



WESTERN RECORDER

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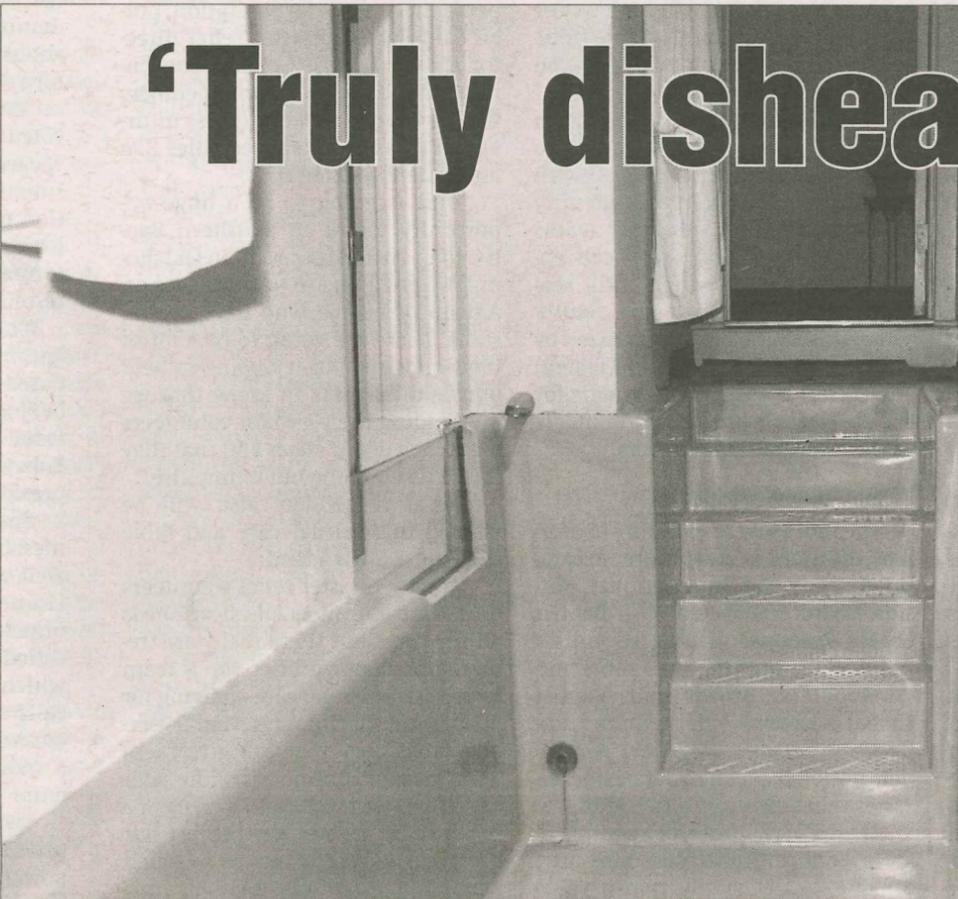
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'Truly disheartening'



Nashville (BP)—The number of people baptized in Southern Baptist churches fell for the third straight year in 2007 to the convention's lowest level since 1987, according to Annual Church Profile statistics reported by Southern Baptist churches.

Although the Southern Baptist Convention added 473 new churches and gave more than \$1.3 billion to support mission activities around the world, Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, said there is no escaping the fact that Southern Baptists are not reaching as many people for Christ as they once did. LifeWay gathers the year-to-year information on the convention's behalf. According to the ACP statistics reported by Southern Baptist churches, baptisms in 2007 dropped nearly 5.5 percent to 345,941, compared to 364,826 in 2006. (See remainder of article below.)

Survey reveals SBC baptisms at lowest point since 1987

"This report is truly disheartening," Rainer said. "Total membership showed a slight decline. Baptisms have now declined for three consecutive years and for seven of the last eight years, and are at their lowest level since 1987. Indeed, the total baptisms are among the lowest reported since 1970. We are a denomination that, for the most part, has lost its evangelistic passion."

Membership in SBC churches, 16,266,920, fell from 2006's total of 16,306,246.

Not all the news coming out of the ACP was negative. The number of SBC churches grew by 1.1 percent

to 44,696; primary worship attendance increased slightly to 6.15 million; and total mission expenditures topped \$1.3 billion.

Missions giving is significant and far reaching. Through the SBC's Cooperative Program, local churches voluntarily pool funds to support mission efforts in their states, throughout the nation and around the world. For example, Cooperative Program funds support more than 10,250 missionaries who engage nearly 1,200 people groups throughout North America and around the world. In addition, CP funds support six seminaries, the International

Mission Board, North American Mission Board, the Ethics & Religions Liberty Commission, and other SBC entities. (LifeWay and GuideStone Financial Resources are self-funding.)

At the same time, CP funds support statewide efforts in evangelism, as well as children's homes, disaster relief efforts, volunteer missions, colleges and universities, camps and much more.

Rainer noted that numeric/percent changes for certain categories could not be accurately figured for the 2007 ACP, as some state conventions did not ask for some items to be reported, or asked in a way that

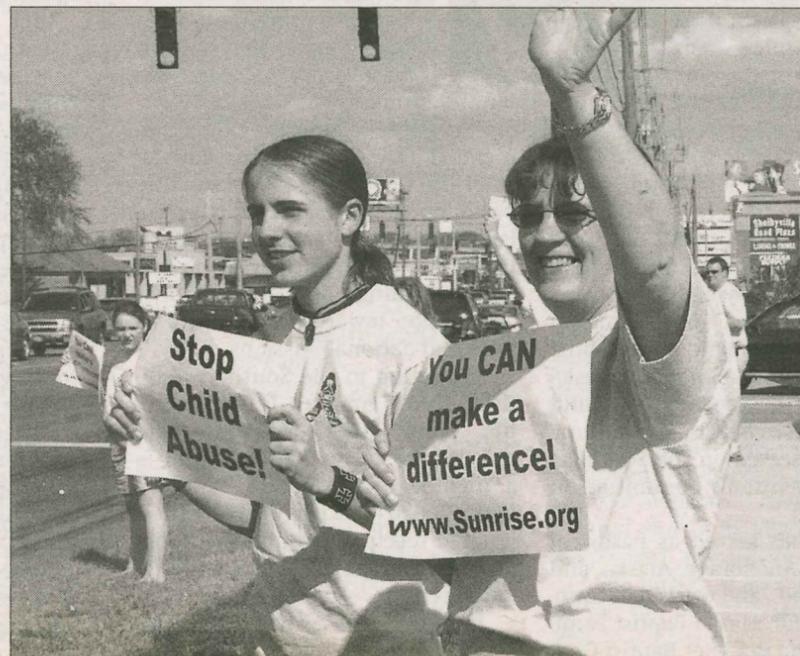
gave results that were not comparable to totals reported in the 2006 ACP. Also, 1,300 fewer churches submitted 2007 ACP data than in 2006.

Impacted categories and their 2007 totals include:

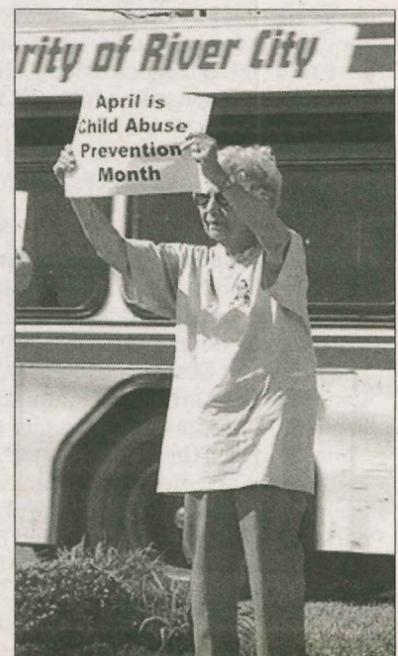
- Sunday School enrollment: 7,876,611
- Discipleship training enrollment: 1,664,348
- Total tithes, offerings and special gifts: \$10.85 billion
- Music ministry enrollment/participation: 1,444,837
- WMU enrolment: 778,555
- Men/boys mission education enrollment: 381,355

Sunrise supporters around the state 'take a stand' against abuse

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Apr. 30.



Left: Elisa Freeman (right), waves in response to a driver who sounded a car horn as she participates in Sunrise Children's Services "Take a Stand" event last week. With her is her son, James Ray. Hundreds of Sunrise supporters from Morehead to Owensboro devoted an hour to promote awareness of the problem of child abuse. **Right:** Margaret Williams, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, holds her sign toward drivers visiting a row of mailboxes in a shopping center parking lot. Sunrise reports that an estimated 15,000 children in Kentucky suffered some form of abuse or neglect last year. "Growing up, I had some experience with that," Ray said. "The Bible says God loves all children." He said it was his hope Louisville commuters received a clear message from the "Take a Stand" event: "You should love your children." April is Child Abuse Prevention Month around the U.S. (Photos by Dannah Prather)



Crisis protocol to speed disaster response

By Mark Kelly
Baptist Press

Fort Caswell, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptists took a major step toward responding more quickly to overseas disasters when state disaster relief directors approved a new protocol for mobilizing “initial responders” to crisis situations abroad.

Gathering April 21-23 at Fort Caswell, N.C., for their annual meeting, disaster relief coordinators from three dozen Baptist state conventions approved a six-point recommendation from a subcommittee charged with hammering out the protocol in consultation with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and Baptist Global Response, the Southern Baptist international relief and development organization.

“This new agreement between the North American Mission Board and Baptist Global Response has pushed us way ahead,” said Jim Didlake, disaster relief director for Mississippi Baptist Convention. “What we see here is something we have hoped for a long time, and that is a real plan to respond to disasters overseas.”

Southern Baptist response in times of crisis has been hampered by the difficulty of identifying team members with the appropriate skills and getting them quickly to the scene of the disaster, noted Jim Brown, stateside director for Baptist Global Response. Under the new plan, Baptist state conventions will compile a roster of initial responders who will be given intensive training for crisis intervention. A major change in the new plan is that the initial responders from two or three states will be on call for immediate

response during designated months of the year.

“This approach gives us a lot of flexibility to meet the specific needs that arise when a crisis breaks,” Brown explained. “States will be able to mobilize the initial responders very quickly. We will have two or three states on call at the same time, so the burden doesn’t fall only on one.”

Southern Baptists have a very efficient protocol for responding to disasters in the United States, with NAMB serving as a hub to identify needs and match volunteer teams from churches and state conventions that have the right skill sets for the task, Brown noted. Southern Baptists have been recognized by the American Red Cross and federal emergency management leaders for the crucial role played by volunteers in the aftermath of disasters.

“Streamlined” response

The process of responding to overseas disasters is now more streamlined since the International Mission Board contracted with Baptist Global Response as a “21st-century partner” for international relief and development, Brown said. Baptist Global Response will facilitate connections between IMB field personnel, national partners, stateside disaster relief directors and NAMB.

All the new protocol requires is for a Baptist Global Response area director to determine that a crisis response will require stateside assistance. Then the group, in collaboration with NAMB, will immediately mobilize the initial responders on call, Brown explained. Initial responders can then be on the scene of a disaster quickly, providing

preliminary ministry assistance to field partners and assessing future needs for long-term ministry support teams.

Initial responder teams will be made up of people with specialized skills, such as engineers, medical personnel and water sanitation, noted Sam Porter, disaster relief director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Team members will be trained to work cross-culturally in disaster relief specialties like assessment and logistics.

“This is going to be a huge opportunity for us in Southern Baptist life,” Porter declared. “In Oklahoma, we are going to put together an A-team of people who have special skills. There are going to be a lot of requirements, but it’s going to help our field partners to know that we are sending the very best volunteers from each of our states and that they aren’t just coming out of impulse.”

Initial responders also will be trained in spiritual care and Bible storytelling, Brown added.

“We ask disaster relief volunteers to go out and meet physical needs all the time, but there really are tremendous opportunities for a team to provide spiritual care—praying for people and sharing a relevant 90-second Bible story that can give them hope in their time of crisis,” he said.

“When we respond to a crisis, it’s not just because of the project but because the Lord wants us to touch people’s lives, to care for their hurt and show His love and compassion.”

State disaster relief directors plan to have initial responder teams ready by June 1 to cover the remainder of 2008. Training for those teams will begin this summer and should be completed by 2009.

Conservative Mo. rivals agree to a ‘peace committee’

Jefferson City, Mo. (ABP)—Seven members of rival conservative groups in the Missouri Baptist Convention will go to mediation in an effort to bring about peace within the battle-torn statewide group.

The MBC Executive Board voted on April 15 to create a “peace committee” that will submit to Christian mediation through Peacemaker Ministries, an organization which focuses on Bible-based conflict resolution.

The committee makeup and its methodology were proposed by Executive Board member Jody Shelenhamer, a layman from First Baptist Church of Bolivar, Mo., according to MBC president Gerald Davidson.

Shelenhamer proposed four members who have been associated with the Missouri Baptist Laymen’s Association. Three others represented a group called Save Our Convention, which has criticized what it calls an inordinate amount of control in convention life by a small group of MLBA adherents.

Two weeks prior to the Executive Board meeting, MBLA supporter Kent Cochran proposed a similar committee, modeled after the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee.

Cochran’s proposal called for a committee to “research the perceptions, activities, expectations, history, present and future of Missouri Baptists focusing particularly on the three issues of: theology, methodology (and) political activity.”

“I’m hopeful that it will work,” Davidson said. But the effort will have to be more successful than the SBC peace committee, which resulted in one side winning and the other withdrawing from the SBC, he noted.

The SBC Peace Committee was launched in 1985, submitted its final report in 1987 and asked the SBC to extend it another three years to monitor response to its recommendations.

But many moderates protested the committee’s final report, which they said was unfairly weighted toward conservatives. Most of them eventually left the SBC for moderate organizations.

Davidson was himself once a supporter of MLBA’s efforts, but became one of Save Our Convention’s organizers last year. He said he believes the solution to the impasse between Missouri conservatives is not complex.

“We don’t have any big differences except in turning loose and letting Missouri Baptists make Missouri Baptist decisions they think are under the leadership of the Holy Spirit,” he emphasized. “People have to say, ‘Hey, we’re going to have to quit fighting.’”

BAPTIST DIGEST

N.C. college receives Luther Bible. Mars Hill College, the North Carolina Baptist school, recently received a 1686 copy of Martin Luther’s Bible translation, donated by Elfriede Ludwig Wilde, a resident of Texarkana, Texas, and former resident of Hendersonville, N.C. Believing that God intended the Bible to be accessible to the masses, Martin Luther translated it into vernacular German in the 15th century. The translation was first printed by Johann Andreas Endters, a publishing house in Nuremberg, Germany. It is unknown how many copies of the translation still exist. Mars Hill officials are currently having the Bible restored.

NOBTS adds master’s in women’s ministry. Trustees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary approved a new master’s program in women’s ministry April 15. The new master of divinity degree track in women’s studies includes the core ministerial competencies of the basic master of divinity program. Emphasis on biblical languages, biblical exegesis and theological and historical reflection also is included in the degree plan to help women minister to other women and to address the needs and concerns of women from a biblical basis.

Latin American Baptist leaders meet. The Union of Baptists in Latin America held a summit of convention presidents in Panama April 17-20. The meeting, which also included general secretaries from most of the Baptist conventions and unions in Central and South America, had representation from 19 countries, including Cuba and the Dominican Republic. UBLA president Raquel Contreras, who is from Chile, described the meeting as the “realization of a dream” as it was the first meeting in Latin America where all Baptist leaders were present in the same place at the same time. Reports given in meetings suggested that a number of Baptist conventions and unions in Latin America are experiencing growth, such as in El Salvador and Cuba, while others, such as in Peru, are experiencing challenges.

Dakota Baptist exec Hamilton to be nominated SBC second VP

Rapid City, S.D. (BP)—Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention, will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Fred MacDonald, senior pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Rapid City, S.D., announced April 24 that he will nominate Hamilton for the post during the SBC’s June 10-11 meeting in Indianapolis. He is the first announced nominee for the post.

Hamilton has led the Dakota convention since 2004. Prior to that, he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Sellersburg, Ind.

A graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Ala., Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburg, Ind., and Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, Hamilton has served as president of the Baptist conventions in Indiana and Alaska and chaired the Executive Committee of the Alaska Baptist Convention. He also has served on the Southern Baptist Convention’s Committee on Nominations.

He also has served as pastor of churches in Anchorage, Alaska, and Evansville, Ind., and worked in counseling roles for Alaska Baptist Family Services and Buckner Baptist Chil-

dren’s Home in Lubbock, Texas.

MacDonald said one reason he is nominating Hamilton for the position is his passion for evangelism.

“Under his leadership, the DBC has developed a powerful ministry at the world’s largest motorcycle rally,” he noted. “Every August, as many as 500,000 bikers come to Sturgis, S.D. God has used the ministry that has been created to bring more than 1,600 people to faith in Christ over the past two summers.”

MacDonald also commended Hamilton for his advocacy of the Cooperative Program. The pastor noted that Hamilton has challenged churches in North and South Dakota to increase their CP giving and is leading the Dakota Baptist Convention toward a 50/50 ratio in state and national missions.

According to the Southern Baptists’ 2007 Annual Church Profile, Sioux Falls Cross Pointe Baptist Church, of which Hamilton is a member, reported 24 baptisms and \$15,020 (7.89 percent) of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$190,214.

Hamilton and his wife, Lisa, have five children.



Jim Hamilton

Owensboro church continues to rebuild following tornado

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Owensboro—Third Baptist Church of Owensboro hopes to complete its sanctuary rebuilding by Christmas, some 14 months after a tornado caused part of its five-story bell tower to collapse into the historic structure.

Despite having to worship in another church and the fellowship hall before settling in the gymnasium in January, Pastor James Byrd said members have taken the interruptions in stride.

"I think they've been great," added Byrd, who will celebrate his ninth anniversary as pastor in August. "Most communities, whether faith-based or other communities, seem to rally around something like this."

"There's been a few complaints but nothing major," noted Wendell Walker, the church's chairman of trustees. "It seems like we're not doing anything, but we're getting a lot done. They're working inside, where people can't see."

Among those details are restoring the sanctuary's southwest corner, where a tornado sent the tower crashing through the roof last October, he said.

Not only did workers have to rebuild the balcony and entrance to the education building, floor and ceiling joists had to be restored so a new roof can be installed, Walker added. He estimated work on the slate will not start until August.

In addition to the roof, all the sanctuary's stained glass windows have been removed and will be repaired or replaced. The pipe organ has been shipped to Louisville, where a company is cleaning and replacing the pipes, and will construct

a new console. A firm from Pennsylvania will send workers to Owensboro to replace or refinish pews; Byrd said about 30 were destroyed in the tornado.

Other work has included repairs to two walls in the gym. The facility will need a new roof to replace the one that has been patched extensively to allow the church to use it for worship. A new gym floor will be installed after the sanctuary is ready. The other project will be restoration of the three damaged stories of the bell tower.

Original repair estimates of \$5 million have risen to at least \$6.2 million. Byrd said he expects most of the cost to be covered by insurance, which has already paid about half of that amount.

To supplement that coverage, other churches and denominations have donated more than \$15,000, which the pastor assured will be devoted to the renovation.

"We don't know how much out of pocket money we'll have to have," Byrd noted. "There might be a few things we want to upgrade and we'll use the money for that."

Longtime member Ken Adkisson said the tornado was the worst damage to the main building since the congregation moved in just before Christmas of 1897. Since then, the church added an education wing in 1953 and a family life center (which includes the gym) in 1995.

The target date for completing the sanctuary renovations is two months longer than originally expected, which Adkisson attributed to weather.

"We've had a terrible winter trying to work," he recalled. "With all the rain and snow we had, it didn't



WORK CONTINUES Two workers install beams in the sanctuary balcony of Third Baptist Church of Owensboro, just beneath where the church's five-story bell tower crashed through the sanctuary roof during a tornado last October. Pastor James Byrd said he expects the congregation to return to the sanctuary by Christmas. (Photo by Larry Neuner)

help any."

There have been other drawbacks to the damage. The church had to suspend Sunday night services and Byrd acknowledged that it has battled problems with the gym's sound system.

"Our sanctuary is a terrific place to worship," the pastor noted. "We have always been known for our high quality of worship and our music program. That's been hard to duplicate."

However, he said, members are thrilled that the renovation will result in improvements to the facilities.

Third Baptist is also fortunate that no one was injured when the

storm struck while about 125 people were in the sanctuary for the Kentucky Council of Churches' annual meeting, Byrd added.

The rebuilding has required considerable time for meetings with contractors, insurance adjusters and the restoration committee, but as far as the members' attitude it has been a positive experience, the pastor acknowledged.

"The church has responded in such a way, that other than being a distraction and a hole in our roof in the sanctuary, it's been okay," Byrd said. "We all have learned to appreciate the sanctuary, but it's not the church. As long as we can worship somewhere, we're going to be OK."

Western Recorder, KBC staff receive BCA honors

Phoenix—Staff members of the Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications department recently were honored with seven awards from Baptist Communicators Association.

The Wilmer C. Fields 2008 Awards Competition honors were presented April 18 as part of the BCA's annual workshop held in Phoenix.

The winners were:
 ■ Former Western Recorder Editor Trennis Henderson, first place for his news coverage of the 2007 Baptist World Alliance annual meeting in Ghana; and first place for his editorial titled, "Are diverse Baptist groups open to unity?"

■ Western Recorder Partnerships Editor Dannah Prather, second place for her feature article on the summertime lunch ministry in Muhlenberg County; and second place for her feature series titled, "Open hearts: Special needs ministry in Kentucky."
 ■ Western Recorder News Director Drew Nichter, honorable mention for his feature series on the KBC's High Impact church plants.

■ KBC media team of Jonathan Johnston and Larry Brannin, second place for their production of the Despising None podcast hosted by KBC youth strategist Joe Ball.

■ KBC director of communications Robert Reeves, second place for the KBC's "Fast One to Feed One" promotional campaign for the Southern Baptist Hunger Fund.

Campbellville's sports ministry class exhibits school's diversity

By Madeline Kitchens
Campbellville University

Campbellville—The sports ministry class at Campbellville University is uniting students of various ethnic backgrounds through ministry and sports.

Ted Taylor, professor of Christian studies and director of the Character, Leadership and Stewardship Institute, is lead professor of the sports ministry program at the school. He said the sports ministry class is comprised of a diverse group of men and women representing different cultures and callings.

"Sports ministry breaks down barriers," Taylor noted. "The course ... is representative of what the university is doing to bridge gaps between the many diverse groups of people in our world."

"With Campbellville University's emphasis on diversity and racial reconciliation, I discovered that our class represented the changing face of CU," he added. "Our African-American students shared in class what it means to be a black student on our campus. An international student shared about her experiences being an international student on our campus. The focus of our class was unity amidst our diversity."

The class's most recent roster was composed of two African-American students, one Brazilian, four Kentuckians and a student from Mich-



FUN AND GAMES Campbellville University students (from left) Elizabeth Brown, Greg Fountain, Justin Johnson and Raymond Chelf do fun exercises with students at Campbellville Christian Church as part of their sports ministry class at the university. The sports ministry program at Campbellville comprises a diverse group of students. (Photo by André Tomaz)

igan. Four of the students are also athletes on campus.

Shaquana Ditto, a junior student-athlete at Campbellville, said she found the class to be an eye-opening experience.

"I realized that we all are not from the same background," she noted. "Some people only see black and white while others don't even see color. Campbellville University has opened up my eyes about differ-

ent nationalities. It isn't just about black and white; there are other nationalities that feel separated."

Ditto also said she found the sports ministry class to be especially uplifting. "The sports ministry area is just a blessing. ... There is common ground and to be able to share the gospel with anyone is just amazing."

"We find that sports are a leveler for the things that separate us and that's one of the reasons we are

so proud of the sports ministry program at CU," Taylor explained.

Recently, the class led a sports ministry activity for a kindergarten class at the Campbellville Christian Church Center for Education. Students divided the students into four teams for relay races. Each team competed for prizes based on the verse from 1 Corinthians 9:24: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize."

The children were encouraged to "run for Jesus" and were taught hand motions to accompany the biblical concepts. According to Taylor, the class grew closer and more unified while working to share the gospel with others and motivate each other.

"As a faculty member of Campbellville University for 14 years, I am excited about the changing face of" the school, he said. "The dialogue on race that occurred in my class brought us closer to racial reconciliation. Our diversity enables us to expand our Christian influence. Our unity in Christ empowered our class to respect our diversity."

Campbellville's sports ministry program also includes courses in coaching theory, psychology and sociology of sport, as well as principles of Christian coaching in addition to its theology and traditional courses.

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

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These numbers have value

By Roger Oldham

Nashville (BP)—The statistical profile generated from the Annual Church-Profile reports submitted by cooperating Southern Baptist churches each year is a numerical snapshot of what is happening at the local church level. Though these numbers do not tell the whole story of ministry, they have value for the Southern Baptist Convention in a number of ways.

First, these numbers help us measure our overall effectiveness in terms of church planting and evangelism. These have always been areas of particular interest to Southern Baptists and have been the object of much of our strategic focus over the past few years. While we are disappointed that our number of baptisms has declined, we rejoice that the total number of our churches has increased. We would anticipate that an increasing number of churches will yield an increase in evangelism over the next several years.

Second, these numbers help us see the continuing faithfulness of our churches in discipleship and nurture. In recent years, there has been an increasing call to give great

attention to discipleship. This renewed focus seems to be reflected in our increase in discipleship enrollment. For this we are thankful.

Third, these numbers help us gauge various levels of participation in specific ministries of the church. The flagship of these ministries for many years has been Sunday school, the basic Bible study unit we have traditionally measured. Enrollment in this area of church life has declined. Seeing this will lead us to reexamine how many of our newer churches are conducting and recording participation in small group Bible study in their respective church ministries and monitor over time whether there are new trends we need to examine with our local churches.

Fourth, these numbers enable us to monitor church giving, stewardship and support for our primary ministries of missions at home and abroad. The SBC primarily exists to promote Christian missions at home and abroad. Total giving from our churches to support these ministries remains strong.

Fifth, these numbers help us measure the total number of individuals who actively relate to

Defending the 'Giants'

Your instructions for writing a letter to be printed include a warning against making a "personal attack." But articles that make a personal attack are just as hurtful as letters.

A few weeks ago, you printed a commentary about Christian movies. Perhaps you didn't see it as an attack, but when one movie ("Facing the Giants") is singled out by name and called "Pollyannaish" in a context of "not good movies," I would certainly feel hurt if I were one of that congregation who poured their heart and soul into making it. I even felt "attacked"

for liking it and recommending it. They're not professionals, you know, and they did an extraordinary job.

My husband watched the movie nearly every night for two months while going through a really rough time physically. Nothing is impossible with God (the theme of "Facing the Giants") and he came through with flying colors. A secondary theme of the movie is that, in God's strength, if we don't give up, we can all do a lot more than we think we can.

Incidentally, "Pollyanna" is about a young girl whose obedience to the Word to be "glad" and content in all circumstances transforms a

churches as members. A member is one who has confessed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and been baptized by immersion as a believer in one of our affiliated churches. With the mobility of our society, it is often difficult to keep track of each member who moves to a new location. There has been a renewed emphasis on tracking members who have left their home areas. With a decline of less than one-fourth of 1 percent in total membership, it is too soon to tell if this decline in membership is a result of churches "cleaning up" their church rolls or if it is the beginning of a trend that should give us cause for greater concern.

Clearly, some of these numbers are disappointing. They will provide an additional catalyst for evaluating how we can better assist churches in fulfilling their ministries on the local level. Other numbers continue to be encouraging. At every level of Baptist life—local church, associational, state convention and SBC—we will be examining what we can learn from these numbers as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Roger Oldham is vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee

whole town. "Facing the Giants" is about people whose faith, perseverance, and love transformed a whole school. How can stories involving such transformation have "lost the essence of the Gospel?" And personally, I cannot watch most of "Facing the Giants" without laughing and smiling a lot. It is a fun movie.

I understand the writer's basic concerns, but dismissing one of the most uplifting Christian movies to come out last year—well, what can I say? I would not take a child to see "The Passion of the Christ," wonderful as that movie was. I would take a child to see "Facing the Giants." (Actually, I'd take an adult, too.)

*Sherryll Krogg
Louisville*

KBC annual gets high-tech makeover

By Robert Reeves, KBC's director of communications

When the Kentucky Baptist Convention held its first organizational session at the "Baptist meeting house" in Louisville on Oct. 20, 1837, those who attended traveled there by wagon, on horseback or on foot. There were no electric lights in the building. If there was need for any heat that day, it was generated by burning wood. There were no microphones, video reports or live streaming of the session over the Internet. No messengers left the room to answer their cell phones.

But when the meeting was over, something occurred then that has continued consistently to the present day. A set of minutes from the meeting were dutifully written, professionally printed and distributed so there would be a historical record of the deliberations and decisions of Kentucky Baptists.

Over the years, those 19 pages of

meeting minutes from 1837 grew into a nearly 700-page convention annual that included not only the minutes of the previous year's meeting, but ministry reports, historical tables, audit documents, address lists, statistical summaries and much more. Denominational workers, associational offices and churches used some copies extensively. But many gathered dust on library shelves or were discarded.

Why the history lesson on the convention annual? Because 2008 marks a major departure for this venerable publication made possible by technology never even imagined in 1837. This year's annual is being distributed to churches on a CD-ROM that will enable users to access the information easier and faster than ever by using their computers.

The CD-ROMs should be arriving at churches during the first week of May. Simply inserting the disc into the computer will prompt it to open

CHURCH

Who gives the most is not determined by dollars & cents

By Doug Strader

Did you ever wonder who gives the most money to the Lord through your local church? Most of us have probably thought about that at some point in our church life.

The only ones who really know are the Lord and the church treasurer and/or the financial secretary.

If you could see the figures from your church giving records you would probably be surprised at how much some people give—and also about the number of people who gave nothing. You might even think that the people who make or have the most money give the most to the Lord, but that is not necessarily true.

I learned several years ago that 20 percent of the congregation give about 80 percent of the money received by the church. The other 20 percent is given by about 30 percent of the congregation. What those figures mean is that nearly 50 percent of members give nothing to the Lord through the church. In fact, some stewardship people are now saying that only about 15 percent of the people are giving about 85 percent of the money received.

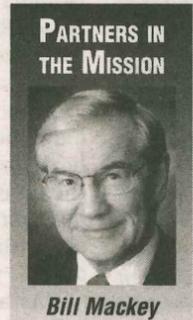
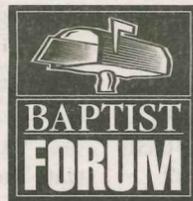
In older churches, most of the money received is given by those members who are 65 years of age and older. We assume that people begin giving regularly and systematically when they become followers of Christ and join the church. But that does not usually happen; most people must be taught the biblical doctrine of tithing. Tithing is the best way for the church to be supported by all of its members. The people who give regularly and systematically support the ministries of the church.

Tithing is fair to everyone. Jesus said that a widow who gave all she had to the temple treasury actually gave more than all of the wealthy put together. She gave and had nothing left, but they gave and had money left after they gave. So in Jesus' eyes, those who give the most dollars do not necessarily give the most money to the Lord.

Where do you stand in your giving to the Lord through the church? He does not look at the dollar amount but at how much we give in comparison to how much we have left after we give.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville

COMMENTARY



Bill Mackey

PARTNERS IN
THE MISSION

Marriage is not always part of God's plan for everyone's life

Q: I am single, in my mid-twenties and have never dated. I have no relationship and no prospects. I have heard all my life that if I get myself together spiritually that the "right one" will appear. What's wrong with me?

For too long, churches, pastors, authors and others have given Christian single adults the impression that there is a "formula" to getting everything you want in life.

SINGLES

We need to remember that God is not a Tom's candy machine to be manipulated by saying the "right words" in prayer, making commitments in church or reading enough Scripture verses. God does not exist for our benefit. The Bible is not a manual for how to get what we want "in three easy steps."

Sometimes the best way to look at life is that it just "is." Still, God is there for us in the midst of it, whether we find ourselves single or married.

Our goal in life, according to Scripture, is not marriage. Jesus said there is no marriage in heaven. Our goal is to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). This is a process—the result of everything that happens, good and bad (Romans 8:28), as we cooperate with Him, as we love God and are called by His purpose.

The apostle Paul said that no matter his state, he was content. Contentment is not a matter of singleness or marriage, but a matter of adjusting to whatever happens, all the while asking God to use it to make you more like Him.—James Stillwell

Q: I am 31 years old and my mother is still trying to run my life. She is always checking in on me and telling me what I should do. I have seriously been considering taking a job out of state to get away from her, but I have other family and friends that I do not want to leave. I just don't know what to do. I am miserable.

You do sound like you are at a breaking point. It appears that your relationship with your mother has remained the same since you were a child. You still experience her as protector, guide and guardian. This is a challenge for some parents and their adult children when roles do not change as needed. It is necessary that the roles of parent change as the child grows and matures. If they do not, the adult son or daughter can feel controlled and suffocated.

It is clear that you and your mother need to have a conversation about these changing roles. It may seem to your mother that she is trying to be a "good" parent, yet your needs for her parenting have changed.

In their book, "Boundaries Face to Face: How to Have That Difficult Conversation You've Been Avoiding," Henry Cloud and John Townsend offer a helpful chapter about having that conversation with a parent. Most adult children know what they want and what they do not want from a parent. The challenge is how to express those desires in a conversation that will bring about positive change.

A limited view of options includes continue being miserable and live with the relationship as is, or move away and try to sever all ties. To help, Cloud and Townsend offer conversation starters recognizing Scripture's instruction to love and honor your parents.

Change can be frightening. We are often vulnerable to feelings of rejection with our family members. Rather than moving, consider having a conversation that affirms your mother's love for you and your love for her and specifically addresses needed changes. Offer ways the two of you can talk and spend time together. Allow her time to adjust to the idea of a change in your relationship. Hopefully, she would rather have you nearby with a new way of relating, than far away with very little relating.—Valerie Vincent

Family Forum writers are:

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Four C's of effective church administration

The core values of Severns Valley Baptist Church are based on the Acts 1:8 church: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 becomes a reality when the commitment of staff and volunteers centers on Ephesians 4:16: "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Effective administration happens when policies and procedures compliment and undergird the work of the church in fleshing out both passages of Scripture.

The overriding principal of all we do as stewards of God's resources comes back to the basic premise: "It is all about ministry." The role of the church administrator is no exception and it carries the mandate to fairly and equitably blend fiscal responsibility with the ministry aspect.

The distinction should always be drawn between business and ministry, yet there will be little notice of where one ends and the other begins when ministry is the focus. The administrator must know when to hold the line, but also to accommodate when ministry necessitates. Ministry should be the litmus test when the hard decisions are made.

The overriding principal and function of church administration should be to support, undergird and encourage all areas and aspects of church life. Basically, the keys to effective church administration can be remembered by the four C's:

Confidence. The cornerstone for effective administration must begin with well-defined policies and a fiscally sound operating budget adopted by the church. Clear policies will give the administrator the proper authority and explanation of boundaries, as well as guidelines and definition of expectations. The administrator should maintain clear lines of communication with staff and church leaders and share a commitment of working together to accomplish God's purpose for the church.

Communication. Holding the trust of the congrega-

tion is a serious charge and one where integrity and character can never be questioned. Policy should be the guide for day-to-day operations and a practice of open communication should always be evident. Distributing information fairly must be a common practice to develop a sense of respect and trust.

Confidentiality. The church administrator's job description often includes personnel supervision, budget oversight and facilities management. The church and her people have the right to expect the highest level of privacy and confidentiality related to personnel issues, personal matters, records management and distribution of resources. The

bonds of trust are grown and nurtured through the relationship of administrator and church and that trust should be protected and never breached.

Commitment. The effective administrator must be organized, able to lead others, practice responsible fiscal management, and above all, possess a heart for God and His church. The best church administrator is the quintessential steward of God's house and His resources. The question, "What Would Jesus Do?" should surface often. If shared ministry is the focus, the administrator becomes a partner in ministry and much more than just the keeper of the keys or the authority on budget analysis.

Spiritual gifts of leadership, administration and discernment are evident in a good administrator. Management, supervisory and organizational skills are a must; however, the buildings are not just about bricks and mortar. Employees and volunteers are not about self glorification or proving an agenda. Tithes and offerings are not about filling up the storehouse. Rather, all are tools to be used to further His Kingdom.

The administrator becomes more than an overseer, director or manager when biblical principals provide the foundation and Christ is the focus of the work. Effective administration happens when it really is "all about ministry."

Linda Polley is director of administration at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown

GUEST EDITORIAL



Linda Polley

Get me to the church on time

By Tom Ehrich

New York (RNS)—"Church time isn't like regular time," laughed a lay leader after fielding a question on a capital project's timetable.

She did not mean the difference between "kairos" (sacred time) and "chronos" (worldly time), which ministers sometimes use in sermons to show that they know Greek.

She meant slowness: A tendency to recognize situations slowly, to respond slowly, to make decisions slowly, to implement slowly, and to change course slowly.

Sunday services might start on time, but it can take days for ministers to return a phone call or an e-mail, even longer for good ideas to move from inspiration to perspiration, and longer still for bad ideas and failed ventures to receive a decent Christian burial.

The reasons are varied and sometimes make sense. Accountability is rarely clear when staff and laity disagree on who is in charge. Every idea and venture has a constituency whose passion can provoke a storm when denied. Tender feelings abound and a well-meaning desire to consider all points of view can make it difficult to execute even the

simplest plan.

Even though the gospel narrative is grounded in conflict, hard

FIRST PERSON

decisions and a clear reformulation of what is and is not urgent,

church life tends to be shaped by conflict avoidance, delaying decisions, resisting change and allowing a few loud voices to drown out the urgent and unexpected.

In many churches, the pressure to perform is low, partly because members have concluded the institution will not perform, and partly because the faith enterprise is deemed less significant than other enterprises. A church commitment is easy to drop when other pressures mount.

I have four suggestions for dealing with "church time":

First, we need to do better. Faith does matter, God does care and commitments to serve should take our highest priority. When Jesus said we must die to self and live for others, he did not go on to add, "If it's convenient and no one objects."

Lives are hurt when we are slow to respond. Needs worsen when we ignore them. Our world suffers when we show up late for pain, injustice and new questions.

Second, in order to do better, we

need to take our own gospel seriously enough to stop fighting over who is in charge and whose preferences rule the sandbox. Our bickering has become an excuse for inaction.

Third, we need to see the real urgency out there. These are profoundly stressful times. From job losses to foreclosures to runaway greed to lives being poured into unworthy pursuits, people are desperate. This is simply not the time for church folk to be debating sex, property rights, paint colors, hymn selection, by-laws or budgets.

Every day, people are calling for help, writing for help, crying out just beyond our hearing, and acting out in ways that demonstrate their desperation. We need to be returning those calls.

Fourth, we need to see the faith community as a holy collaboration to deal with urgent needs, not a club or clan where a few provide and many consume. That means laity and staff learning to share authority, wealthy and non-wealthy learning mutual respect, longtimer and newcomer sharing space, and people of all theological and political persuasions realizing that faith is not about right-opinion or institutional survival. It is about love in action.

Tom Ehrich is a writer, church consultant and founder of the Church Wellness Project

McNeal: Ky. churches becoming more mission-focused

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Burgin Baptist Church reaches out to its community through random acts of kindness and serving the high school across the street from its building.

In addition to sponsoring a First Priority Bible club at the school, the central Kentucky congregation will host a baccalaureate service for graduating seniors this spring. Members have also volunteered at the concession stands during basketball games.

Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington has a "Meals on Wheels" site and is involved in serving mentally and physically handicapped youth and adults. The church has members from more than half a dozen nations, part of what Pastor Jay Robison called an intentional effort to become multi-cultural and multi-racial.

In suburban Louisville, members of Phos Hilaron Church take one Sunday each month for "service worship." Instead of a worship service, they go into the community to serve, most recently helping clean up baseball fields April 13 for the South Oldham Little League in Crestwood.

All are examples of being a missional church, a topic that consultant Reggie McNeal emphasized during a 2006 visit to Lexington for a conference hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Although his most recent seminar April 12 emphasized personal development, the missional leadership specialist with the Dallas-based Leadership Network still mentioned missional activities.

Noting that host Immanuel Baptist Church had an executive chef,



OUTSIDE THE WALLS Len Jagers (left) and Tim Gooch (right) of Phos Hilaron Church work with Julie Kratholm of South Oldham Little League to install a fence liner for players' safety during the church's recent "service worship" event. During his April 12 seminar in Lexington, author Reggie McNeal said that churches as a whole have developed a more mission-minded outlook. (Photo by John Foster/The Oldham Era)

McNeal said the church could use the chef's abilities as the cornerstone of an after-school program that would provide food and tutoring for needy children.

Fortunately, since 2006 the prolific author noted that he believes the church as a whole has turned the corner toward a more mission-focused outlook.

"I'm delighted to announce that in my opinion the tide has turned," McNeal told the Western Recorder. "That information hasn't reached everyone yet and it will take years to show up. (However), at the tectonic plate level there is a fundamentally different conversation emerging with the church. That's my biggest

sign of hope; people are beginning to ask better questions."

Though declining to name specific examples, McNeal is finding more churches that are "adopting" schools and providing needed assistance. Others are setting aside weekends aimed at service to the community and streamlining church activities to give members more time to serve. Some are opening their facilities to the community or not building so they will have more resources to help others, McNeal pointed out.

Todd Probus, pastor of the new Mosaic church in Versailles, said McNeal's seminar was a reminder that a church is not a country club, but a hospital that needs to reach people

and connect with their needs.

Although Mosaic plans to be missional after its launch in September, the pastor noted that during his talk, McNeal pointed out an important aspect of such a congregation.

McNeal said "missional churches are made up of missional people," Probus recalled. "That takes the commitment on the part of a lot of folks to say, 'I'm going to lead a missional life.' If that happens, then you've got a missional church."

Noting that McNeal covered the mission topic thoroughly in his previous Lexington appearance, Pastor Carl McCray of Burgin Baptist Church explained that the April 12 seminar was more about the individual.

Still, the pastor said it contained application to his church. He particularly liked McNeal's idea of using a different scorecard and considering how to accomplish goals that are important to God.

"By maybe going through the process of looking at the scorecard as a church and seeing what we need to do," the pastor said of plans to utilize what he learned. "Such as the leadership of the church saying, 'This is what we want; how do we get there?' And then making those steps that (God) shows us."

Others gleaned personal application from McNeal's session, like Mary Ruth Jagers of Phos Hilaron.

"I (learned) that it's okay to take care of yourself and find value in just being a child of God ... just being who He created us to be," she noted. "As far as what I can take away from today, finding the value in people—that God created each of them for a specific purpose and has something great in mind."

Cumberlands receives gift of \$1 million for building project

Williamsburg—When University of the Cumberlands President Jim Taylor presented Marion Forcht the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the University's annual Honors Day April 21, he did not expect to receive something in return—especially a gift of \$1 million for the new Regina and Ward Correll Science Building, now under construction at the Williamsburg campus.

Forcht, of Corbin, received the honorary degree from Cumberlands

in recognition of her many business, community and philanthropic achievements. As she accepted the award, Forcht expressed her respect and admiration for University of the Cumberlands, saying, "It stands up for what it believes." She then surprised Taylor with a check on behalf of the Forcht family and Forcht Group of Kentucky, of which she is controlling co-owner, along with her husband, Terry. "This gift is to help (Cumberlands) grow and stand and do all the things it has always done," she said.

Taylor admitted to being "speechless," but he did say that what students pay at Cumberlands does not begin to cover the cost of educating them. "Without friends like you, I don't know what we would do. May God bless you," Taylor told Forcht and her family.

The school's new science complex will consist of the current science building, which received extensive renovations in 2005, as well as a new building with technology-equipped classrooms, lecture halls and office space, culminating in a 78,000 square-foot center for scientific studies. The \$8 million project is expected to be completed and ready for classes by the beginning of the spring semester in 2009.

Ky. Baptist Convention annual publication shifted to CD-ROM

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention annual will be distributed to churches on CD-ROM rather than in book form this year in a move to make the information easier to access and dramatically cut the cost of the publication.

KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves said the new annual will be mailed to churches during the first week of May. The CD-ROM will use a computer's Internet browser to provide information in the common Adobe Acrobat PDF file format. Most computers already have Adobe Acrobat installed, but the program also is provided free on the CD-ROM.

"We are really excited to be offering the convention annual to the churches in this form for the first time this year," Reeves said. "The same material is provided as in the printed version, but we believe this electronic version will be much easier to use—especially because of the great search feature provided by the Adobe Acrobat Reader software."

Users will be able to print any page or section of the book they need or move the entire annual to their computers if they so de-

sire, he added. The CD-ROM also contains the KBC Services Directory.

Reeves noted that individuals who prefer to have the annual in book form can still receive it by request at a cost-recovery charge of \$15.

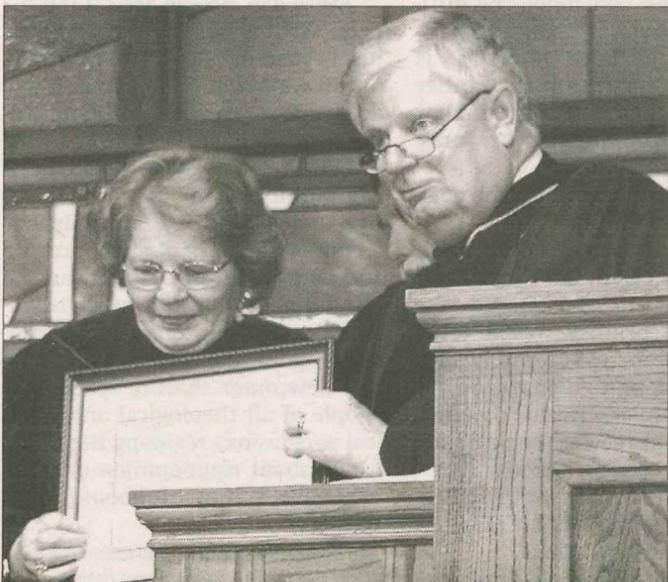
The switch to the CD-ROM format will bring a substantial cost savings as well, Reeves pointed out. Last year's 675-page book cost a little more than \$20,000 in Cooperative Program funds to design, print and mail. This year's annual is expected to cost less than half that amount.

"A number of state conventions have already moved to producing their annuals on CD-ROM with great success and I think people are going to like this product here in Kentucky as well," he said.

"I'm also really pleased that this format will allow us to be better stewards of our Cooperative Program dollars."

For more information about the convention annual or to order a printed version, visit www.kybaptist.org/annual or call (502) 489-3578, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3578.

SURPRISE GIFT
University of the Cumberlands President Jim Taylor presents the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Marion Forcht. In return, Forcht gave the school a \$1 million gift for completion of the school's new science building complex.



Wall Street Journal and the Bible

Financial 'authorities' focus on vastly different purposes

The Wall Street Journal has a lot to say about the meaning of money in our lives.

The WSJ claims to be a unique publication because it is the country's only national business daily and is put together by the world's largest staff of business, financial and news experts. It has the reputation of being the authoritative word about money matters.

The Bible also has a lot to say about the meaning of money in our lives. It is unique because it was written by those inspired by the ultimate authority, the one and only true God; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible is a perfect treasure of God's instruction and it points us to the absolutely reliable standard by which our conduct is and will be judged.

The focus of the Wall Street Journal is man and his purposes and ways. The focus of the Bible is God and His purposes and ways.

If the WSJ is your source to find meaning in life, you likely will conclude money is the most important thing, and you will mea-

sure your happiness and success in life by the amount of money you can accumulate in its various forms.

If the Bible is your source to find meaning in life, you will discover the most important thing is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and to have no other gods before Him. You also will discover that "no one can serve two masters; either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other; you cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

My prayer is you will shift your priorities to enable God to be God of your life. When that happens, your money works for you instead of you working for your money. Your material possessions become the means by which you live, not the end for which you live.

Please give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege to assist you in stewarding that which God has entrusted to you. Call us toll free.

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



Barry Allen

Offering hope and a future

Sunrise helps break cycle of abuse for mistreated kids

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, symbolized by a blue ribbon. At Sunrise Children's Services, we heal the emotional scars of child abuse victims. Children who have been abused and neglected are more likely to repeat that behavior as adults, so Sunrise's staff and foster parents offer faith, hope and love to hurting kids. The result is that we break the cycle of child abuse in our society.

Take Sue for example, who was placed with a Sunrise foster family when she was 14 years old after suffering sexual abuse and neglect. In foster care, Sue initially struggled to cope with being removed from her home. Once she began to develop a close relationship with her foster parents and their older daughter, Sue became an excellent student. She completed her homework without help and earned all A's and B's in public high school. She even began volunteering.

Her state social worker was so impressed with Sue's improvement that it was recommended she return to her father's home. In a

family court hearing, Sue demanded that she remain with her foster family. This was her response when the judge asked why she felt that way: "I deserve someone who prays with me and encourages me. I love helping Mom with dinner and then we all sit down at the dinner table as a family and eat. My life has changed since I've been here. This is home to me. These are my parents. I want them and they want me. I'm not getting hurt here, I am happy and I know I have a future if I stay here."

Sue's voice was heard. Her father has agreed to a voluntary termination of parental rights and her foster family plans to adopt her. At age 16, she looks toward a bright future—one that would have been impossible before she was placed in a loving home. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

We entrust all God's mistreated children to His sovereign hands, knowing He can use Sunrise to bring them hope and a future.

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org



Bill Smithwick

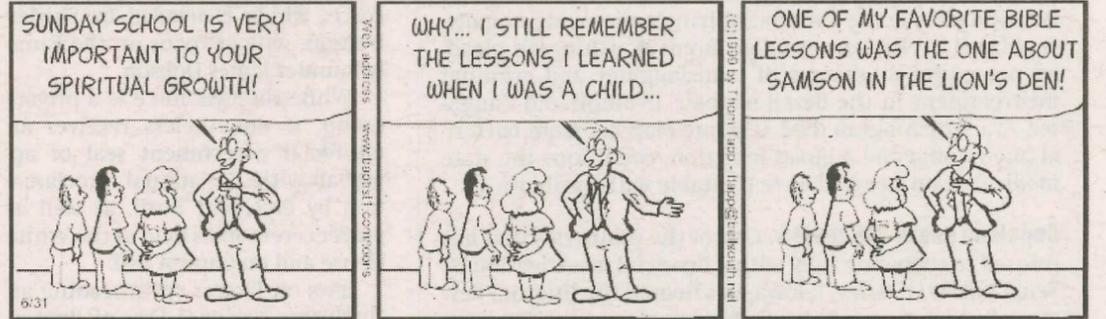
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Terri Grottko

Across

- 1 "For they considered not the ___ of the loaves" (Mark 6:52)
- 7 "In the days of Noah, while the ___ was a preparing" (1 Peter 3:20)
- 10 "The sons of Carmi; ___" (1 Chronicles 2:7)
- 11 Word in a command
- 12 U.S. state named after Elizabeth I (abbr.)
- 13 Where the action is
- 14 "Those that walk in pride he is able to ___" (Daniel 4:37)
- 16 What the wife of Phinehas named their son (1 Samuel 4)
- 18 Father of Eliud (Matthew 1:14)
- 20 City near Bethel
- 22 "Thy right ___ shall save me" (Psalm 138:7)
- 23 Used to make powder
- 24 "Let tears run down like a river ... give thyself no ___" (Lamentations 2:18)
- 26 Former name of Bethel (Genesis 28:19)
- 28 "The rock poured me out ___ of oil" (Job 29:6)
- 32 "As he saith also in ___" (Romans 9:25)
- 34 Waif, often
- 35 Compass dir.
- 36 Related to the camel
- 38 Forty-niner's destination (abbr.)
- 39 Father of Ahihud (Numbers 34:27)
- 41 ___ what?
- 42 State on the Pacific (abbr.)
- 43 Redact

1		2	3	4	5	6		7	8		9
			10						11		12
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16		17						18			19
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	43					44	45			46	
47				48		49		50	51		
					52						

- 44 Roger Williams's state (abbr.)
- 46 Reach out and touch someone (abbr.)
- 47 "I ___ hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14)
- 48 Frustrate
- 50 "And on the wall of ___ he [Jotham] built much" (2 Corinthians 27:3)
- 52 "Yet had he the ___ of the spirit" (Malachi 2:15)
- 15 Where the Emims were smote, in ___ Kiriathaim (Genesis 14)
- 17 "___ be thy name" (Luke 11:2)
- 19 Atlantic seaboard state (abbr.)
- 21 "And Phares begat ___" (Matthew 1:3)
- 25 Son of Japheth (1 Chronicles 1:5)
- 27 Simon ___ (Acts 1)
- 29 Exec.
- 30 "The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like ___" (Ruth 4:11)
- 31 Slow goer
- 33 Shade tree
- 35 Son of Noah
- 37 "To meet the Lord in the ___" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 40 "He that eateth of this bread shall ___ for ever" (John 6:58)
- 45 Borrower's woe
- 46 "In all matters of wisdom ... the king ... found them ___ times better" (Daniel 1:20)
- 47 Simile syntax
- 49 Greek letter
- 51 Part of middle-school curriculum (abbr.)

Down

- 1 "Is therefore Christ the ___ of sin? God forbid" (Galatians 2:17)
- 2 Chemical symbol
- 3 "I am glad of the coming of ... Fortunatus and ___" (1 Corinthians 16:17)
- 4 Small fish used as bait
- 5 Political party in Great Britain
- 6 Where life and death decisions are made (abbr.)
- 7 As sons of God, what we can call Him (Galatians 4)
- 8 Stretch
- 9 Parent
- 12 "Surely there is a ___ for the silver" (Job 28:1)

Last week's solution

		1	2	3	4						
		S	A	L	B	S					
		E	X	C	E	E	D				
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21	E	22	E	I	N	23	F	P	M	24	L
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WESTERNRECORDER + Your church newsletter
TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE

NATIONAL NOTES

Praying coach rebuffed by court. A decision by an East Brunswick, N.J., high school football coach to bow his head and kneel during student-led pre-game prayers represents an endorsement of religious activity at a public school event, a federal appeals court ruled April 15. Marcus Borden found himself in the center of an intense debate about prayer and school athletics in 2005 after parents complained to the district that he prayed with students before games. Borden's lawyer has vowed to petition the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

Parents charged in child's death fight back. Two parents charged in the faith-healing death of their young daughter launched a counteroffensive April 17, pledging to defend their constitutional right to religious freedom and unveiling a Web site aimed at rallying nationwide support. On March 31, Raylene and Carl Brent Worthington pleaded not guilty to charges of manslaughter and criminal mistreatment in the death of their 15-month-old daughter. Ava Worthington died at home March 2 from bacterial pneumonia and a blood infection, conditions the state medical examiner said were treatable with antibiotics.

Copeland seeks IRS review. One of the ministries that has refused to cooperate fully with a financial investigation by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, has invited the Internal Revenue Service to conduct an inquiry of its own. Kenneth Copeland Ministries of Newark, Texas, made the request of the IRS earlier this month. "The church desires to protect its and all other churches' First Amendment rights, and by this action, we believe we are doing just that," said John Copeland, the ministry's CEO.

Tenn. attorney general OKs Bible classes. Tennessee schools can now teach a nonsectarian academic class on the Bible without violating the U.S. Constitution or previous U.S. Supreme Court precedents, according to Tennessee's attorney general. Robert Cooper Jr. delivered the opinion at the request of state Sen. Roy Herron, who is sponsoring a bill that would permit public schools to offer a class on the Bible's impact in literature, art, music culture and politics. The bill requires that the class not "indoctrinate students as to either the truth or falsity of the biblical materials or texts from other religious or cultural traditions."

Critics: Prayer day 'hijacked' by evangelicals

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Is the upcoming National Day of Prayer a day for all Americans—or just evangelicals?

That is what some critics are charging in advance of the May 1 observances as they call for a more inclusive approach to an event they say has been "hijacked" by conservative Christians.

The online organization Jews on First has questioned the application process for coordinators affiliated with the National Day of Prayer Task Force, which is headed by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson.

While the task force is a private group, it nonetheless receives an unofficial government seal of approval with an annual proclamation by President Bush, as well as prayer ceremonies held at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

Jews on First is spearheading an "Inclusive National Day of Prayer" campaign that includes a Web site featuring talking points, sample letters to governors and a list of "alternative inclusive observances."

"The National Day of Prayer has been hijacked," the group declares on its Web site. "What began as President Truman's declaration of a National Prayer Day for all Americans is now excluding and dividing us on religious lines."

Jane Hunter, the co-director of Jews on First, said her group has interfaith volunteers in several states who are urging their governors to issue inclusive proclamations about the annual observance.

"The volunteers who organize the events ... are required to pledge

that they will only invite Christian clergy to officiate," said Hunter, a longtime Jewish activist. "The volunteers themselves have to ... make a statement of faith that is very narrowly drawn so that only a conservative evangelical Christian would be comfortable doing it."

The National Day of Prayer is always observed on the first Thursday in May. Becky Armstrong, a spokeswoman for the National Day of Prayer Task Force, noted that the same application for coordinators has been "used for years."

"The task force has chosen to conduct events that reflect its Christian perspective on prayer," she added. "All Americans are free to exercise their First Amendment rights to organize events that observe the National Day of Prayer in a manner that reflects their religious perspective."

The task force's Web site features a note from Lisa Crump, the manager of local coordinators, that states, "A simple application with contact data and statement of faith, confirming your commitment to Christ is all that's needed to get you on the way to becoming a NDP Task Force volunteer coordinator."

Applicants must indicate if their lives reflect a belief statement that begins: "I believe that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of The Living God. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only One by which I can obtain salvation and have an ongoing relationship with God."

The application form also asks coordinators to pledge that activities they help lead "will be conducted solely by Christians while those

with differing beliefs are welcome to attend."

The Jews on First effort has been supported by other church-state watchdog groups, such as those affiliated with Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Americans United's local chapter in Orange County, Calif., sent more than 2,000 letters to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger urging him not to support events whose hosts are limited to evangelical Christians.

"It seems to say that if you're not part of that group, then you're a second-class citizen," said Stephanie Campbell, president of the chapter.

Lisa Page, chief deputy press secretary for Schwarzenegger, acknowledged that the governor's office receives numerous requests each year for a National Day of Prayer proclamation and "the governor has always been inclusive of all faiths on this special day."

Among several "alternative inclusive observances" listed online is one on May 6 in Camp Hill, Pa., held "in response to an exclusionary Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast."

Paul Fullmer, a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister from Annville, Penn., has protested that breakfast's emphasis on Christianity, and has organized an interfaith gathering that will feature prayers and readings from state founder William Penn's writings on tolerance.

"What our legislators are doing is not representing us; it's representing their own particular exclusive interests," Fullmer said. "How contrary is that to William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania as a place of religious refuge?"

Meet the class of 2008, part 2

Personal attention from teachers helps turn the academic tide for 'Brenda'

Kentucky resident "Brenda" (not her real name) came to Oneida the fourth quarter of her freshman year. When she enrolled, her mother said she was lost in the "large classes." Brenda needed to be more "responsible, structured and better organized." We were told that she was "immature, making bad choices, has not adjusted well to high school, lies, doesn't like to get out of bed, argues, stretches curfew and was generally unmotivated."

When Brenda was interviewed, we asked her if she felt this description of her by her mother was accurate and Brenda replied, "Yes."

Even though we were concerned with what her mother told us about Brenda, we were most concerned with her lack of desire to be here. When we asked her on a scale of one to 10 how she felt about being here—10 being the greatest desire to be here—she told us: "Four."

Normally we are less concerned about the challenges we face with each student but much more concerned with their desire to be here and to make changes. It did not look too good for Brenda.

Here is part of her senior essay: "Wow, I can barely believe I've made it to this point in my life. I came to Oneida with a questionable lifestyle, transcript and attitude. I remember how wonderful I thought my freshman year of high school was. I had friends and I finally felt as if I belonged. Unfortunately, though my social life was going wonderfully, my academic life was a totally different story. I think when I arrived at Oneida, I was failing four classes and the only 'A' I had

on my report card was in orchestra. Even though my friends were great, I reacted to my new found friendships by refusing to acknowledge any other part of school. My grades plummeted and my parents became more and more frustrated with me. I had arguments with them on a daily basis and (we) were barely speaking most days. My parents constantly warned me that if I didn't improve something would have to be done but I didn't think anything would actually happen.

"In March my mom told me as we were standing in the kitchen that they had found a place for me. I remember asking how much longer I had at home, thinking that I would be able to finish my freshman year. Mom told me that we were going out to see the school the next weekend. My grades did not improve drastically even after I came to Oneida but, after a tough freshman and sophomore year, I resolved to make a change. I have been on the honor roll this year

thanks to my teachers who gave me personal attention. Our teachers do so much for us here at Oneida and they do it because they want to. Although my grades are good now, the mistakes I made earlier have crippled me, so I am only able to earn a standard diploma. But I believe that if I had done well my freshman and sophomore years I could have earned an advanced diploma."

There is more to Brenda's story but this gives you a little insight into her "Oneida Experience." Waiting for a student to make a change can seem to take forever. But Brenda has changed and has done extremely well in most aspects of her life. If we could only have her one more year.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

From single to married

Lee meets wife, welcomes children while on campus

I have noticed a unique happening on our campus in the last few years. Many of our single students have found spouses while attending Clear Creek.

Sean Lee, a senior from Jonesboro, Tenn., said he is thankful for God's leadership regarding finding his spouse. "I accepted God's call to ministry in 2004," Sean recalled. "There was a lady in our church who mentioned the possibility of attending Clear Creek. I arrived in August of 2004 to begin my studies and it has been one blessing after another."

"I met my future wife, Ashley, not long after I got here. We were married in December. The next year we had our first child, Aaron. We just recently had our second child, Melanie. I came to Clear Creek a bachelor looking for a wife, and the Lord has blessed me with a wife and two children."

Sean said he also is thankful for the practical ministry experience he gained at Clear Creek. "My most rewarding time here has been the opportunity to serve as interim pastor at a church in Hazard," he noted. "I came here anxious to preach but had no opportunities at first.

Little did I know that I would stay at a church for over a year after that first call came.

"The reason why that time was so special to me was because the church really needed to be loved and God placed me in an opportunity to be a shepherd to that church," Sean continued. "No doubt that was one of the most challenging, yet rewarding experiences I have had during my time here."

After graduation in May, Sean and his family will head to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina. "I feel led to study expository preaching along with missions and evangelism."

"Clear Creek Baptist Bible College has been a magnificent experience for me," he said. "I know I have received some great foundational Bible teaching and a solid practical ministry foundation to move to the next level in my studies."

Please pray for all our graduates as they seek God's direction to their place of service.

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@ccbbc.edu

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

Study reveals offensive content on daytime cable TV

By Erin Roach
Baptist Press

Los Angeles (BP)—Children who watched certain daytime shows on cable's MTV and BET networks were exposed to adult content once every 38 seconds, according to a recent study by the Parents Television Council.

"We thought we'd seen it all, but even we were taken aback by what we found in the music video programs on MTV and BET that are targeted directly at impressionable children," noted Tim Winter, president of the pro-family watchdog group.

Delman Coates, an African American pastor and founder of the Enough is Enough Campaign to push for change and accountability from cable networks, asked the Parents Television Council to conduct the study in order to increase awareness of offensive images on television.

"It's these images of black men as gangsters and thugs and criminals (and) black women as being hypersexualized—which are actually longstanding stereotypes of black people that have endured since slavery—that I felt really needed to be challenged," Coates said at a news conference announcing the results of "The Rap on Rap" study.

For the report, PTC analyzed adult content aired on BET's "Rap City" and "106 & Park" and on MTV's "Sucker Free on MTV" during afternoon or early evening hours for a two-week period last December. Analysts said they were so shocked at the high volume and degree of adult-themed material that they conducted an additional week of analysis in March. The data revealed even higher levels of adult content in March than in December, PTC noted.



"BET and MTV are assaulting children with content that is full of sexually charged images, explicit language, portrayals of violence, drug use, drug sales and other illegal activity," Winter said in a news release earlier this month. "Not only that, but we discovered that some offensive words aired only in muted form in December 2007, ... as recent as March 2008, these same words were not muted.

"Excluding one program on BET, neither BET or MTV carried content descriptors that would work in conjunction with the V-chip to block the programs from coming into the home or to warn parents about the presence of sexual content, suggestive dialogue, violence or foul language," Winter added. "This is a major problem for parents who are told repeatedly to rely on their V-chips to protect their children."

Results not surprising

Walt Mueller, founder and president of the Pennsylvania-based Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, said he was saddened but not surprised by PTC's findings.

"The envelope continues to be stretched as far as the boundaries of decency go," he noted. "At this point we won't know the full cumulative impact of these realities until the children and teens who have been socialized, nurtured and raised as-

suming the behaviors depicted are 'normal,' 'OK' and at the very least 'not wrong' move into adulthood."

Mueller explained that with the breakdown of the family occurring in American culture today, media—by default—is well equipped to step into the gap and raise the kids.

The influence of the content promoted by MTV and BET will be more profound and life-shaping as children are exposed to increasingly younger ages, he said, adding, "At this point, there doesn't seem to be any reversal in sight."

In addition to children becoming more desensitized to the adult behaviors they see on television, Mueller noted that the phrase, "I felt like it," will become "justification for all kinds of immoral and perhaps illegal sexual practices."

"The values and practices media depicts that are so alarming to us today will be normalized by the time today's children and teens reach adulthood," Mueller predicted. "At this point, the only sexual behavior frowned upon with some sense of universality is pedophilia. However, if we continue on the track we're currently on, I wonder if that will even be defined as allowable and acceptable behavior down the road."

Among the key findings from the PTC study:

■ Analysts documented 1,647 instances of offensive or adult content in the 27.5 hours of programming they examined in December, for an average of nearly one instance every minute. In March, it was one instance every 38 seconds. To put that in perspective, PTC said their most recent analysis of primetime broadcast television during the family hour revealed one instance of violent, profane or sexual content every

4.8 minutes.

■ Most of what children see in music videos is sexually charged images. Forty-five percent of the adult content in the December data was of a sexual nature, 29 percent was explicit language, 13 percent was violence, 9 percent was drug use or sales, and 3 percent was other illegal activity. The percentages remained roughly the same for March.

■ PTC documented sexually explicit scenes or lyrical references once every 2.2 minutes during the hours the researchers analyzed from December. The March content increased the rate to once every 90 seconds.

■ During the December study period, children under the age of 18 made up about 40 percent of the viewing audience for "106 & Park," 41 percent of the audience for "Rap City" and 39 percent of the audience for "Sucker Free on MTV," PTC noted, adding that the numbers do not include the children who watched re-airings of the programs.

Need for positive influence

Mueller said the research underscores the need for parents and the church to step up their efforts at influencing children in positive, healthy ways.

"Families and the church should embark on a journey of teaching kids a biblical sexual ethic, along with teaching them how to move from a posture of mindless media consumption to a posture of mindful media critique," he noted. "We must be teaching our kids how to think biblically and Christianly about everything they read, listen to and watch. ... By learning these skills, children and teens will be better equipped to discern truth from lies."

Marriott to discuss ending in-room adult movies

Washington (BP)—Officials of Marriott International have agreed to meet with pro-family leaders who have asked the hotel chain to stop offering pornographic movies in its rooms.

The meeting is scheduled for May 14 in Washington, a spokeswoman for the American Family Association recently confirmed.

AFA sent a letter signed by 47 national and state pro-family leaders to Marriott CEO John Marriott III earlier this month. In it, they described the company as "one of the leading lodging chains offering in-room pornographic movies" and requested the opportunity for a few of the signers to meet with Marriott representatives.

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

Evolution academic bill passes in Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. (BP)—The Florida Senate adopted a bill April 23 to permit academic freedom for teachers and students addressing evolution in Florida's public schools. However, the prospects of the measure remain in doubt after the House sponsor of its academic freedom bill said he will push his significantly different version in the House this week.

The Evolution Academic Freedom Act, sponsored by Republican state Sen. Ronda Storms, was offered in response to new statewide science standards that have been the subject of debate since their release last October, with critics asserting the standards require a dogmatic acceptance of evolution. A member of First Baptist Church of Brandon, Fla., Storms read e-mails in support of her bill from two teachers who are concerned about the lack of academic freedom in the teaching of evolution.

One teacher told Storms that students who reject evolution are routinely ridiculed as "religious idiots" and "rednecks."

Democratic state Sen. Steven Geller, the minority leader in the Senate, asked Storms twice whether her bill permitted the teaching of intelligent design, revisiting an issue he repeatedly pressed her about during an April 17 floor debate on the bill. Intelligent design has been held by one federal judge to violate the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, ruling it is a version of creationism, rather than a valid scientific theory.

"I know you want me to deviate" from answering with the language of the bill," Storms told Geller, "but I can't do that because it's not

appropriate."

Republican Sen. Don Gaetz, however, noted in his comments in support of the bill that Storms answered "no" when he asked during the April 17 debate whether the bill permitted intelligent design or creationism.

Gaetz said if the subject matter of the bill was controversial literature, liberals would support it, but since the bill permits differing views on evolution, they oppose the measure.

"There's nothing wrong with inquiry, there's nothing wrong with debate, there's nothing wrong with discussion and that's what this bill does. And that's why it should be supported," Gaetz said.

Republican Sen. Daniel Webster, majority leader in the Senate and member of First Baptist Church of Central Florida in Orlando, said the bill encourages the proper question, "Could it be?" Noting that scientific advancements have come from those who were willing to ask that question, Webster said of teachers and students, "Can't we ask that question?"

Meanwhile, a companion bill in the Florida House of Representatives was approved by a House council April 11 but differs significantly from Storms' bill.

The Sarasota Herald Tribune reported April 24 that the bill's House sponsor planned to ask his colleagues in the House to vote on his version early next week, leaving just a few days after that to forge a compromise that could be approved by both chambers. Storms warned the legislature is running out of time in its session scheduled to adjourn May 2.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEREA**—Bethel Church will host a Heritage Seminar May 4-7, led by **Don Pinson**. **Kenny Davis** is pastor.

■ **BURNSIDE**—Sloans Valley Church recently called **Major Nolan** as pastor.

■ **EUBANK**—Bethel Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 8. **Phil Fisher** is pastor.

■ **HICKORY**—Pleasant Grove Church will hold revival services May 4, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; May 5-7, 7 p.m., with **David Brasher** as evangelist. **Barry Summerville** is pastor.

■ **KUTTAWA**—Hopewell Church recently called **Mike Farmer** as interim pastor.

■ **LANCASTER**—Freedom Church will hold revival services May 5-9, 7 p.m., with **Joey Keys** as evangelist. **Sherman Isaacs** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will host **The Dove Brothers** in concert May 3, 7 p.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **PAINT LICK**—Faith Decision Church will hold revival services April 30-May 2, 7 p.m. **Jimmy Closterman** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Chapel Hill Church recently called **Aaron Brown** as pastor.

Bill Bruce recently resigned as interim pastor of Highland Church.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Thompsonville Church recently called **William Brooks** as pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Elizabethtown



Colesburg Church will celebrate its 117th anniversary with Spring Fling 2008 May 4, noon. Entertainment will be provided by gospel singer **Glen Rice**, and balloon artist **Twistin' Frank Bunton**. For more information, call **Dolores Brown** at (270) 401-1398.

Bethlehem Church ordained **Bobby Joe Mattingly** as deacon April 6. **Kyle Claunch** is pastor.

■ **SIDNEY**—Sidney Church will hold revival services May 4-8, with **Shawn Bruce**, pastor of Elkhorn City Church, as evangelist. **Jamie Fugate** is pastor.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.
E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.

Conference aims to minimize risk of crime in Kentucky churches

Edgewood—As unthinkable as it may sound, churches often represent a tempting target for thieves or other criminals. In many instances, churches and their members are vulnerable due to the open and trusting environment in which many operate.

In order to help church leaders develop practical strategies for reducing a congregation's susceptibility to crime, the American Crime Prevention Institute will host a Church

Crime Prevention Seminar May 22 at the Edgewood City Building in Kenton County. The event is co-sponsored by the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition.

The seminar will focus on identifying risks and threats that exist in church environments and how to minimize those potential dangers in a cost-effective way. There will also be discussion as to why churches often become targets for crime.

Seminar topics will include:

- Developing a security conscious mindset.
- Assessment of internal and external church risk factors.
- Elements and components of a church security plan.
- Establishing effective church security policies and procedures.
- Cash management policies.
- Property inventory policies and procedures.
- Crime prevention education and awareness for staff, volunteers

- and members.
- Minister safety and integrity.
- Protection of youth and children in the church.
- Senior citizens issues.
- Protecting church members away from church property.

The event will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and the cost is \$75 if participants register by May 21; on-site registration is \$90. Individuals can register online at www.acpionline.com, or by calling (859) 727-2678.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.
- 15-17 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, Cedar Crest.
- 18-20 Acteens Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 20-21 Acteens Splash, Girls in Action Overnight, Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek.
- 20-21 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.
- 21-28 Kentucky Changers, Maysville.
- 22-29 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Tour, Murray.
- 23-26 Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 27-28 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.
- 28 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 30-7/3 Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time student minister (grades 7-12) for a conservative congregation standing on God's Word, with a strong emphasis on youth. Located in Pulaski County, we seek a minister who is energetic and equipped to teach and reach youth for Christ. Send resumé to: Ferguson Baptist Church, PO Box 247, Ferguson, KY 42533.

SEEKING: Fern Creek Child Development Center is now accepting resúmes from energetic, enthusiastic, committed Christians who are interested in teaching preschool beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. For more information, please contact Dorothy Black at (502) 239-8952; or dorothy@ferncreekbaptist.org.

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 resúmes by May 15 to revdean1@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of students/recreation for Red House Baptist Church in Richmond, Ky. Forward your resumé via e-mail to dawn@redhousebc.com.

SEEKING: Part-time (30 hours/week) ministry associate for college and young singles for Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Located near UK, but desiring to serve other campuses nearby, we are looking for individual to vision-cast, develop programs and lead in the general administration of college and young singles ministry (21-30). Objective is to follow Jesus' mandate to "Go and make disciples of all nations" Please respond to: Immanuel Baptist Church, 3100 Tates Creek Road, Lexington, KY 40502; ibc@ibc-lex.org; (859) 685-3200.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth (15-20 hours/week). Responsible for planning and providing direction and personal leadership of the youth ministry. Seminary training preferred. Please send a cover letter and resumé by May 15 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217; or e-mail to audubonbaptist@netzero.com.

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

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. Fax: (502) 223-8364.

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 resúmes: 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.

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

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.

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

KBC's 2008 All-State Children's Choir

Choir includes more than 130 children from 34 churches throughout Kentucky

Louisville—A total of 136 children, representing 34 churches across the state have been named to the 2008 Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir.

The children's choir is once again divided into two regional groups in order to provide greater opportunity for participation. The choir consists of 4-6 grade students selected by recorded auditions.

The East Choir met April 18-20 at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad. The choir performed two concerts April 20 at Harrodsburg Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of London.

Roxanne Nanney, preschool/children's music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and minister of music at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, directed the East Choir. Naomi Walker of Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort served as assistant director, and Judy Ridings of First Baptist Church of Richmond served as the accompanist.

The West Choir met April 25-27 at Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center in Hardin. The choir performed two concerts April 27 at Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville and Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Lisa Hussung of Rich Pond served as director of the West Choir. Mary Suggs of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green served as assistant director, and Bobbie Sue Chumbler of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah served as the accompanist.

2008 East Choir:

Audrey Adams, Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.
Danielle Armstrong, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
Amber Arterburn, First Baptist Church of London.
Matthew Bailie, Versailles Baptist Church.
Matthew Bain, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
Alex Beard, First Baptist Church of Albany.
Travis Bell, Eminence Baptist Church.
Brittany Blessett, Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.
Kristen Brooks, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
Brandon Browning, Ballardsville Baptist Church in Crestwood.
Lucas Butler, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
Morgan Butler, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Kira Clayton, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.
Niki Clayton, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.
Loren Collins, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Mitchell Collins, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Emily Couch, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
Sarahbeth Cox, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
Emily Crowe, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Victoria Daly, First Baptist Church of London.
Clay Daugherty, First Baptist Church of Fisherville.
Hannah Deaton, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Hannah Draut, Calvary Baptist Church in Danville.
Bryce Elliot, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Jenny Fackler, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
Elizabeth Fort, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Grace Galyon, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.
Molly Garrett, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.
Mitchell Golden, Eminence Baptist Church.
Kaitlin Goodson, Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.
Kathryn Green, Versailles Baptist Church.
Savannah Guzman, First Baptist Church of London.
Makayla Hawkins, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Torrie Hawkins, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Madeleine Hendrix, Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church in Frankfort.
Ben Hinson, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Cady Holbrook, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.
Carly Hudson, First Baptist Church of London.
Christopher Hughes, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Sydney Jessee, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
Olivia Kessinger, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
Paige Kinman, Versailles Baptist Church.
McKenna Lewis, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
Salena Marksbury, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.
Hallee Mason, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Marjorie Mason, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Luke McCarty, First Baptist Church of Fisherville.
Amanda McDonald, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
Rachel McDonald, First Baptist Church of London.
Tori Monnett, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Stanton.
Hadley Neal, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Wesley Newman, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Gabe Pope, Calvary Baptist Church in Danville.
Abby Price, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Jake Reynolds, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Rebecca Ridge, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.
Emily Ridings, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Katie Ridings, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
Brandt Rosenberger, Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.
Paige Ruddell, First Baptist Church of Fisherville.
Benjamin Russell, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
Andrés Salazar, Ballardsville Baptist Church in Crestwood.
Rebecca Sams, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
Robbie Sams, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
Shelbi Schooler, Ballardsville Baptist Church in Crestwood.
Brian Skeen, Ballardsville Baptist Church in Crestwood.
Daniel Steele, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.



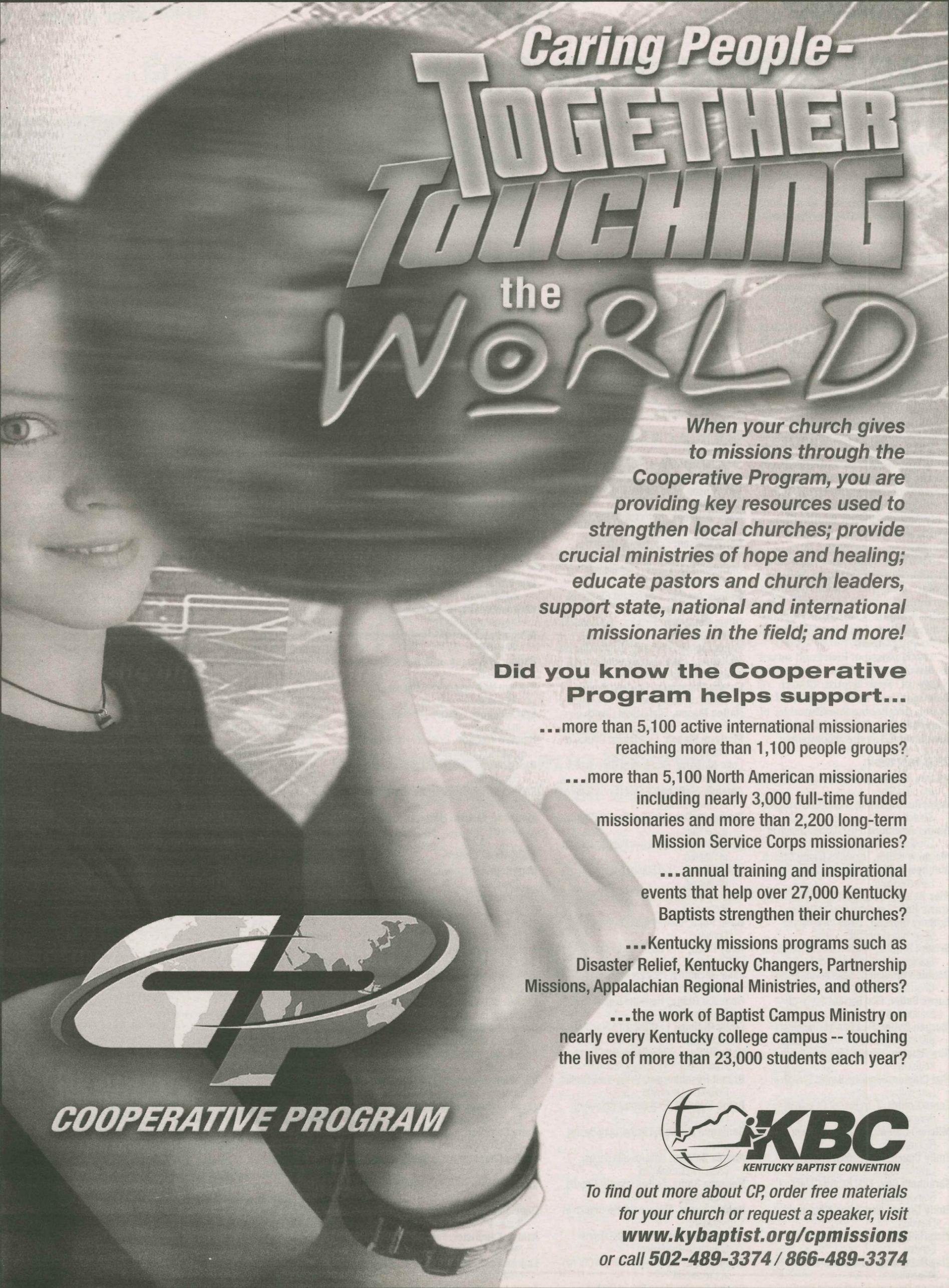
Harrison Stiles, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
Brooke Tarpey, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.
Brianna Taylor, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.
Sadie Theodore-Powell, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Courtney Thompson, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Brooke Thornsbery, Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.
Erin Warner, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.
Kathryn Weeks, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
Margaret Whitworth, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
Connor Wilkerson, First Baptist Church of London.
Kathryn Wilkerson, First Baptist Church of London.
Erin Woggon, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.
Hannah Woggon, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.
Dustin Wolz, First Baptist Church of Fisherville.
Kirsten Wright, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
Madeline Yankey, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

2008 West Choir:

MaryBeth Acquaviva, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.
Olivia Baird, Hartford Baptist Church.
RJ Baise, Cave City Baptist Church.
Leah Beach, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Anne Thomas Belcher, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Jamie Bigley, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Wilson Blakeman, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Samantha Blount, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
Andi Boyd, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
Elizabeth Burden, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Jacob Calhoun, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Halle Camilleri, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Ashley Chandler, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Kayla Coleman, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.
DeeDee Early, First Baptist Church of Kuttawa.
Ashlee Edminster, First Baptist Church of Murray.
Lauren Edminster, First Baptist Church of Murray.
Julianna Felter, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Destiny Frizzell, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.
Rachel Garden, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Ethan Gill, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Simon Gill, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Justin Glover, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.
Lauren Greenwell, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
Will Holbrook, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
Makayla Huffines, Hartford Baptist Church.
Haley Humphrey, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Samantha Isbell, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Sydney Isbell, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Danielle Lanham, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Reagan Martin, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Trevor Martin, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Joseph Miller, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.
Stephanie Morgan, Hartford Baptist Church.
Hallie Nicks, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Sarah Pemberton, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Sydney Pemberton, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Craig Redden, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Jordyn Rowland, First Baptist Church of Murray.
Mason Sims, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.
Montez Sinclair, First Baptist Church of Kuttawa.
Katie Suggs, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Sarah Suggs, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Olivia Swadley, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Grace Waldron, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.
Brad Walker, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Jeff Walker, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Grant Wallace, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
Ashley Ware, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro.
Adam Watkins, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
Christy Wilkins, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
Kylie Withrow, Cave City Baptist Church.
Krista Wyatt, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

RINGING PERFORMANCE
An adult handbell choir accompanies the Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's East Choir during the group's second performance at First Baptist Church of London April 20. They also performed earlier in the day at Harrodsburg Baptist Church. The West Choir performed two concerts April 27 at Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville and Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green. (Photo by Steve Butler)

A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark top and a necklace, holding a globe. The globe is the central focus, and the text is overlaid on it. The background shows a grid pattern.

Caring People-
**TOGETHER
TOUCHING**
the
WORLD

When your church gives to missions through the Cooperative Program, you are providing key resources used to strengthen local churches; provide crucial ministries of hope and healing; educate pastors and church leaders, support state, national and international missionaries in the field; and more!

Did you know the Cooperative Program helps support...

- ...more than 5,100 active international missionaries reaching more than 1,100 people groups?*
- ...more than 5,100 North American missionaries including nearly 3,000 full-time funded missionaries and more than 2,200 long-term Mission Service Corps missionaries?*
- ...annual training and inspirational events that help over 27,000 Kentucky Baptists strengthen their churches?*
- ...Kentucky missions programs such as Disaster Relief, Kentucky Changers, Partnership Missions, Appalachian Regional Ministries, and others?*
- ...the work of Baptist Campus Ministry on nearly every Kentucky college campus -- touching the lives of more than 23,000 students each year?*

A logo for the Cooperative Program, featuring a stylized globe with a cross superimposed over it.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



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