative Program "impacts our state and our nation. It provides educational resources for pastors and church leaders so that they can better equip the church for God's Kingdom service."**

Jason Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green

## Georgetown announces appointment of four board members

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Georgetown**—Georgetown College recently added four new members to its board, including the founder of a growing international diversity leadership summit.

Now serving as trustees on the 45-member board are Douglas Freeman of New York and Janice Shelton of Johnson City, Tenn. Serving as board fellows are James Barlow Sr. of Georgetown and Major Jemison of Oklahoma City.

Freeman is CEO and founder of Virtcom Consulting, a firm focused on solving global diversity management challenges. He has lead diversity conferences around the world, including the United Nations Global Compact/ILO Global Diversity Dialogue in London and the UN's International Women's Day Forum.

Four years ago Freeman founded the World Diversity Leadership Summit in Prague, Czech Republic. Last year's event was held at the United Nations and included a CEO roundtable with heads of Proctor & Gamble, HSBC Holdings, Major League Baseball and other entities. Georgetown College President Bill Crouch also spoke at the 2007 summit.

Freeman is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The last few years, Crouch has fo-



Douglas Freeman



Janice Shelton



Jim Barlow



Major Jemison

cused much of his efforts on increasing racial diversity at the Scott County college.

"The world's changed and we live in a very diverse place," Crouch said. "Educationally you have to teach people about diversity and the best way is for them to experience it."

Crouch said of the 1,300 undergraduates currently enrolled, approximately 7 percent are "people of color. ... Our goal is to get that to 17 percent over the next five to 10 years."

In the past two years Georgetown also has welcomed new African-American and Hispanic faculty to campus.

A retired East Tennessee State University administrator and professor, Janice Shelton is an alumna of Georgetown College, the University of Kentucky and University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She currently is director of senior adults at Central Baptist Church in Johnson City. Shelton served Georgetown's board of trustees from 1998 to 2005 and was chair from 2003-2005.

Jim Barlow, a Georgetown native and member of Georgetown Baptist Church, is CEO of Barlow Homes, Inc. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and has been active in numerous civic, community and professional organizations. He divides his time between homes in Georgetown and Naples, Fla.

Major Jemison, senior pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, is immediate past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. He is a graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Jemison also is a graduate of the now-closed Bishop College in Dallas, a school that produced other prominent African-American ministers and drew great admiration from Crouch. Last year Georgetown launched a scholarship program for African-American students related to, or recommended by, Bishop alumni. Currently there are five

Bishop Scholars on campus.

The diversity effort at Georgetown has not come without controversy. Crouch acknowledged that rumors circulated that African-American students were receiving more scholarship monies than Anglo students. He denied the accusation and said the administration responded to the rumors by meeting with students and explaining the goals of the diversity initiative.

"For there ever to be constructive change, it has to begin with conversation," Crouch said. "The students were asking really good questions. They were just looking for answers."

About 150 students attended the most recent meeting, he added.

In part to elect non-Baptists to its board, Georgetown College sought in 2005 to redefine its relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. That year messengers to the KBC annual meeting affirmed a plan to phase out Cooperative Program funding for the school over the next four years.

Seventy-five percent of Georgetown's board is Baptist, and the college remains connected to several Baptist institutions.

"It's important that a college get trustees that also have networks that will help the college grow and improve," Crouch said. "I think Kentucky Baptists would be pleased to know that we still turn primarily to Baptists to provide that expertise."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## It only takes a little to do a lot

By **Rebecca St. James**

**Nashville** (RNS)—Julia had cornmeal and black tea for dinner. Her family could not afford a balanced diet.

After eating, she rubbed her eyes and whispered to her mother that she wanted to go to bed. "I feel a little weak," she said.

As Julia fell asleep, a host of female Anopheles mosquitoes made their way through the holes in the net over her bed. They lingered over her, feeding on the blood in her arm and injecting her with parasites.

In the next six days, Julia had a fever and chills. She experienced sweating episodes and ached in every joint of her body—the onset of malaria.

There is no way to tell for sure how she caught it. It also could have been when she slept at an aunt's house with no net at all. When you are poor and live in Kenya's Great Rift Valley, there are many opportunities to catch malaria.

If not diagnosed or treated, malaria can lead to death. Julia received prompt medical attention and her hospital bill was paid; she is one of the fortunate ones.

As World Malaria Awareness Day approaches on April 25, few people in the United States know the deadly toll the disease exacts. We wiped out malaria in this country in the 1930s,

but it still claims millions of lives around the globe, mostly in Africa.

The statistics, according to UNICEF, are as follows:

■ Each year, 350 to 500 million people get

malaria.

■ Nearly everyone in tropical Africa has a malaria episode each year.

■ Malaria kills more than 1 million people every year.

■ African children under the age of 5 account for 75 percent of those deaths.

For every child who dies, hundreds more become sick or incapacitated, often missing school and other opportunities.

If you live in the United States, such conditions are hard to understand. A trip to Africa would open up your eyes, as it did mine, when I recently traveled with Compassion International.

I have looked into the eyes of children who should be laughing and playing, going to school, learning to read—sharing their gifts as God intended His precious little ones to do. Instead they are sick—many dying because of diseases that are totally preventable.

Malaria is one of those diseases. It is a plague of the poor, easy for us to overlook when children in this country do not suffer from it.

Only in the past few years has ma-

## COMMENTARY

## Reaching the lost

Is reaching the lost no longer a priority?

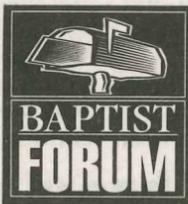
We join with a host of others who lament the decline in the number of baptisms in our Southern Baptist churches in Kentucky. I am a retired Baptist pastor with almost 50 years experience in pastoring and preaching. This is my "Jubilee Year" as I was ordained by the council at First Baptist Church of Morgantown on June 22, 1958.

I submit the following as at least some of the problems we have in our churches in not getting people

saved, then not getting them to be active in our churches. Many years ago, Southern Baptists observed a

Sunday in January each year, calling it "Soul-Winning Commitment Day," when pastors urged the churches to become soul winners on a one-on-one basis. For some years now, I have noticed that this special promotion has been dropped from practice. We all know the value of our parishioners being burdened for the lost and very deliberately going to them and pressing them with the need of salvation.

Another thing has attracted my attention. More frequently, our



## Basic training for Christians

By **Steve Rice**, KBC's director of discipleship and assimilation

My wife, Laura, and I recently flew to San Antonio to watch our oldest son graduate from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. We watched with pride as he became an airman in the United States Air Force.

During his weeks of basic military training, he learned several things about life and about himself. I believe the lessons he learned are applicable to the Christian life.

**Manners.** "Yes sir. No sir. Thank you, sir. Have a nice afternoon, sir." Although my son had fairly good manners, he improved them greatly during his time at Lackland. During my recent visit, I watched him open doors for ladies, stand to the side as people passed, look people in the eye when he spoke to them, and listen without interrupting as others spoke. It seems to me that Christians

should be the most polite people on the planet, but that has not been my experience. Paul told the church at

Colossae, "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12).

**Discipline.** The military taught my son discipline. He knows how to complete tasks on time with excellence and regularity. Far too often, those who serve in the Lord's army serve with a half-hearted effort and a real lack of consistency when the Scripture says, "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

**Teamwork.** At basic training, trainees are divided into flights and squadrons. These flights and squadrons win or lose as a group. They work together, eat together, live to-

gether and ideally, stick together. They help individuals improve so the group will improve. The Bible clearly teaches the importance of Christians sticking together and working as a group.

**Loyalty.** The airmen are loyal to their group, their training instructor and their country. The instructor is extremely demanding, but he protects them and pushes them to reach heights they did not know they could reach. As believers, we need to be marked by loyalty to the Lord and to His work. We need to continue to strive to become like Jesus in all we do.

**Toughness.** To make it through basic training, you have to get tough—physically and emotionally. As believers, we should be spiritually tough when we are weary and tough on the sin in our lives.

Can you see how a little basic training can benefit churches and Christians? Let's continue to learn, grow stronger and continue to improve.

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

churches are having "mini-revivals." That is to say, shortening the revival dates down from a week or more, to three or four nights of evangelistic emphasis. Pastors, along with the evangelist for the meeting, used to do a great deal of visiting on the church field, deliberately targeting unsaved prospects. This, too, has passed from the "usual" method.

Many churches are just "holding on," trying to keep their doors open, and evangelism isn't the top priority of Kentucky Baptist churches—so it seems. At any rate, if the winning of lost souls is not the main priority of our churches, then really, what is?

*William Cook  
Morgantown*

## STEWARDSHIP

## Profound financial lessons are found in clever sayings

By **Don Spencer**

Life can be so complicated. Understanding many financial concepts can also be difficult. We all enjoy those little quotes that cut through the complexities of life and remind

us how applying some simple principles make life less complicated. The same is true in finances. There are many quotes that provide profound insights with few words.

■ "Every man ought to have money on his mind; no man ought to have money on his heart."

■ "If you give while you live, you also know where it goes."

■ "Money is what you'd get along beautifully without if only other people weren't so crazy about it."

■ "If you can't pay as you go, you're going too fast"

■ "Mole hills of debt build mountains of worry."

■ "We seldom think of what we have but what we lack."

■ "More people should learn to tell their dollars where to go instead of asking where they went."

■ "You should have two financial goals in life: To make a little money first, then to make a little money last."

■ "Yesterday is a cancelled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is the only cash you have—so spend it wisely."

■ "When a person with experience meets a person with money, the person with experience will get the money. And the person with the money will get some experience."

■ "A dirty penny can hide the brightest star if it is held too close to one's eyes."

■ "Money can't buy love, health, happiness or what it did last year."

■ "It's daring and challenging to be young and poor, but never old and poor. Whatever resources of good health, character and fortitude you bring to retirement, remember to bring money."

■ "How to handle money: Use common sense. The simplest choices are often the best ones. Impulse is your enemy, time your friend."

■ "Creditors have much better memories than debtors."

We can read quotes like these and enjoy the wit; just don't forget the truths contained are weighty. If we apply these truths, they can be extremely valuable to us.

*Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department*



## Parents can take active role in guiding children's participation

**Q: As we approach the end of the school year, I find myself parenting a 13-year-old son who seems to care about nothing. While he made a profession of faith in Christ several years ago, he is listless, apathetic and uninvolved. How can I help him?**

Dorothy Sayers once wrote, "The sin of our times is the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing and remains alive because there is nothing for which it will die."

### PARENTING

Talk with your son about your concerns in a way that is not blaming or angry. Let him know that you are committed to giving him the best possible platform from which to find his passion and calling. You may want to involve both your pastor and/or youth minister in a conversation to help him think further about his faith. Consider taking him for a physical exam with a competent family physician to rule out clinical depression.

Work with your son to construct a list of extracurricular activities from which he can choose at least one in which to participate on a weekly basis (not including church activities, which should be assumed). Being a spectator at events does not count. He must "try out" activities and skills from which he may begin to find his passion. Participating is not optional for him. The only choice is whether he will make the choice or you will.

Most activities can be sampled on a semester-long basis (e.g., guitar lessons, cross country, basketball, karate, band, drama club). If after trying out an activity, your son decides that it does not appeal to him, he may trade it for something else.—*Scott Wigginton*

### Q: How can I help my child deal with failure?

People fail in all kinds of ways at all kinds of things. They fail in sports, in school, at work; sometimes marriages fail. People even fail when they are trying to do things for God. If your child has not experienced failure yet in some form, they will. When they do, there are two extremely important things they need to remember.

**Don't give up and don't quit trying.** Michael Jordan probably go down in history as the greatest basketball player ever, and yet Jordan struggled in his attempt to play Major League Baseball. When asked if he felt like a failure, Jordan responded by saying, "I would rather fail trying to do something than not try at all." Instill that kind of attitude in your children. When things don't work out, do not let them give up. Instead, encourage them to keep working and trying.

**Failing at something does not make you a failure.** Society sells us the lie that our value and worth are found in what we do and in how well we do it. Children need to learn that God made them, God loves them and that is what makes them special and gives them value—not how well they do something. Once we embrace this pivotal truth, we are free to fail because the follower of Jesus knows that failure is never fatal. God still loves us and He forgives us, even when we fail Him and each other. Remembering this gives us the courage to keep going and to keep trying.—*David Garrard*

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.



## Churches can find an ally in secular media

A friend of mine has often joked over the years to me that newspapers have been causing problems since Jesus walked upon the earth. He attempts to prove his point with the passage in Luke 19 about Zaccheus which says, "And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press."

The "press," or more specifically the local newspaper, can be an excellent means for churches to tell their communities about programs, projects, successes and mission endeavors. But too often the local newspaper is the last thing on the mind of church leaders. That is unfortunate because the newspaper, in many cases, could be a wonderful ally to influence someone to drop in to see just what is going on at that church that they may have read about in the newspaper.

The travails of the major market newspapers have been well documented these days, including declining circulation and migration of advertisers to other media, such as the Internet. On the other hand, community newspapers are thriving. That's because their franchise is local news; their mantra is the more local the news, the better.

In many cases, all it takes is to nurture a relationship with the local media, then follow up by being a helpful information source to the newspaper. Here are a few ideas for church leaders to consider:

- Newspapers are more concerned with people stories than sermons. Provide your local newspaper with information about people in your congregation and what they are doing. Perhaps a member has gone through a great trial and now has an inspiring story to tell about it. Let the newspaper know the basics and offer to arrange for a reporter to talk with the person or family involved. If you enter into a building program, let the newspaper know about it. If you begin a new ministry,

give the newspaper all the pertinent details. When your church calls a new staff member, provide a picture and bio of that person.

- Do not become discouraged if you offer a suggestion to the newspaper and the story idea does not make it into print. Keep communicating with the paper and ask for advice. And be sure to give the newspaper sufficient notice about an upcoming event—do not make it appear as though the newspaper is an afterthought.

- Whenever possible, take pictures of activities you believe the general public would find interesting and offer those

photos to the newspaper. Digital cameras are inexpensive and are capable of taking pictures suitable for newspaper use. Find out who to submit the photos to and be sure to provide information about the photos, especially identifying those people who are pictured. If you are recognizing a staff member for longevity of service, take a photo and submit it to the paper.

- In many situations, churches want newspaper publicity, but there is no one to spearhead that effort. Staff members find they often do not have the time. So identify someone in the congregation who is gifted in that area and ask for that person's help.

- Send a copy of your church newsletter to the local newspaper. Many times, the newspaper staff will see a story idea that you might not have thought about.

- Finally, take advantage of letters to the editor as a way of taking biblical stands on moral issues in the community. But be sure to follow the advice of our Founding Fathers, many of whom argued both from the biblical and the secular perspectives.

*Chip Hutcheson is publisher of the Princeton Times Leader and a member of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton*

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Chip Hutcheson

## Silent witnesses stymie the gospel

By Keith Manuel

Alexandria, La. (BP)—A recent USA Today article described the problem law enforcement agencies have with uncooperative witnesses to murders and other violent crimes. The rate of solved murders throughout the United States is down because of the silence of witnesses.

Is there a valid comparison here with the church? Are salvations and baptisms down because of the silence of witnesses?

According to Jake Roudkovski, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, only 5 percent of believers ever lead one person to Christ. If this is the case, silence is killing our friends.

The population of the United States and Canada is 332 million. According to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, more than 250 million people in these two countries do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Does that number include someone you know?

In the USA Today article, an FBI representative said criminals have created a climate of fear to silence witnesses.

I wonder how many times I have heard the same phrase used as the reason Christians do not witness.

Fear is a powerful psychological tool.

A high school friend of mine was radically saved. The next Sunday

he had a whole row of unbelieving friends at church. He told them about how "cool" Jesus was and invited them to church. Several of his friends surrendered their lives to Christ because of his witness.

Someone asked me why this young man was such an effective witness. My answer was simple. No one told him witnessing was hard; he just did what was natural. Something great happened to him and he told someone else about it. Case closed.

A simple definition of witnessing is bragging on Jesus. Jesus called us to be His witnesses. We are to tell what He does. More specifically, you are to tell what He has done for you.

A man named Tyler was the driver of the shuttle I took to a meeting at NAMB in Alpharetta, Ga. He was a young man with a story.

He attends a local church in Atlanta. When I asked him a simple question, "What have you been doing with the Lord lately?" I got the rest of the story.

This fine young man has a less than exemplary past, but he has

a mother and stepfather who love him. More than that, he has a mother and stepfather who love Jesus.

Through our conversation, I found out Tyler had never surrendered his life to Christ. He was doing many things Christians do, but he was not a believer.

After sharing the gospel with him, Tyler said he did not think he was ready to take the step of commitment yet. I asked why. He said he didn't know but he just wasn't ready.

As we pulled up to the doors of NAMB, I asked one last question. "Tyler, do you think it was a coincidence that yesterday your mother and stepfather talked to you about the Lord and today you pick up two preachers on your first shuttle? Do you really think it was a coincidence, or is God trying to get your attention?"

Tyler decided it was God speaking to him. In the circular driveway in front of NAMB, Tyler surrendered his life to Christ.

For every Tyler in my life, I wonder how many people will never have the opportunity to hear about eternal life because of my silence.

The silence of witnesses does not just stymie the efforts of police. The silence of the church stymies the gospel.

*Keith Manuel is evangelism associate for the Louisiana Baptist Convention*

## Upward ministry expands sports offering for Ky. churches

Continued from page 1

perience, Prescott gained exposure to the Upward ministry by watching his niece play basketball in Eddyville.

"I was very impressed with their commitment to sportsmanship,"

Prescott said. "My niece's salvation was a result of it. She's learned she's valuable to God and a valued person to society as well."

As with basketball, biblical instruction is an integral component of soccer activities. Devotions are held at weekly practices and during games.

Upward Unlimited, the parent organization, maintains a seven-point "Ministry Agreement" that all partnering churches must sign. It includes a belief in the deity of Christ and the Bible as God's inspired, authoritative word.

Since starting in 1995, the South Carolina-based organization has expanded worldwide and into several other sports.

Basketball remains its mainstay, with more than 332,000 participants, 100,000 coaches and nearly 1,850 leagues this year. Summer basketball camps have also been featured since 2002.

Cheerleading was the first activity added, followed by soccer and flag football, then basketball, soccer and cheerleading camps.

After soccer, cheerleading is next in popularity with more than 47,000 participants in 1,300-plus programs. Flag football has more than 22,000 participants and 7,400 coaches in 243 programs, with 6,100 cheerleaders.

Upward's newest sports will kick off later this year via pilot projects in cricket in South Africa and hockey in Canada.

Lindsay Neely, communications associate with Upward Unlimited, credits the influence of the Holy Spirit and a positive environment in its leagues for the ministry's explosive growth.

"Every child is a winner," she emphasized, echoing one of its key themes. "Every child gets to play. It's a positive experience for the whole family."

This philosophy has been a win-

ner in Kentucky, which Neely said is among five states (out of 43 overall) with the largest participation. There are 44 leagues in the state; 35 are sponsored by Baptist churches, all but one of them members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Even though Upward soccer is a relative newcomer to the commonwealth, the director of the program at Paducah's Lone Oak First Baptist Church predicts it will grow as more children learn the sport.

Minister of Activities Bob Martin said participation there grew 23 percent last spring. Lone Oak's fifth soccer season runs from April to June.

"It's fast growing and a great thing," Martin noted. "Soccer is approaching the popularity of basketball. We anticipate larger growth this year."

"Soccer is probably going to be, if not surpassing basketball, equal to it. Kids love it, parents love it and it's a lot of fun," he added.

The Upward program is enormously popular at Lone Oak, which added flag football to its lineup in 2006. The church also sponsors a summer basketball camp in July and has sent mission teams to other cities and nations to conduct clinics. This summer it will send teams to help a church in the Shively area of Louisville and another in Mexico.

Martin called Upward an excellent community outreach, with the majority of children participating in each league coming from outside of Lone Oak.

The activities minister estimated that there are children from more than 100 churches involved in Upward sports. That parallels the national organization, which has partnerships with churches from more than 30 denominations.

"I think that's one reason the Lord has blessed it ... worldwide, because of the community outreach," Martin noted. "Upward is the fastest growing sports ministry in the



**ONE OF MANY** There are 44 Upward sports leagues in Kentucky of which Basketball is the most popular. Soccer, cheerleading and flag football are other options. "My niece's salvation was a result of it," a Kentucky Baptist minister said. (Photo courtesy of Bob Martin)

world."

The other reason he said he thinks Upward is so successful is that it is not solely focused on sports. While excellent at teaching fundamentals, its emphasis is on positive lessons, particularly Scripture memorization and biblical principles, Martin said.

In addition, its focus on children and safety, and de-emphasizing the competitive aspect of sports, are a popular combination, he pointed out.

"Parents are looking for programs like that," he said. "Vacation Bible school is huge here, but Upward is right up there with it. It's one of the church's most successful outreaches."

### Association tees up golf ministry

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Walton—Although the Upward Unlimited ministry does not offer golf, that has not delayed Rick Robbins' plans to teach the sport this summer to children ages 8 to 11.

The director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association is organizing a golf league that will draw participants from vacation Bible school at New Banklick Baptist Church in Boone County.

The league begins June 30 and will run for about five weeks, followed by a season-ending awards banquet.

"We hope there will be about 40 children involved," said Robbins, who is conducting the project as part of his doctorate in ministry studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"The great thing is they walk on the church grounds, coming to learn how to hit a golf ball," he noted. "Our churches are struggling with how to get people through the door. We think with our awards night at the end of the season, we will get all kinds of people through the door."

The idea dates back a few years when Robbins first thought of teaching the game to children who have never been exposed to instruction. He also wanted to reach those outside the church.

Robbins cited a survey by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board that found 152,000 people in Northern Kentucky have no church background or affiliation.

In order to test his concept, last summer Robbins worked with New Banklick to sponsor a golf night following the church's vacation Bible school event.

About 10 children came; only a couple had any ties to the church or another congregation, according to Jerry Hurley, New Banklick's pastor.

Although the church owns 18.5 acres of property, much of it is on a hillside, so the group played on a 500-yard-long straight stretch at the top of one hill.

The organizers spray-painted a circle about 100 yards away from the tee area. After practice, children tried to hit the circle, with points awarded for accuracy.

Hurley said the church plans to advertise this summer's league through newspapers and possibly a direct mailing.

"We don't know what it's going to do this year," Hurley acknowledged. "If we get a really good response, we would do it two nights a week so we could handle more kids."

As with Upward leagues, each week of play will feature devotions, which Robbins is in the process of writing.

To spotlight the league, Robbins said he will offer golf as a recreational activity during New Banklick's vacation Bible school week in June.

"Even with shy kids, once they've hit the ball and made a good shot and people clap them on the back, they want to come back," Robbins pointed out. "Everyone knows who Tiger Woods is."

Robbins' program has even received a boost from the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship of Directors of Missions. He applied to the A.B. Colvin Association Missions Grants program and received \$1,000, which he used to purchase two dozen clubs, golf balls and tees.

While there are similarities to Upward's sports ministry, Robbins explained that his program can be implemented with fewer volunteers and for a smaller number of participants.

However, he said, pointing children toward Jesus is still at the heart of the activity.

"If you're going to bring kids on the property, you'd like to have some exposure to the gospel, other than being nice," Robbins emphasized.

Although it sponsored a summer soccer camp three years ago, New Banklick has not maintained an ongoing sports ministry, normally a tough endeavor for a church with an average weekly attendance of 85. Hurley said he hopes that all changes after this summer.

"If this is successful, we will continue this program," the pastor noted. "It may not be all through the summer, but it will at least be an annual thing. Our long-term goal is to follow up with families who are unchurched and then lead them to the Lord."

## What is your church saying to guests?

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A celebratory anniversary

Orphanage is special place in daughter's Christian life

Do you ever stop to ponder all that God is doing in the lives of believers all across the planet? Our human limitations do not permit us to comprehend all that is in motion at any given moment. Knowing that God is working everywhere at all times is mind boggling. His Sovereignty is amazing.

I was reminded of my limited understanding of God's work this week. March 28th was a special day in the Melber home. We celebrated the anniversary of meeting our daughter Maritess. We picked her up from an orphanage in Manila, Philippines three years ago.

Amazingly, God allowed us to have the privilege of being able to bring a very special lady from Maritess' past to visit. Deanna Collins, the director of My Father's House orphanage where Maritess lived for more than four years, was in the U.S. and came to our home for a couple of days. Her visit was an enormous blessing to our family.

We have an amazing bond with Deanna. In a very real way, she served as a mother to Maritess for several years. During her visit, Deanna celebrated with us

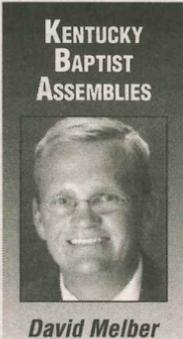
what God has done in the life of our daughter. In the last three years, not only has Maritess been given a family, but more importantly she has also come to know Christ as her personal savior. Deanna and the staff at MFH faithfully taught Maritess about God's love for her.

My Father's House currently accommodates 69 children ranging in age from toddlers to young adults. The purpose of MFH is to care for children who would have otherwise been forgotten by the rest of the world.

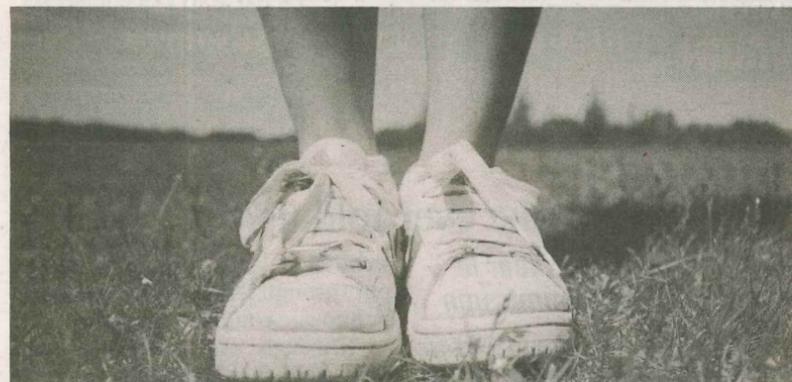
Our family is eternally grateful for what God is doing through My Father's House and particularly, through Deanna. Much of the world will never even realize they exist, or that Deanna has given her life to this cause.

As Maritess prayed when Deanna departed, she said, "I am so thankful for the time I had at MFH. Thank You for letting me live in a place where they taught me about Your love for me." MFH is obviously more than an orphanage in her mind—it's her Christian family.

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



David Melber



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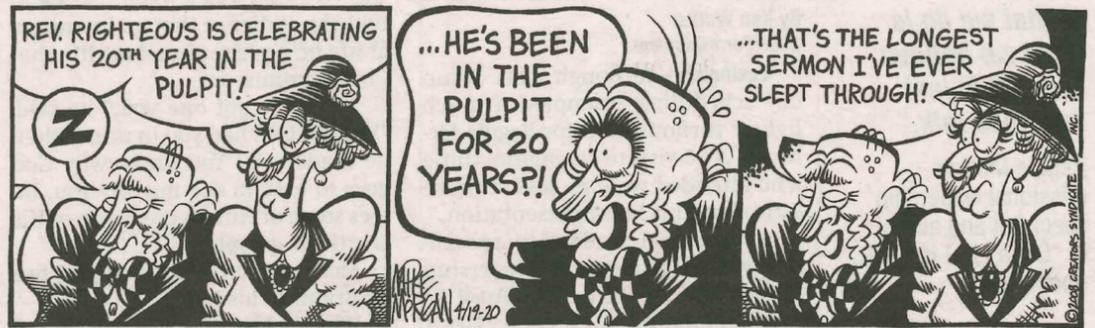
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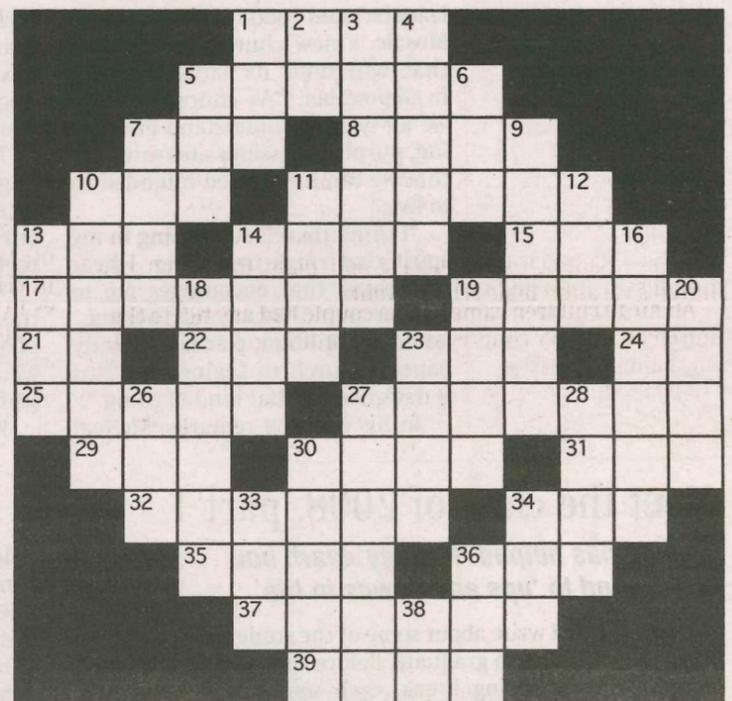


Bible Crosswords

By Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 Priestly garments
- 5 "Except your righteousness shall \_\_\_\_ the righteousness of the scribes" (Matthew 5:20)
- 7 Linking verb
- 8 Replied
- 10 "Give unto the Lord the glory \_\_\_\_ unto his name" (Psalm 29:2)
- 11 "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her \_\_\_\_?" (Jeremiah 2:32)
- 13 Of flying (comb. form)
- 14 Son of Seth
- 15 "Israel did \_\_\_\_ manna forty years" (Exodus 16:35)
- 17 "Yea, the \_\_\_\_ hath found an house" (Psalm 84:3)
- 19 "Employer" of Hagar
- 21 Oft-used abbr.
- 22 One (Ger.)
- 23 Rate of speed (abbr.)
- 24 Where Montauk is (abbr.)
- 25 "All they that cast \_\_\_\_ into the brooks shall lament" (Isaiah 19:8)
- 27 "They \_\_\_\_ in thee, and were not confounded" (Psalm 22:5)
- 29 "Agnus \_\_\_\_"
- 30 Pay attention
- 31 "Yet will I bring \_\_\_\_ plague more upon Pharaoh" (Exodus 11:1)



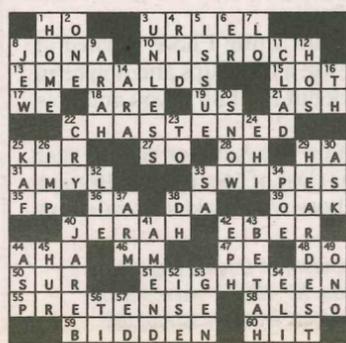
- 32 "\_\_\_\_ ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15)
- 34 "And Nathan said to David, Thou \_\_\_\_ the man" (2 Samuel 12:7)
- 35 End or line
- 36 John, to a Scot
- 37 "He made a \_\_\_\_ about the altar" (1 Kings 18:32)
- 39 "He shall be like a \_\_\_\_ planted by the rivers" (Psalm 1:3)

- 11 Immediately (arch.)
- 12 Serving of corn
- 13 "All they which dwelt in \_\_\_\_ heard the word of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:10)
- 14 Great Lake
- 16 "I was afraid, and went and hid thy \_\_\_\_ in the earth" (Matthew 25:25)
- 18 Trusted, with "upon"
- 19 Potato
- 20 "I flee unto thee to \_\_\_\_ me" (Psalm 143:9)

Down

- 1 Chopping tool
- 2 Public national library (abbr.)
- 3 "Upon these we \_\_\_\_ more abundant honour" (1 Corinthians 12:23)
- 4 "He hath put down the mighty from their \_\_\_\_" (Luke 1:52)
- 5 Before (poet.)
- 6 502, according to Cicero
- 7 Charismatic atmosphere
- 9 God spoke in Bible times through these
- 10 Rely
- 11 Immediately (arch.)
- 12 Serving of corn
- 13 "All they which dwelt in \_\_\_\_ heard the word of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:10)
- 14 Great Lake
- 16 "I was afraid, and went and hid thy \_\_\_\_ in the earth" (Matthew 25:25)
- 18 Trusted, with "upon"
- 19 Potato
- 20 "I flee unto thee to \_\_\_\_ me" (Psalm 143:9)
- 23 "\_\_\_\_ not thyself because of evildoers" (Psalm 37:1)
- 26 European lang.
- 27 "Leah was \_\_\_\_ eyed" (Genesis 29:17)
- 28 Ripped
- 30 "If thou seek him with all thy \_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 4:29)
- 33 Favorite
- 34 Sighing sound
- 36 "He casteth forth his \_\_\_\_ like morsels" (Psalm 147:17)
- 38 Compass dir.

Last week's solution



## McNeal encourages Kentucky Baptists to live intentionally

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Lexington—Although the Saturday scheduling prompted a much lighter turnout than for Reggie McNeal's 2006 visit to Lexington, those who attended were no less enthusiastic about his latest presentation.

A missional leadership specialist with Dallas-based Leadership Network, McNeal titled his April 12 seminar after his latest book, "Get A Life! It IS All About You."

In the session—sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development department—the witty speaker prompted frequent chuckles as he reviewed his book's five key questions aimed at prompting readers to develop a more intentional approach to life.

Aside from the humorous lines that are a trademark for the former South Carolina Baptist Convention official, the 40 participants gained some serious insights.

"I think the thing I'll take away from it in terms of church leadership is that spiritually healthy churches need spiritually healthy leaders," said Todd Probus, pastor of Mosaic, a new church in Versailles that will hold its launch service in September. "As church leaders, we all need to understand our calling, purpose, passions and values so that we can live as God intended us to live."

"I think there's something in my spirit that rings true when I hear something that encourages me to grow as an individual and a person," noted Jay Robison, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington. "This is designed for that kind of thing."

In his opening remarks, McNeal

told the audience that an intentional life brings the abundant life that Christ promised.

"We only got one you," he said. "What if God had you in mind when he made you? You know why God goes to look in the mirror? You. He sees some of Him in every one of His creations—people."

McNeal then addressed the five questions of his book:

**Why am I here?** God is working so that each person's life is purposeful, McNeal said, adding that the Lord is not caught by surprise by anything that happens to his children.

"When I look back over my life I can see God was paying attention," he recalled. "It's way more fun to be a co-conspirator to what's going on than an innocent bystander. God was at work in you way early."

The author noted that some clues to one's purpose come from personality, feedback from others and appreciating one's talents and abilities. However, he warned that distractions will "knock you off your game."

**What is really important to me?** McNeal posed a question for participants to explore in small-group discussions: "Based on what you have done the last two weeks, what would people say is important to you?"

No matter where an individual goes, he or she will say the most recent two weeks were much different and busier than normal—a comment McNeal labeled an excuse.

"What we do is what we believe; the rest is just religious talk," he emphasized. "How we behave is what we believe. I'm talking about the stuff that makes you tick."

**What is my scorecard?** McNeal

pointed out that everyone keeps score, which means everyone needs mile markers to know how they are doing. Scorecards make a difference, he added, naming one church that decided its primary measuring stick was to insure that no child in its community goes hungry and that all students can speak English by the third grade.

Likewise, McNeal noted that churches can use existing talents and facilities to help people in their communities.

"What you celebrate is what's going to get done," McNeal said. "Maybe God is keeping track of how many kids go hungry or how many drug addicts wish they had somebody to talk to."

**What am I good at?** The best way to make a contribution to the world is to improve one's strengths, as an individual or a congregation, McNeal explained.

Noting that he buys ice cream at a shop that rarely has an open table or parking space, McNeal said an observer could criticize those drawbacks or appreciate the reason, which is great ice cream.

"You've got to have good ice cream," he declared. "You better get to work on what you do well and make that your signature piece. If you don't pursue this, the culture is going to pull you down."

**What do I need to learn?** Recalling a 76-year-old man he met whose eagerness to learn gave him a refreshing outlook, McNeal said some of the oldest people he knows are only 30.

"You've got to figure out how you learn best and then go learn," he urged. "Some people learn best by reading a book, others by talking in groups of four."

Churches should help promote this learning environment by teaching members how to have meaningful conversations instead of sponsoring so activities that physically drain their people, McNeal noted.

In an interview with the Western Recorder, the South Carolina resident said his inspiration for writing "Get A Life!" originated with his work in church leadership development and coaching.

Each time he worked with a church he said he wound up doing a lot of work with key leaders, he recalled. That led McNeal to recognize how vision, values, results, strengths and learning are key components of helping both people and churches prepare for the future.

"The inspiration then was realizing that everywhere I went people were as desperate to live intentional lives as churches were to be more intentional about their future," he explained. "That inspired me to move forward."



Because 'Desperate Housewives' probably isn't your best source for family advice.

WESTERN RECORDER

## Meet the class of 2008, part 1

### Oneida has helped 'Rodney' learn how to respond to 'ups and downs in life'

Each spring I write about some of the students who are preparing to graduate. Before they went home for their spring break, each senior was asked to write a brief essay titled, "My Oneida Experience." The students were asked to describe five different aspects of their Oneida experience:

■ A little about their background and why they came to Oneida.

■ What were their impressions of Oneida when they first arrived?

■ How has Oneida helped them academically?

■ How have the worship opportunities helped them grow spiritually?

■ What is the most important thing they have learned while at Oneida?

"Rodney" (not his real name) came to Oneida in the middle of his eighth-grade year. Here is part of his essay:

"Before I came to Oneida I had some behavior problems. In school I would always be in trouble for talking or disrupting the class. ... I had some in-school suspensions, so routine calls were made to my parents from several teachers, but worst of all, I had failing grades. ... The final straw ... was a suspension right after the Christmas break. That's when my father decided it was time for me to come to Oneida.

"When I first saw Oneida I didn't know what to think because I never saw a place like this before. Everything seemed so big." Rodney said his peers immediately sought him out, asking questions about him and welcoming him to the school.

"At Oneida, my grades have improved significantly," he continues. "During my first quarter, ... I earned a 3.5 grade point average. ... The smaller

classes really helped me because I used to have at least 35 kids in my classes back home. Science was my hardest subject because my old school didn't really teach science until the seventh grade. My English IV class has helped me stay challenged to earn an A. It took me three quarters but I realized that if you give something all you have, there is not much room for failure.

"OBI has a lot of worship opportunities and if you are a Christian, it will really help you on your journey," Rodney continues. "Before I came to Oneida I didn't believe in anything religious. Now, I believe there is a God, but I am still trying to understand everything else. ... What I do like is that if you have a question everyone is willing to help you find the answer.

"The reason I stayed at OBI to graduate was because my parents wanted me to and because I was doing so good here, why would I want to change?"

"I have grown socially. Before I came to Oneida, I would only talk to the people I hung out with. Oneida has also made me stronger. Being away from home at the age of 13 has helped me be independent. I make decisions every day like getting up, going to (meals), taking a shower and doing my laundry.

"The most important thing I have learned at Oneida is that there are a lot of ups and downs in life. How things work out is all up to you and how you handle the situation."

Rodney has been on the A honor roll all year and ranks 15th in his class of 56 students. His success is a tribute to those who make this ministry possible.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## 'Why has no one ever told us?'

### Mission trip is reminder to obey the Great Commission

A recent mission trip to Turkey, led by Clear Creek English professor Elli Gillum with students Luke Pe-tree and Tim Christopher, was a vivid reminder about the importance of our obedience to the Great Commission.

The team's guide asked them to visit some acquaintances of his who had accepted written gospel materials and were asking questions about the Bible and "Isa," the name used for Jesus in this region. Unfortunately the team was unable to connect with the prospects.

"Since it was lunch-time, we turned around and stopped at the only other place in the village to eat, a small motel/restaurant," Gillum said. "While we were eating, the host of the restaurant showed us a book about the area that was a number of years old. He turned to the back, pointed to a picture of Jesus being nailed to the cross and asked what that picture was about."

The host told the group that "he had asked many people who came there and they could only tell him that it was Isa, but they didn't know about what it meant. He under-

stood that large nails were being put through Jesus' hands and feet, but no one could tell him why.

"Through our interpreter we each had an opportunity to tell him the story of who Jesus is and the sacrifice He made for our sins," Gillum said. "As we shared about Jesus with him, other people in the restaurant brought their chairs up

close so that they could hear the conversation. All of the people seemed astonished at what we were sharing about Jesus. An 86-year-old great grandmother, with her bent back and gnarled hands, wiped her tears away as she looked at the picture and heard the story about Jesus. We gave them a Bible and a 'Je-

sus' DVD along with some other materials.

"The host looked at us and said, 'We know about Isa being one of the prophets, but why has no one ever told us this story?'"

Pray for the Clear Creek faculty, staff and students going on future mission trips to Turkey, sharing the Good News that many have never heard.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

## Agency reports sex trafficking of U.S. minors growing

Washington (BP)—American children are becoming victims of human sex trafficking, according to statistics released by Shared Hope International.

"The figures we use say between 100,000 and 300,000 American children are at risk of trafficking," said Karrie Delaney, director of communications for the Vancouver, Wash.-based organization that seeks to prevent sex trafficking, and rescue and restore women and children trapped in it.

"At least 100,000 American children are trafficked each year," Delaney added.

Based on these numbers, domestic minor sex trafficking has become a serious problem in many locations across the United States. A fact sheet on the Shared Hope International Web site reports age 12 as the average age of entry into illegal pornography and prostitution.

### Adults set traps to lure girls

"Luring happens in a variety of ways," Delaney told Baptist Press. "In interviews with victims, we have had reports of girls being lured at 12 years old by a pimp or a trafficker by him approaching them at a mall or on the street. He is usually an older boy and buys her presents, making her believe he's her boyfriend."

"One girl got in the car with (a pimp) because she thought he was her boyfriend, and he drove her to another city, became violent and forced her into prostitution."

According to the SHI website, pimps can earn up to \$632,000 per year by selling four young woman or children. Seventy-five percent of minors engaged in prostitution have a pimp, and most pimps have more than one minor working for them.

Many of these girls are taken off the street. The SHI Web site said a third of the 2.8 million children living on the streets are lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.

Since trafficking is such a hidden crime, however, it is difficult to manage an accurate count of how many girls are lured each year. Many girls do not realize they are being lured until it is too late, Delaney noted.

Demand is a major cause of the rising trafficking business, Delaney and an awareness video on the SHI Web site pointed out.

"As long as there is a demand that fuels this market, there will be a supply," Delaney said. "We feel that since there is a growing demand, it is going to be a problem that grows as well. Across the United States, there is a culture of tolerance in the media really sexualizing children and making sex scenes the norm. Men often feel very entitled to buy sex."

Trafficking is not booming merely because of the illegal sex market, but also with the help of the legal market and men who feel the need to buy sex.

"There is really no safe way of participating in the commercial sex industry," Delaney said. "The legal market is really just a fine line between that and the illegal market that exploits children."

Statistics about the extent of the problem that may be surprising:

- The sale of child pornography is a \$3 billion annual industry in the U.S.
- 55 percent of child pornography on the Internet comes from the U.S.
- One in five pornographic images on the Internet is of a child.
- One in five American youth who regularly use the Internet has been

sexually solicited.

Despite such statistics, Christians can find ways to help prevent the trafficking industry from destroying more young American lives, Delaney explained.

One way is to help make a nationwide change in the way Americans view these exploited children.

"Once someone is labeled a prostitute, in many cases, the way people view them changes," she said. "In many cases, these girls are arrested and punished for the crime that is being committed against them."

In fact, 66 percent of minors arrested for prostitution in Las Vegas from 2004 to 2006 had been victims of sexual assault and familial molestation, the SHI Web site noted.

"In the way of awareness in the Christian world, it is really going to start with changing our language first," Delaney said. "If communities can come together and provide appropriate resources and work with these kids when they are identified, the community can have the knowledge to know these children are being exploited and make future change."

With funding by the Department

of Justice, SHI is conducting field assessments in 10 U.S. locations to identify DMST victims and the services available to these victims. The 10 sites are: Baton Rouge, La.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Clearwater, Fla.; Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; Independence, Mo.; Las Vegas; Salt Lake City; San Antonio; and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Recently, Southern Baptist ethics leader Richard Land joined a diverse coalition calling on United States senators to pass improved legislation to combat human trafficking.

Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, is one of 150 people—from conservative Christians to liberal feminists—who signed on to a letter by the National Black Leadership Roundtable urging senators to support legislation already passed by the House of Representatives. The House approved the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act last December with a 405-2 vote.

The legislation "will rescue millions of enslaved girls, women and children within our borders and throughout the world," according to the letter.

## High court upholds Ky.'s method of execution by lethal injection

Washington—Kentucky's process of lethal injection that uses a three-drug cocktail is constitutional, the Supreme Court ruled April 16.

The 7-2 ruling, delivered in an opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, involved a case in which convicted murderers on death row in Kentucky charged the state's execution method violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishment."

"Simply because an execution method may result in pain, either by accident or as an inescapable consequence of death, does not establish the sort of 'objectively intolerable risk of harm' that qualifies as cruel and unusual," Roberts concluded.

In *Baze v. Rees*, inmates contended that there were risks that the drugs involved in the process would be improperly administered and they suggested alternatives to the procedure that would reduce "risk of harm."

"A condemned prisoner cannot successfully challenge a state's method of execution merely by showing a slightly or marginally safer alternative," the chief justice wrote.

Thirty-six states and the federal government use lethal injection for capital punishment. At least 30 of the states, including Kentucky, use the same three-drug combination questioned in this case.

Roberts noted that while "reasonable people of good faith disagree on the morality and efficacy of capital punishment," the high court has ruled that it is constitutional and has always rejected challenges that particular methods for it are cruel and unusual.

Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, writing in a dissent joined by Associate Justice David Souter, said she thought the question of risk should have been investigated further by the courts.

"Kentucky's protocol lacks basic safeguards used by other states to confirm that an inmate is unconscious before injection of the second and third drugs," she said.

The Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution at its annual meeting in 2000 supporting the "fair and equitable use of capital punishment by civil magistrates as a legitimate form of punishment for those guilty of murder or treasonous acts that result in death." In support of its position, the resolution cited God's authorization in Genesis 9 of capital punishment for murder and Romans 13's approval of the death penalty as "a just and appropriate means" to be used by government authorities.

The resolution called for capital punishment to be used only where there is "clear and overwhelming evidence of guilt" and "as justly and as fairly as possible without undue delay, without reference to race, class or status of the guilty." It also urged the government to utilize "humane means."

"In that resolution, the messengers made it clear that they believe the Bible teaches that God has given the civil authorities the power to use capital punishment," said Barrett Duke, vice president of public policy for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

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

With reporting by Religion News Service and Baptist Press

## 2008 National Day of Prayer will be observed from the air, on the ground

Colorado Springs, Colo. (RNS)—On the National Day of Prayer, petitions to God will be made from the ground and from the air. Plans for the annual observance, May 1, include private pilots who intend to fly and pray over all 50 state capitols.

Tens of thousands of events, organized through a Colorado-based task force, will be held in churches, on courthouse steps and in parks. Organizers range from military members to teenagers. For the first time, the event will be marked at a memorial chapel in Shanksville, Pa., which commemorates the Sept. 11 crash site of United Flight 93.

"This is a critical time to be in prayer for our country," said Shirley Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force and wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson.

Christian scholar Ravi Zacharias is the 2008 honorary chairman.

### 2008 SBC Ministers' Wives' Luncheon

Tuesday, June 10 at noon  
Indiana Convention Center

HOW TO LOVE A LEADER

*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

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## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Sock monkey ministry at First Baptist Church of London.**

Pearl Anderson and other women in the church sew and fashion monkeys out of men's socks, which are then filled with scriptures and words of encouragement by the church's GAs. The socks are distributed to wounded men and women at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Pray that the sock monkeys will open doors and create opportunities for sharing the gospel. Pray that God will grant healing and strength to our men and women serving in the armed forces who have been wounded.

**Mission Service Corps Missionaries Jack and Wilma Simmons of Ekron.**

The Simmonses serve in three different trailer park ministries within Salem Baptist Association. The couple uses a converted school bus as a ministry site, complete with air conditioning, table and chairs, and electrical outlets for audio/video equipment. Pray that parents and children will be more receptive to the gospel's transforming power. Pray for a moving of the Holy Spirit in the town of West Point where most of the population is unsaved.

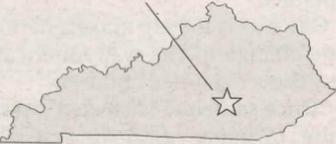
If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at [Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org) or call (866) 489-3530.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI  
COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BLOOMFIELD**—Bloomfield Church recently called **Ryan Lyons** as pastor.
- **CADIZ**—**John Mitchell** recently resigned as pastor of Ponderosa Church.
- **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will host a simulcast of "Couples Conference '08" featuring **Gary Smalley** April 26, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 241-8534, or visit [www.crestwoodbaptist.org](http://www.crestwoodbaptist.org).
- **CRITTENDEN**—Crittenden Church will hold an outreach celebration, "Praise Him by Sharing Him," April 26, 11 a.m.-2:15 p.m. **Paige Patterson**, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will serve as guest speaker. For more information, call (859) 428-3122.
- **HARRODSBURG**—Calvary Church recently called **Kenny Queener** as pastor.
- **HODGENVILLE**—Pleasant Grove Church recently called **Chris Taylor** as youth minister. **Bryce Parks** is pastor.
- **LEXINGTON**—Heritage Church will host **Living Proof** in concert April 27, 6 p.m. For more information, call (859) 335-5433. **Greg Waltermire** is pastor.
- **LIVINGSTON**—Union Church recently called **Anthony Taylor** as pastor.
- **LOCKPORT**—**Wayne Kelly** recently retired after 24 years as pastor of Lockport Church.
- **MAYFIELD**—South First Street Church will hold revival services April 28-May 2, 7 p.m., with **Jason Porter**, pastor of Beulah Church in

## Spotlight on ...

## Mount Vernon



Maretburg Church will observe a "Week of Prayer for Spiritual Awakening" April 27-May 7, leading up to revival services May 4-7, with **Randy McPherson**, pastor of CrossPoint Church in Richmond, as evangelist. **Wayne Harding** is pastor.

Fancy Farm, as evangelist. **David Key** is pastor.

■ **NEW HAVEN**—**Michael Burgess** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—Grace Church will hold revival services April 27-30, 7 p.m., with **Jamie Fugate**, pastor of Sidney Church, as evangelist. **John Finney**, minister of music at Parkland Church in Louisville, will lead music.

■ **SALYERSVILLE**—First Church ordained **Randy Allen**, **Parnell Campbell** and **Kerry Howard** as deacons April 13. **Matthew Gullion** is pastor.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Eagle Heights Church ordained **Dave Cook** to the gospel ministry April 6.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Bethlehem Church recently called **Timothy Paul Harvey** as music and education minister. **David Hardy** is pastor.

## Ferguson, 78, served Crittenden Association; as Dry Ridge mayor

**Dry Ridge**—Norman Ferguson, a longtime executive board member of Crittenden Baptist Association and former mayor of Dry Ridge, died April 6. He was 78.

Ferguson served in many roles with Crittenden Association over 50 years, including moderator, according to Director of Missions Greg Nimmo.

"I don't think there was ever a time that (Ferguson) ever missed an executive board meeting except when he had knee surgery," Nimmo recalled. "If you had a meeting, he was going to be there and he was going to do what he was supposed to do."

Most residents of Dry Ridge knew Ferguson as the town's former mayor. He first served from 1962-1964 and again from 1986-1998. Even after retiring, Ferguson continued to

serve in the community, joining the City Council last year and serving until his death. A street and tennis court complex in Dry Ridge also are named in his honor.

In addition to his community roles, Ferguson was a member of Dry Ridge Baptist Church for more than 50 years, where he served as deacon and Sunday school teacher.

"Norm Ferguson was an outstanding Christian man," Nimmo said. "If you met Norman, you were going to meet a Christian. He exemplified the life of Christ of serving others everywhere he went."

Funeral services were held April 9 at Ferguson's longtime church home. Burial was held at New Bethel Cemetery in Verona.

Ferguson is survived by his wife, Mildred, two daughters, Debbie and Linda, and four grandchildren.

## Wife and mother of BCPSJ execs dies

**Harrisburg, Pa.**—A Kentucky native and widow to the first executive of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey and mother to its fifth has died.

Jane Marie Geiger Waltz Dossett died March 17 in her Dauphin, Pa., home following a long illness. Her first husband, Joe Waltz, was the first executive to lead the BCPSJ. Her son, David Waltz, is the fifth and current executive.

Dossett was a native of Louisville and a member of Shawnee High

School's Class of 1942. The family attended West Broadway Baptist Church. She graduated summa cum laude from Georgetown College with a degree in English. She met Waltz when they became prayer partners at the Georgetown Baptist Student Union. They graduated in 1946 and married that same year.

Waltz died at 46 and his widow sustained the family while she pursued a master's degree in counseling from Millersville University in Pennsylvania.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

- 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.

## May

- 1 Assimilation Tour, Crossroads-The Church at Logan, Russellville.
- 2 Children's Bible Drill, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 2 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 2-4 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave National Park.

- 3 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 3 Children's Bible Drill, Second Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 8 Iron Sharpening Iron, DuPont Lodge at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Corbin.
- 13 Assimilation Tour, First Baptist Church, Danville.
- 14 Iron Sharpening Iron, Applebee's Park, Lexington.
- 17 Associational Womens Mission Union Leadership Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 19-21 Youth Ministers Spring Retreat, Georgetown College.
- 19 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 20 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Northside Baptist Church, Princeton.
- 29 Iron Sharpening Iron, Champion Window Field, Florence.

## June

- 1-4 Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 4-7 Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 7 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.
- 7-14 Kentucky Changers, Monticello.
- 9-12 Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 12-14 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, Cedar Crest.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for growing traditional and contemporary church—a diverse congregation of dedicated families reaching our community for Jesus. Submit resumé to: Search Committee, Evergreen Baptist, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Office [evergreenbaptistchurch.us](mailto:evergreenbaptistchurch.us). Fax: (502) 223-8364.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor to children for Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville. Plan, coordinate and implement a full-fledged ministry to children and their families. This individual also will direct the church's afterschool and summer childcare programs. Position requires excellent leadership, organizational and communication skills; must have at least two years experience working with children; meet state requirements for childcare director; MDiv or MACE preferred. Resumés should be submitted to CHBC Children's Minister Search Team, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206; Fax: (502) 896-9855; e-mail: [crescenthillbapt@bellsouth.net](mailto:crescenthillbapt@bellsouth.net).

**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:** 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:** Full-time minister of music and worship for Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky. We are a conservative congregation with blended worship and an average attendance of 300. Responsibilities will include worship preparation using Media Shout; adult choir; small praise band; coordinating special music, special programs and children's choirs; and staff responsibilities. Please send resumé by May 15 to [revdean1@bellsouth.net](mailto:revdean1@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Pastor to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, teach the biblical revelation, engage in pastoral care ministries, provide administrative leadership in all areas of church life, and serve as chief administrator of the paid staff. Please submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Ovesen Heights Baptist Church, PO Box 253, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

**SEEKING:** Part-time administrative assistant in the Church Development Team office. Position requires 1-2 years related experience, and organizational and computer application skills. Contact Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253; or e-mail [administrative@kybaptist.org](mailto:administrative@kybaptist.org).

**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 [johnmarkandlesie@netzero.net](mailto:johnmarkandlesie@netzero.net).

**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).

# Spiritual wilderness

*MSC missionaries provide hospitality to short-term volunteers serving in Vermont*

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

Washington, Vt.—When Dewey and Kathie Aiken survey the landscape of Vermont, they see much more than the beautiful red and yellow leaves of autumn, the traditional maple syrup-making in March, and 150-year-old churches with white steeples piercing the blue skies of summer.

Instead, the couple said they are haunted—literally unable to sleep some nights—when they ponder the spiritual lostness of the majority of Vermonters, and the urgency to reach the tiny New England state's population of 623,000 with the gospel. It is estimated that only 2 percent of the population are committed believers of Christ.

"Vermont is a beautiful state and it's full of beautiful people," Kathie said, "but we know that beneath the facade there is a lostness. Something is missing in people's lives. I see the sadness in so many of their faces."

The Aikens are Mission Service Corps missionaries commissioned by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board who are committed to sharing Christ with the people of Vermont.

"There's an urgency to go and get the gospel out here," Dewey noted. "When I think about how so many people in this state do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior, it breaks my heart."

The couple from Brevard, N.C., is among more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories commissioned by NAMB.

Ten years ago, Dewey and Kathie vacationed in Vermont to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. They said they fell in love with the Green Mountain State.

"When we came up here on our anniversary, we saw the need here in New England," Kathie recalled. "We had careers that we were finishing up, and we knew it was time for a change."

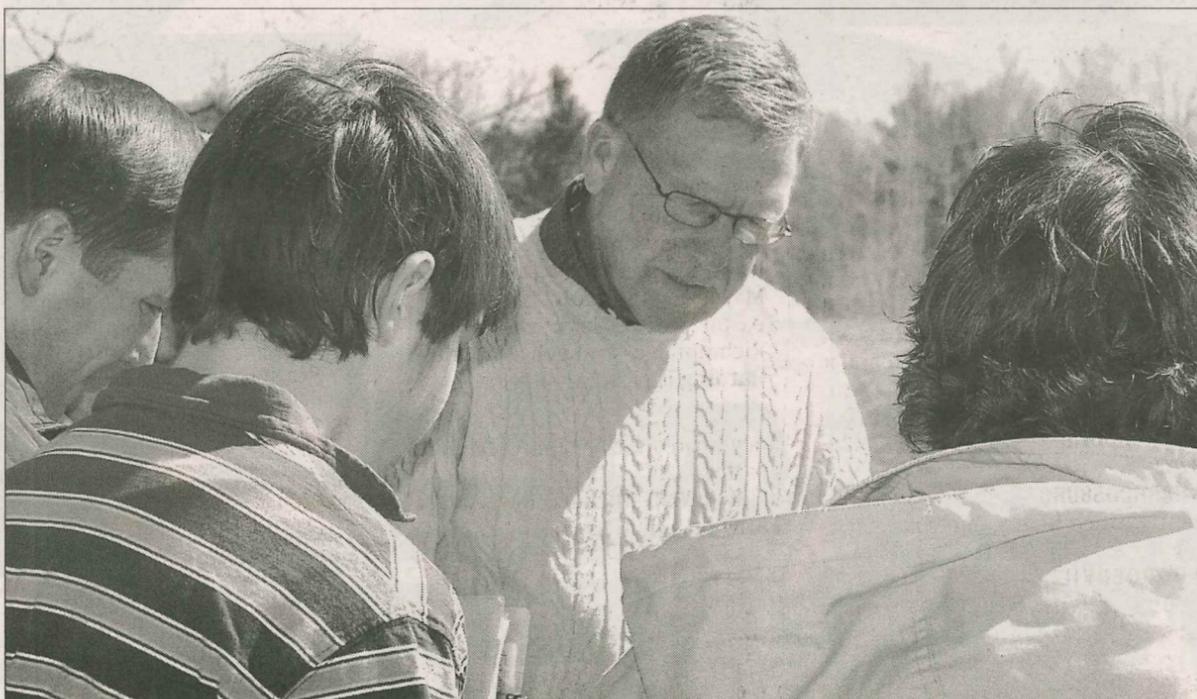
"Our children were married, our family was changing, and it was a time in our lives when we could serve Christ in another area in a different way," she said. "And we were ready."

Already involved in missions, the couple explained that their passion for Vermont grew even stronger as they contemplated retirement.

"We just felt like God was calling us to Vermont, to share the gospel here," Dewey added. "I looked at Romans 10:14 which asks: 'How will they know unless somebody comes and tells them?' That's why we're here."

Because the Aikens did not leave their North Carolina drawl behind, they joke about how they use it to witness to Vermonters.

"Folks up here grin when we talk, but they're polite about it," Kathie noted. "Our accent is actually a witnessing tool. Say we're in a restaurant and we strike up a conversation. When they say, 'You're not from around here,' we make them guess where we're from. That opens



**INTERCEDING** Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps missionary Dewey Aiken leads a group in prayer in Washington, Vt. (NAMB photos by David Russell Photography)

up doors and we can tell them why we're here."

Coming from a strong Southern Baptist state like North Carolina, the Aikens experienced culture shock when they moved to a state known for its liberal political and secular bent. Vermont also suffers from a pervasive influence of New Age thinking and even Wiccan practices.

## Overcoming barriers

A hindrance to their ministry, according to the Aikens, is the fact that many in Vermont—with its strong Catholic influence—have "just enough religion in their pasts to think—because they were baptized as infants—that they're going to heaven," Kathie said. "Or they think they are 'genetic Christians' because their families attended church or were members of a certain faith."

"It hurts your heart and actually sometimes makes me somewhat angry at the way people up here have been deceived into thinking that everything is OK," she added.

Kathie said she gets frustrated when she sees children and young people who do not understand the Bible and, in fact, say the Bible has never been read to them, even in a church.

Whether ministering to young people or conducting a Bible study for a group of 80-year-olds, Kathie tries to keep it simple. Her strategy must work.

Rather than ask a person if he or she is a Christian—since two-thirds of most Vermonters consider themselves Christians—Kathie instead asks, "Was there ever a time in your life when you asked Christ to be your personal Savior?" Or, "Do you have a personal relationship with Christ?"

While Vermont is dotted with beautiful old churches built in the 18th and 19th centuries, many have closed their doors. The Aikens said some congregations died financially or spiritually, while others closed because entire families died out. Many

of these churches have been converted into town halls, libraries, antique shops and senior citizens centers, but Washington Baptist Church—the only Southern Baptist church around—is open for ministry. Located in the village of Washington, the church has 90 members, including Dewey and Kathie Aiken.

Off the village square is the Calef House and Retreat Center, a 7,400-square-foot Victorian mansion built by the wealthy Ira Calef in the mid-1800s. Today, it is managed and maintained by the Aikens.

Purchased from the local Catholic parish in the late 1990s by Washington Baptist Church and operated by Green Mountain Baptist Association, the house was completely renovated by Southern Baptist volunteers from across the country.

"The church had a vision of changing the facility into a parsonage for the pastor and his family, a mission apartment for us and a retreat center," Kathie said. "We were called here by God to be the managers of the retreat center."

Some 300 Southern Baptist "guests"—as many as 21 at a time—stayed at the Calef House from April to November 2007; most were on mission trips to Vermont.

"The Calef House is an economical place where they can come, get a good night's sleep, good food and a fresh shower," Dewey said. "We've had about 80 teams come to Vermont. ... God is using these teams to evangelize the state."

## Double duty

When he's not helping Kathie run The Calef House, Dewey serves through the Baptist Convention of New England as disaster relief coordinator for Vermont. Using his relationship to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, he also coordinates volunteers from the two state conventions and Green Mountain Baptist Association, comprised of 33 churches in Vermont and two in New Hampshire.

"New England is an area that needs the gospel. And we need workers," Dewey emphasized. "We still have so many towns and villages in Vermont that do not have a gospel-preaching church at all."

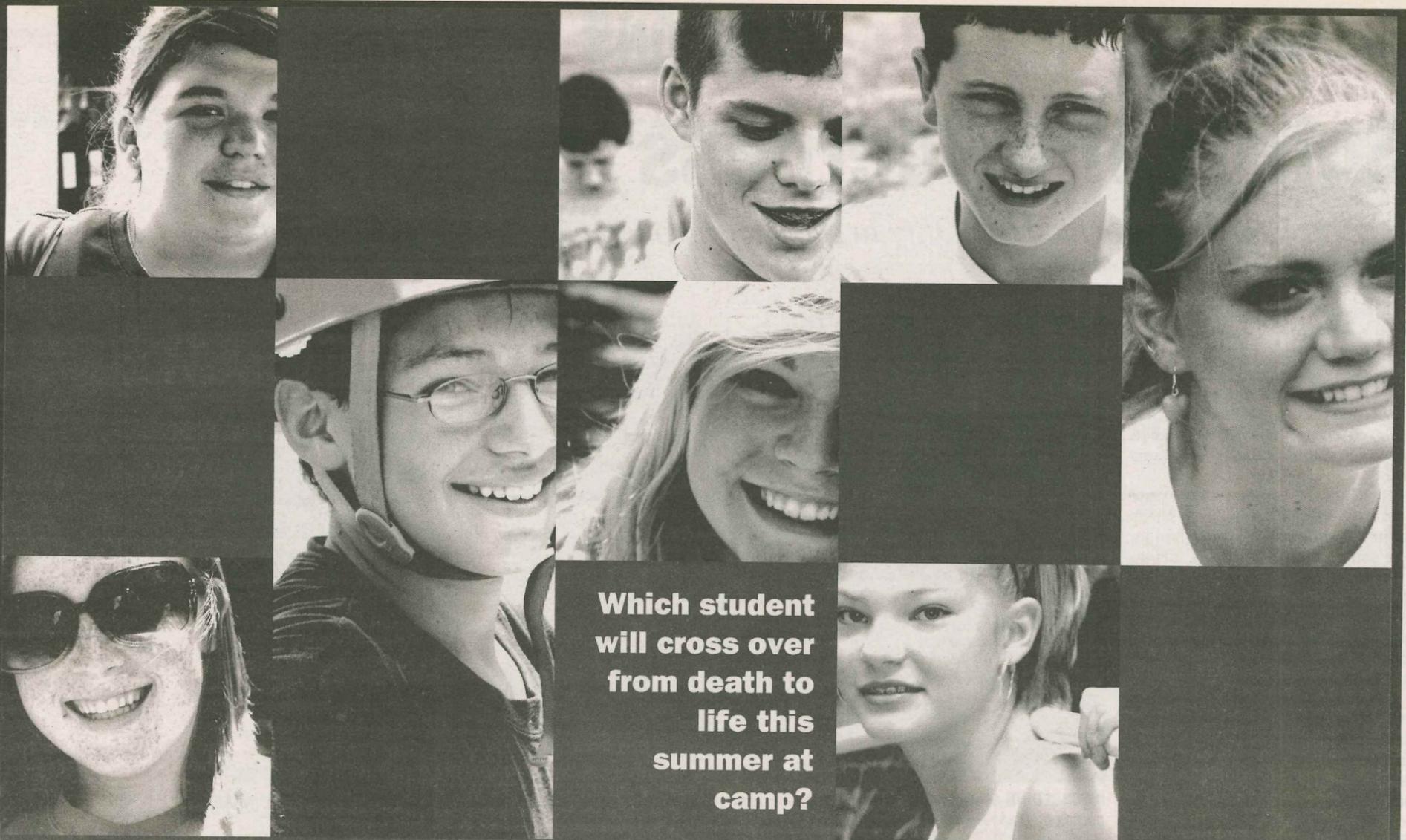
Mission Service Corps missionaries are self-funded servants who receive training and encouragement from NAMB. Some MSC missionaries fund their work themselves; others raise support from family and friends. The Aikens have been in Vermont five years and, according to Kathie, have "just signed up for two more years."

They said they expect to return to North Carolina eventually, "but ... I can't imagine doing anything else," Kathie said. "It's so absolutely fulfilling to know you're right smack in the middle of what He wants you to be doing. We cherish that."

## HOST MISSIONARIES

A big part of Kathie and Dewey Aiken's job is to manage the Calef House and Retreat Center, a 7,400-square-foot Victorian mansion built in the mid-1800s. Today, the Washington, Vt., facility provides accommodations for Southern Baptist volunteers who come to New England on mission trips or for disaster relief. It was purchased in the 1990s from the local Catholic parish by Washington Baptist Church and is operated by Green Mountain Baptist Association.



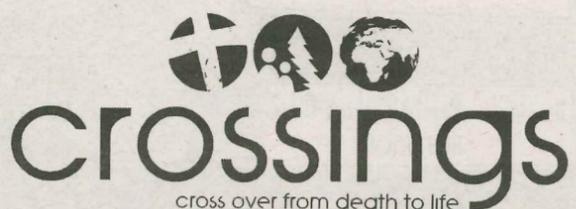


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from death to  
life this  
summer at  
camp?**

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