

June 3, 2008
Vol. 182, No. 23

WMU Kentucky Notes



See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

Southern Baptists look ahead to wide open presidential contest at next week's annual meeting. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

Former Kentucky Baptist pastor now serves his country as a Navy chaplain. *Page 3.*

People

Harrell Riley named national MSC Missionary of the Year. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum

Shopping is neither a sport nor a hobby. *Page 4.*

Guest editorial

Eastern Kentucky feels "heartbeat of God." *Page 5.*

Nation

Iowa Baptist offer aid to tornado victims. *Page 8.*

Prof: Possible Ark of the Covenant at risk in Zimbabwe

London (RNS)—A British professor who claims to have found the successor to the Ark of the Covenant—or at least something like it—said he is worried the artifact is at risk of damage or theft amid the political chaos in Zimbabwe.

Tudor Parfitt is a professor of modern Jewish studies at the University of London and author of the book, "The Lost Ark of the Covenant: Solving the 2,500 Year Old Mystery of the Fabled Biblical Ark." He said he fears that as Zimbabwe weathers violent fallout from a contested March election and braces for a potentially bloody runoff, the vessel that Hebrews believed was the traveling house of God could get caught in the crossfire.

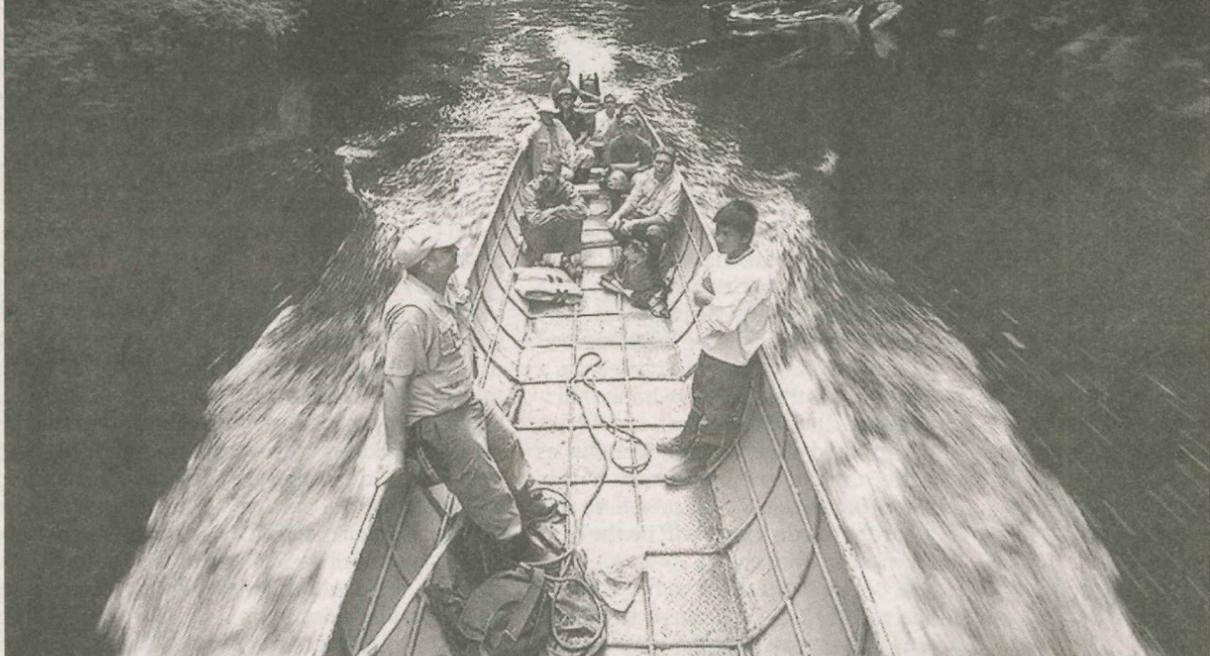
"It could potentially be a great asset to either side as Zimbabwe is in the throes of profound religious excitement, which includes all sorts of signs and portents of the End of Days," Parfitt explained.

"The best thing would be to get it out of Zimbabwe."

Even though the ark was often damaged and rebuilt even in ancient times, he noted, today's more than 600-year-old replica remains precious.

Parfitt discovered the artifact on a dusty bottom shelf of a museum in Zimbabwe. The ark reportedly resembles the one Moses built according to specifications enumerated in the biblical book of Deuteronomy. It turned up in a riverside cave about 60 years ago.

Searching for hope



IMB missionaries seek intercessors for Amazon Basin peoples

By Shawn Hendricks
SBC International Mission Board

South America (BP)—Weary travelers stand alongside a river somewhere in South America's Amazon Basin.

After three hours of trying to maneuver upstream by motorboat to a remote village, a group of Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries grudgingly accepts the realization that the day's journey has ended. Shallow waters, exposed rocks, tree limbs and a rough current that nearly capsized the boat will not allow the group to proceed any farther.

Score a victory for the Amazon. Thousands of miles of dense jungle create a daunting "wall" for those wanting to take the gospel

to this area. For some of the people groups in remote areas, their only hope to hear about Jesus is through faithful Christians praying that the gospel message will reach them.

"A lot of people don't realize how big the Amazon Basin and the jungle really is," noted Terry, an IMB missionary who leads work among indigenous peoples in portions of South America.

"It covers a huge area the size of the United States," the Texas native added. "You have massive areas where there are no airstrips, no roads. The only way to get there would perhaps be by helicopter or boat."

More than 400 people groups—roughly 26 million people—live in the Amazon Basin. Of that number,

270 people groups are less than 2 percent evangelical, with no IMB missionaries living among them. About 85 of the people groups survive completely isolated, deep in the jungle.

"We know they exist," Terry said, pointing out that some of the groups have been spotted only by satellite. "We know very little about them—except they live in primitive situations."

Two key factors keep these groups from being reached with the gospel. The government prohibits its missionaries from having access to them. And, most of these groups live in areas considered too dangerous for outsiders. Risks include guerrilla fighters, hostile tribes, poor fly-
□ See IMB missionaries ... *Page 6*

Kentucky Baptist churches embrace growing Hispanic ministries



SHARING CULTURES Hispanic ministries, like this congregation at Arcade Baptist Church in Louisville, are becoming more widespread among Kentucky Baptist churches. There are more than 70 Hispanic churches and missions in the state, according to Carlos De la Barra, ethnic associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The tremendous growth of Hispanics in the state, he added, gives KBC churches the opportunity to reach an entirely different culture with the gospel. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

By Erin Roach
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Hispanic ministry is becoming an increasingly popular focus among Kentucky's churches and associations as they work with the Kentucky Baptist Convention to meet the needs of a fast-growing ethnic population within their own communities.

"Kentucky is changing a lot," said Carlos De la Barra, who was hired by the KBC last year to work as ethnic associate. "I arrived in Kentucky in 1992 and there was almost no Hispanic population here. Today, we have more than 70 Hispanic churches and missions in the state."

Years ago, most of the work Kentucky Baptists did with Hispanics was geared toward migrants who came to work in tobacco or on horse farms, De la Barra noted. Now Hispanics reside in the state year round and many live in Kentucky's cities.

"This influx of people from a different culture opens the door to missions and is an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to be part of the Great Commission by telling them the good news of salvation," De la Barra explained.

South District Baptist Association, which includes Boyle County as well as sections of Garrard, Marion, Washington and Casey counties, has demonstrated a strong commitment to Hispanic ministry.

"Our folks have been very generous in what they have placed in the budget for Hispanic work," said Jim Clontz, South District's director of missions. "Our association gives about \$20,000 a year, and that's out of a total budget of about \$105,000. That's about 20 percent."

Nearly seven years ago, the association developed an interest in ministering to Hispanics who had moved
□ See KBC churches ... *Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 4.

Southern Baptists face wide open presidential contest

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Indianapolis (RNS)—When Southern Baptists meet for their annual convention in Indianapolis next week, they will have the opportunity to cast ballots for the highest number of contenders for president in the last three decades.

At least six leaders with a range of experience—in big churches, small churches and the mission field—are expected to be nominated when some 9,500 Southern Baptists gather June 10-11.

The wide-open nature of the race may indicate an opening for fresh leadership in the nation's largest Protestant denomination, observers say, or the graying of a generation of conservatives who have dominated the SBC since 1979, the last time there were so many candidates.

Whoever is chosen will succeed current SBC President Frank Page, a South Carolina pastor who was first elected in 2006. Several candidates attributed Page's dark-horse win as the start of a new season in Southern Baptist leadership, where it's harder to guess who will be the next president.

"I think that this year's election is really going to tell us whether or not the Southern Baptist Convention is really changing or whether or not the election of Frank Page was just a bump in the road to the establishment," said presidential candidate Les Puryear, pastor of Lewisville Baptist Church near Winston-Salem, N.C.

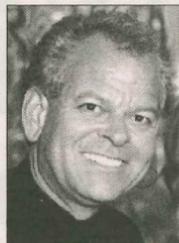
Missions expert Avery Willis of Bella Vista, Ark., another candidate,



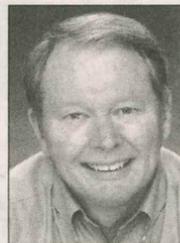
Frank Cox



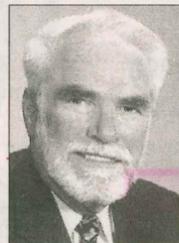
Wiley Drake



Johnny Hunt



Les Puryear



Bill Wagner



Avery Willis

agreed.

"Until a couple of years ago, it was pretty much cut and dried that one group would say we are supporting this person and no one else would run," noted Willis, known for creating the "Masterlife" series. "When Frank Page was elected, there was a sense that there was more openness."

In 1979, the last time the president's race was so contested, the election of the late Adrian Rogers marked a staunchly more conservative turn for the denomination.

Prior to the conservative shift sparked by Rogers, five or six nominees would typically stand for election, recalled Bill Summers, director of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville.

"You could nominate your next door pastor," Summers said. "It would be a wide range of people who might be nominated. There was, for most years ... a runoff."

Some Southern Baptists, such as Wade Burleson, a pastor in Enid, Okla., predict a runoff again this year.

"People are not afraid to speak their mind anymore, which is healthy," Burleson explained. "I

think for a few years there was such a demand for lockstep conformity that if you ever said anything that contradicted status quo of those in leadership your loyalty was questioned."

But, with the deaths of prominent pastors like Rogers and the late Jerry Falwell, Southern Baptists are also seeing a generational shift in leadership.

"There are also people concerned about the fact that the statistics of the denomination, long a status symbol ... are either stagnant or showing decline," noted Bill Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem.

SBC officials recently announced that reported baptisms—345,941 in 2007—were the lowest in two decades, and membership had dropped slightly to 16.27 million.

"We need to get back to being the people of the Book as it pertains to church planting, global missions, sharing the gospel with our neighbors and with the nations," urged Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., who is one of the six candidates.

Another nominee, Frank Cox, pastor of North Metro First Baptist

Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., focused on the finding by denominational officials that nearly one in four SBC congregations reported zero baptisms in 2006.

"We need to focus on evangelism with integrity as a convention," he emphasized.

While Hunt and Cox both serve large Georgia churches that have grown substantially under their leadership, two other candidates represent the perspective of non-Southerners in the predominantly Southern denomination.

"I believe that I can bring the small church mentality," noted Wiley Drake pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif.

Bill Wagner, the sixth candidate, pastors two small churches in Northern California, served as an overseas missionary for 32 years and is president of Olivet University International in San Francisco. He has emphasized reaching beyond the South to members of minority groups.

"We have closed ourselves off from them and we have closed ourselves off from many of our people doing work in the other parts of the United States," he said. "We just need to broaden the tent."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Graham bio-pic wraps filming. Producers recently wrapped filming on "Billy: The Early Years," a new movie on the life of evangelist Billy Graham scheduled for theatrical release this fall. The full-length bio-pic focuses on the famed evangelist as a young man. Starting with Graham as a North Carolina farm boy, the movie follows his life as he studied at Wheaton College in Illinois, where he met his wife, Ruth, then continues on to Graham's 1949 Los Angeles crusade. The film is being made independent of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Judge approves CSU settlement. A federal judge has approved a \$3.9 million settlement shielding Charleston Southern University from further liability in the \$90-million fraud case of Al Parish, a former economist and professor at the Baptist-affiliated school in South Carolina. Without such a settlement, U.S. District Judge David Norton wrote in his opinion, the alternative would be a "drawn-out, inefficient and chaotic administration of justice. J. Rutledge Young Jr., an attorney for the school, described the agreement as a great deal for investors and the university.

GuideStone offers new online resource. GuideStone has launched its new "Preparing for Retirement" Web site as part of the organization's goal to assist participants with retirement planning needs. The site provides education and other resources for individuals leading up to retirement. Resources include a "Preparing for Retirement" presentation, as well as a companion workbook. The information can be accessed at www.GuideStone.org/pfr.

Pastor turns pulpit over to wife. Bishop Paul Morton, the leader of likely the largest church in New Orleans, has turned over his pulpit to his wife to spend more time building a satellite branch in the Atlanta area. Debra Morton will take lead responsibility of Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church in New Orleans. Paul Morton will devote most of his energy to building an offshoot of Greater St. Stephen he planted in Decatur, Ga. Greater St. Stephen in New Orleans now numbers about 5,000 people worshipping at two locations.

Drake cleared by IRS on Huckabee endorsement

Washington (RNS)—The Internal Revenue Service has concluded that a Southern Baptist pastor's endorsement of former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee was a personal one that does not jeopardize his church's tax-exempt status.

Pastor Wiley Drake of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., received a letter last month from the IRS about its investigation of his ministry.

"The IRS has concluded that Buena Park First Southern Baptist Church did not engage in prohibited political campaign intervention," the IRS concluded in its letter to Drake.

Last August, Americans United

for Separation of Church and State, a Washington-based watchdog group, urged the IRS to investigate the pastor. Federal tax law prevents churches and similar tax-exempt organizations from endorsing candidates or parties in elections. If they do so, they risk losing their tax exemption altogether.

Drake, a former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and announced candidate for this year's SBC presidency, said May 19 that he only used information about his church and talk show to identify himself and not as part of an endorsement.

"The church didn't endorse anybody nor did the radio program,"

he acknowledged in an interview. "I personally did."

Drake was assisted by lawyers affiliated with the Alliance Defense Fund and has signed onto the Arizona-based legal group's new initiative that encourages pastors to challenge IRS rules about discussing political candidates from the pulpit.

"Christians should not be penalized for expressing their beliefs, and that includes pastors," said Erik Stanley, senior legal counsel for the ADF. "We are pleased the IRS recognized that the attempt to have this church's tax-exempt status revoked was without merit."

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

Indy pastor Newland nominated as SBC second VP

Indianapolis (BP)—John Newland, pastor of Fall Creek Baptist Church in Indianapolis, will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

John Rogers, missions/evangelism team leader for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, announced the nomination May 14. Newland is the third announced nominee for the post during next week's annual meeting in Indianapolis. He joins Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention, and Brian Fossett, a vocational evangelist and president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

Rogers noted that Newland leads the church planting team for Cross-

roads Baptist Association in Indianapolis and is coordinating the church planting facet of Crossover '08, the citywide evangelistic emphasis preceding each year's SBC annual meeting.

Newland has led Fall Creek Baptist Church since 2004 and previously was pastor of First Baptist Church of Grayson in Carter County.

Newland inadvertently entered the national spotlight in February 2007 when the National Football League sent his church a letter demanding that it stop plans to show the Super Bowl during a party at the church.

"Although he regarded the NFL's selective application of its copyright

as unfair and discriminatory, John led Fall Creek Baptist to respect the existing law and the NFL's request by declining to pursue legal redress of the situation," Rogers said. "In the aftermath of the controversy, FCBC has grown from 275 to 350 in average attendance today. Due in large part to Newland's principled and courteous stand, the NFL reversed its ban earlier this year."

According to the 2007 Southern Baptist Annual Church Profile, Fall Creek Baptist Church reported 20 baptisms and \$39,526 (5.9 percent) of undesignated receipts given through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$666,559.

Former KBC pastor now serves country as Navy chaplain

By Ken Walker
Baptist Press

Pensacola, Fla. (BP)—It had been nearly 24 years since Ed Erwin observed New Year Memorial Day in a military role, so it held special significance this year for the longtime Southern Baptist pastor.

At 48, Erwin, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, joined the Navy as a chaplain in January.

The son of a retired Army officer enlisted at an age when fellow Baby Boomers are pondering future pension benefits or Social Security.

"I know as a chaplain I'll be involved in a number of services," Erwin said of Memorial Day's commemoration of men and women who died in military service.

"There are a number of veterans who inspire me," he added. One is still living—his father, retired Lt. Col. Hamilton Erwin.

A conversation the two had in the fall of 2006 stirred the son to think about rejoining the Air Force. Ed Erwin had served with the reserves during the summers of 1983-1984 while in seminary.

When his father, a Vietnam veteran, commented that the Army was taking people back with prior experience, Ed began to ask whether the Air Force would do the same.

"After he mentioned this is when I started getting excited," noted Erwin, a veteran of 22 years in the pulpit and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "Through Dad talking to me, I felt God had spoken to me about the military."

However, after contacting an Air Force recruiter, he quickly was told: "You're too old." A few hours later, a similar response came from an Army representative.

Erwin put the issue on the back burner until he learned in February 2007 that the Navy's only age requirement was to be 21 and there was a possibility they would grant a waiver past the normal retirement age of 62. If the waiver retirement is granted, it would allow him to complete a 20-year career, one of several goals he has set for the next two decades.

However, before entering the Navy, Erwin had to pass various examinations. That included a physical in which he ran 1.5 miles in just over 10 minutes and did 71 sit-ups and 50 push-ups.

That helped him prepare for basic training and chaplain school, where in the brisk Northeastern winter he ran seven miles at a clip three times a week. His routine included regular weightlifting sessions and a weekly one-mile swim.

Challenge accepted

But why submit to such rigors at his age? Because his nation is at war and needs chaplains, Erwin explained.

"It's challenging—the separation from family, physical endurance, the stress," he said. "I have a great respect for my fellow chaplains; I'm proud to be associated with them."

"You make many sacrifices," Erwin added. "There's nothing they could pay you to make up for these sacrifices. You have to be called. Most

people don't have any clue what's involved."

Erwin knows he could serve in the war-torn Middle East, even though that may not occur until 2011. Currently stationed at a base in the Florida Panhandle, he acknowledged that everyone who recently signed up faces certain duty overseas. Still, he does not regret his new career.

"The chaplains are the cream of the crop," Erwin noted. "They're the best kind of ministers. They're physically fit, emotionally strong and intellectual."

Bolstering Erwin's decision to head for the military in middle age was his wife, Rhonda. The daughter of former missionaries, her father also had served in the Air Force, including a tour of duty in Vietnam.

When her husband shared his thoughts about enlisting, she replied, "That's awesome. Go for it." Although that meant spending nearly three months apart during training, Rhonda stands by her decision to swap the role of pastor's wife for chaplain's spouse.

"My philosophy has always been to be ministry partners together," said Rhonda, who taught Sunday school and helped lead vacation Bible school in Shelbyville.

"I'm still going to be doing the exact same thing, of being extremely supportive, not just to him but also in ministry with him. I will be ministering myself to different families and trying as best I can to help wives and counsel them."

She said she is especially proud of her husband following in the same



FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL

Ed Erwin, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, entered the Navy chaplaincy at the age of 48 after serving 22 years as a local church pastor. (BP photo)

line as her family, noting that both sides came to America in the early 1600s and that many have served in some military capacity through the years.

"Anybody in the military—that's all they do is sacrifice. It's not a job to get ahead (or) make a boat load of money. All it is is sacrifice for others and for your country," Rhonda noted.

Of course, with his wife handling the primary child-rearing duties for two youngsters, Erwin returns the favor when he talks about those who deserve the most credit.

Spouses of soldiers and sailors make a greater sacrifice because they have to take care of financial and other family matters, including acting as a single parent when their loved one deploys, Erwin pointed out.

"The Navy spouses are the true heroes," he said. "They should get the glory for all they do. They're the ones who make it possible for us to do what we do."

Harrell Riley honored by NAMB as MSC Missionary of the Year

Louisville—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has selected Harrell Riley of Princeton as its Mission Service Corps Missionary of the Year for 2007.

NAMB representative Mike Riggins presented the award to Riley during a May 28 chapel service at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Louisville headquarters.

"What you see ... in Harrell's ministry is humble service that is reflected in changed lives. People are being shown the gospel in tangible ways," said Riggins, a regional coordinator for NAMB. "You also see how God is changing lives through the many volunteers who are being reached and drawn in to expand the ministry."

Riley was nominated for the national award last summer after the Kentucky Baptist Convention named him as Kentucky's MSC Missionary of the Year in May of last year.

"We receive nominations for the national MSC Missionary of the Year award from our 43 conventions each year," Riggins noted, adding that there are currently more than 2,100 MSC missionaries in the Southern Baptist Convention. "Harrell's nomination just rose to the top."

Mission Service Corps missionaries are self-funded missionaries who are commissioned by NAMB.

Riley gave up a steady job in a pro-

duction factory in Princeton more than six years ago to become an MSC missionary through the KBC. Now operating from a minimal salary, Riley is director of Hell is Real Ministries, a ministry focused on evangelistic outreach.

Riley coordinates ministries at Job Corps sites in Morganfield, Greenville and Simpsonville and ministers at the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in Eddyville. Job Corps is a federally funded program designed to teach occupational skills to economically and socially disadvantaged students.

Another of Riley's outreach programs involves bringing the Awana children's program to the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex as a way to reconcile families and further minister to inmates.

He also provides leadership to college student missionaries each summer, works with local homeless shelters and actively ministers to motorcyclists.

"I'm very humbled by him and I have a great deal of respect for Harrell," said Eric Allen, KBC's mission service and ministries director. "He is a tremendous example of what an MSC missionary is and what our missionaries are doing in Kentucky."

Riley and his wife, Debra, have three children.



Harrell Riley

KBC churches embrace Hispanic ministries

Continued from page 1

into their community. Churches in the association helped form the Bluegrass Hispanic Ministry, which aids Hispanics in Elkhorn, Mercer, Nelson and South District associations, Clontz pointed out.

The association has Hispanic ministries based at Southern Heights Baptist Church in Danville and at Community Baptist Church in Junction City. They also have a jail ministry at the Boyle County Detention Center and a Bible study group at Lancaster Baptist Church.

South District's associational newsletter often lists specific needs the Hispanic ministries have, and church members have responded with tremendous generosity, he added.

Beech Fork Baptist Church in Gravel Switch donated a church van, the pastor of Parksville Baptist Church in Marion County contributed a minivan, and the chairman of deacons at Lancaster Baptist Church donated a car.

"These are all used vehicles, but our Hispanic ministry can still use them for several years," Clontz said, adding that the church van is now used for transporting individuals to and from the ministry sites as well as to conferences across the state aimed at Hispanics, such as the KBC's Hispanic Evangelism and WMU Conference every February.

Other donated vehicles, he pointed out, are given to the pastors of the Hispanic missions because they typically have limited incomes.

"In addition to that, First Baptist Church in Junction City gave a large number of coats as well as bedding—quilts, comforters, those kinds of things," Clontz added. "And then one of the families out at Beech Grove gave furniture. Another person in our association gave a full-size mattress-set and a full set of china, and sever-

al others have given miscellaneous kinds of things."

W.O. Wilham, South District's DOM emeritus, demonstrated his support of the association's Hispanic ministry by donating a large quantity of home goods and items that belonged to his wife, who died last year.

"They're concerned about evangelism and winning the Hispanics to Christ," Clontz said of the Baptists in his association.

South District Association has joined with the KBC, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and several associations in supporting a missionary, Job Juarez, who serves as a strategist for the Bluegrass Hispanic Ministry. Juarez said his job is to identify possible opportunities for Hispanic ministry, locate the resources to accomplish the ministry and serve as a mentor to Hispanic pastors.

Some of the barriers Juarez has encountered while assisting KBC churches in Hispanic ministry, he noted, include a difficulty uniting the two people groups, an obvious language difference and perceived cultural obstacles.

"I have spoken with many members of our churches where they don't realize how close our cultures are, how Hispanic culture is so similar to American culture," Juarez explained. "Many people say, 'Do you guys eat this?' And I say, 'Yes, we do.' 'Do you guys have TV?' 'Yes, we have TV.' They think that because we're Hispanic we're like another culture."

But he has seen significant progress.

"The KBC, the associations and the churches have a heart for reaching Hispanics in Kentucky," Juarez emphasized. "The amount of resources and effort involved in planting Hispanic churches is really awesome, and I'm thankful for that."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

DREW NICTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 489-3535; toll-free (866) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oprah Winfrey and a jealous God

By Mark Coppenger

Evanston, Ill. (BP)—In the seven-minute YouTube video, "The Church of Oprah Exposed," Oprah Winfrey reports that her impatience with "rules, belief systems and doctrines" began when she, in her late 20s, heard a Baptist pastor say that God was jealous.

Millions have viewed this mini-documentary and a lot of people are finally waking up to her New Age toxicity. Unfortunately, many others are perfectly at ease with her religious perspective, for which she was chosen to lead the post-September 11 "Prayer for America" service at Yankee Stadium in New York.

No better instance of the blind leading the blind can be found.

Of course, the first time you heard that God was jealous, you were at least slightly more puzzled than when you heard that He was mighty and good. Jealousy is not always, or even often, praiseworthy in humans. Yes, in courtship, it can be gratifying to learn that something you did made your beloved jealous. But jealousy is more nearly associated with a clutching, anxious, petty or domineering frame of mind. The jealous party tends to nervously investigate and suffocate the object of affection, disregarding the other's wellbeing.

So then, how could you feel comfortable with a jealous God? Well, a little more theology could help. When you learn that God is all-knowing, all-powerful and all-good, then you realize that the Lord cannot be afflicted with insecurity, suspicion and selfishness—factors that poison human jealousy. It's quite plain that something nobler is at work in the case of God, to whom all honor is obviously due. His jealousy is a matter of righteous indignation.

Some translators and commentators try to pick up on this difference by substituting the word "zealous" for "jealous," since it has a higher tone and aptly conveys the sense of godly, discriminating passion. But straight word substitution misses

something, given the ordinary use of language. A baseball fan can be zealous for a certain pitcher's success without insisting upon an exclusively deep relationship with him; indeed, it would thrill the fan

to see everyone show up at the ballpark wearing that player's jersey.

But God is more than an exuberant fan, cheering us on, ever eager to rehearse our achievements to anyone who will listen. He is impatient and indignant—indeed, wroth—when we spread our love around to His rivals. The Bible even calls him "a consuming fire" in this connection (Deuteronomy 4:24) and promises to visit punishments on those who flirt with false gods (Exodus 20:5). The Lord simply will not tolerate our "dating around."

But why? For the same reason an attending oncologist would explode when hearing that his patient hopped a plane to Timbuktu to have some shaman blow smoke up his nose. For the same reason a noble and fulfilling wife would want her self-destructive husband to dump the woman he has left her for and return home. There are simply no substitutes for truth, and God is Truth—and Love.

Oprah's apostasy

Oprah is pretty bright. She should have been able to sort this out, which makes me wonder if she has spun us a "just so story," the sort Rudyard Kipling wrote for children. You remember his tales of how the elephant got his trunk (his nose was stretched out by a crocodile) and how the camel got his hump (from lazing around).

So "how did the Oprah get her apostasy?" Maybe, as she reports, her first hearing of the expression "jealous God" fried her fragile doctrinal circuits. Maybe she was simply too saturated with the idea of God's love to receive any negatively or to countenance anything divisive. That is her story and she is sticking with it. But, as pastors and apologists well know, objections to the

Bible are usually grounded in the will, not the fussy intellect or the tender heart. So perhaps she saw that orthodoxy was incompatible with her agenda, her career or the lifestyle she thought she needed. Of course, that doesn't sound as grand as "standing up for God's reputation."

Maybe Oprah will finally have an Emily Litella moment. Some will remember this elderly, hard-of-hearing character played by Gilda Radner on "Saturday Night Live" back in the 1970s. Emily was constantly ranting about one cause or another, based strictly upon her misunderstanding of a word: "What is all this fuss I hear about the Supreme Court decision on a deaf penalty? It's terrible! Deaf people have enough problems as it is!" Similarly, she would take off on the Eagle (Equal) Rights Amendment, conserving our natural racehorses (resources), youth in Asia (euthanasia), and sax and violins (sex and violence) on TV. When corrected at the end of her tirade, Emily would smile sweetly and say, "Never mind." I hope Oprah comes around to that once she discovers the splendor of God's holy jealousy. Maybe she just thought her pastor said God was joyless or gelatinous (all sticky and wobbly).

Incidentally, God help Chicago. While Oprah spins her yarns over at Harpo Studios on the West Side, Louis Farrakhan advances his Nation of Islam doctrines on Chicago's South Side. On the North Shore, the Baha'i Temple echoes Oprah's New Age teaching that there are many ways to God. The East Side is Lake Michigan, into which these teachings should be tossed.

Actually, this is not Chicago's special problem. Oprah has a vast American audience who will chase after every book she recommends while, at her lead, abandoning the clear teachings of The Book.

Oprah says she has a problem with a "jealous God." Alas, she does not know the half of it.

Mark Coppenger is pastor of Evanston Baptist Church near Chicago and professor of Christian apologetics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville

A woman of faith and service

Ella Kaye Hammock Collins had the rare privilege of facing death with courage, faith and openness. She had gained strength from God's Word to face the challenges of a long battle with cancer and was an example of courage and faith for her husband, three children and grandchildren, and all who knew her.

As longtime family friends, my wife, Kay, and I had the recent privilege of participating in Ella's memorial service at First Baptist Church of Barbourville where she had been a member.

Music was the anchor of Ella's soul. A 1969 graduate of Georgetown College with a degree in music education, she had taught private piano lessons for 30 years and accompanied school and community choirs. At First Baptist, Barbourville, she accompanied the adult choir and directed the children's choirs.

Music was a part of Ella's life, but

also a part of her death as her family sang her favorite hymns to her just two hours before her passing. Needless to say, the memorial service was filled with worship through music and the Word of God.

Through her great faith, Ella was willing to face death openly. This permitted her to share special thoughts and love with her family and make plans for her own memorial service. Her husband, Andreae, said that she was the greatest person of faith he had ever known.

It was not a surprise that the church was filled with people. Twenty-three members of her high school graduating class were present from as far away as Texas.

Ella's pastor, Shane Nickell, shared an excellent message on Psalm 23. He helped everyone to understand that grief will be expressed in ways and at a pace that is unique

for each person and our Shepherd will guide us through that valley.

Andreae expressed what many husbands feel in a poem he wrote in memory of his wife titled, "I Caught A Falling Star":

*My wedded wife, My faithful friend,
My shining star until the end.
All the stars aren't in the Blue,
For one has lived with me and you.
She came down to light my life,
She lived with me, she was my wife.
A super Mom, a perfect Mother,
Not just for ours, but many others.
Always there with a helping hand,
For little ones, a Mother-Grand.
They all loved her like no other,
They had a Nana not just Grandmother.
She walked awhile on this Earth's sod,
And now I know she walks with God.*

Ella's life is a shining example of a Christ-centered life well lived. Let us all learn from her how to glorify the Father by living lives of faith and service.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Shopping as sport
can be dangerous
and costly pastime

By Jeremy White

I've known for some time that I married over my head. I freely admit it. My wife, Sharon, and I recently celebrated our anniversary by taking a trip without our children.

What did she want to do during our time away? Play tennis. That's right—hitting the ball, not the mall.

She enjoys occasional shopping like many women, but I'm glad she can think of other things to do besides going to stores, reading catalogs or prowling the Internet.

I've known people who say they shop as a hobby, or remark that their recreation is shopping. In our prosperous country, we laugh at such "shopaholic" disorders in sitcoms and Sunday comics. People boast of their retail stamina: "Shop 'til you drop." Our leaders hint that it is patriotic to spend to help our economy.

Some studies I've seen estimate that as many as 17 million Americans—about one in 15—cannot control the urge to shop. I don't know about the statistics, but I have spent enough time in financial counseling sessions to know that many people overdo spending.

According to the Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery, here are a few traits that indicate a problem with shopping:

- Anticipating shopping causes a rush or euphoria.

- Shopping because of disappointment, depression or anger.

- Many purchases are never used.

- Having arguments with others regarding shopping or spending habits.

- Feeling guilty or ashamed after shopping.

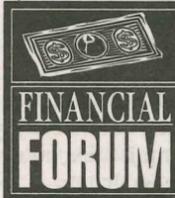
- Lying to others about what was bought or how much money was spent.

- Spending time juggling accounts and bills to accommodate spending.

Recreational shopping will lead you to buy items that you normally would not buy. Some shop even at the expense of their job, marriage, family and finances.

Shopping is like any other temptation. If you can't handle it, flee from it. Do not put yourself in circumstances that will cater to your potential weaknesses. If you are going shopping, know exactly what you're going for, make a list and don't deviate from it. Find a real sport or hobby. Tennis, anyone?

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



Summertime brings opportunity for kids to cultivate their gifts

Q: As a parent, how can I encourage my teenage sons to do more this summer than eat, sleep and watch "Iron Man" and "Prince Caspian" at the movie theater?

Challenge each member of your family to make a "bucket list" titled, "25 Things I Want to Do This Summer." As parents, model this for your sons by making your own list and posting it in a common area.

PARENTING

Luke 2:52 reminds us that as Jesus grew up, he "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." Encourage your sons to think of activities that will promote their physical, mental, social and spiritual growth. When they do these activities, they may find their passions, talents, gifts and callings. Some of the activities will simply remind them of what a great, creative and joyful God they serve.

What's on my bucket list for the summer? Glad you asked.

- Go fishing at several secret spots with my son, Caleb.
- Read two books a week for pure enjoyment.
- Throw a football on the beach with my daughters Auburn and Hope.
- Listen to Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace" with my wife, Elizabeth.
- Hike the shores of Lake Cumberland and hunt the world's finest geodes.
- Keep and update my prayer list daily.
- Play Scrabble with my family.
- Pull out some old azalea bushes and update the landscaping.
- Run and walk regularly through our neighborhood.
- Go bike riding with friends.
- Call one old friend each week.
- Have a "dinner group" each month with members of my Sunday school class.
- Watch "Prince Caspian" and "Iron Man."
- Get together weekly for prayer and fellowship with two "iron men" who join me in following "The Prince"—Scott Wigginton

Q: How can I help my child celebrate becoming an adolescent?

Somewhere about fifth or sixth grade, children begin to phase into the developmental stage of life known as adolescence. The move typically presents new challenges to parent and child alike. However, it also provides an excellent opportunity for celebration. Christians should take a cue from our Jewish friends who know how to turn such an occasion into a real party.

Talk with your child about the significance of this time in his or her life. Remind them of the responsibilities that go along with the rights they want and deserve as they grow older. You may want to covenant with them to read a book together or take a special trip that would include intentional times of discussion and conversation about issues such as sexuality.

Choose a special time and place to honor your child. As you plan the event, work to create an atmosphere that does justice to the seriousness of the occasion. Let your child think of family members and friends they would like to invite. Ask a few special folks (a minister or a special teacher) to offer brief words of challenge, encouragement and congratulations. Be sure to invite someone who will address the spiritual dimension of life and challenge your youngster to always look to God for guidance. Also consider giving a special gift to mark the occasion.

Recognizing your child's transition from childhood to adolescence will strengthen your relationship and provide new connecting points for conversation and friendship.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.
James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.
Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.
Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.
 Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@earthlink.net.



Eastern Kentucky feels 'heartbeat of God'

For years, people have been coming to Eastern Kentucky with the same mindset as they would if they were going into third-world country. Our association was blessed a couple of years ago to have dozens of people from all over the U.S. come to help out for a week of MissionsFEST, sponsored by the National Woman's Missionary Union.

We appreciate all the help and prayers, and we still need the attention of missions-minded people. There are a lot of projects that need to be done in our area that we have not been able to do ourselves. However, in the last few years I have detected a newly-activated zeal for doing missions projects, especially among the men.

Enterprise Baptist Association Director of Missions Tom Biddle and Brotherhood Director Tommy Reed have been praying together for some time that more men and women will answer the call to serve in volunteer missions.

Their prayers are being answered, as volunteers from this area, in addition to doing local projects, such as building ramps for handicapped individuals and putting roofs on houses for people who are unable to do it themselves, have sponsored mission trips to Poland, Pennsylvania, Mississippi and are even considering a mission project in Central Kentucky.

Brother Reed and his wife, Dawn, are more than willing to lead in this missions ministry. Tommy has been BCM director at Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg for several years, in addition to his duties as pastor of Fitzpatrick Baptist Church. Dawn holds down a job as a dental assistant and volunteers as leader of a weekly devotional service for women incarcerated at the Otter Creek Correctional Facility in Wheelwright.

Last year, the couple traveled to Haiti with a non-profit, interdenominational Christian group called East Kentucky Medical Mission. The group is headed by Lee Boyd, a pediatric dentist who is a member of Al-

len Baptist Church. With them, they had medical, optical, dental and pharmaceutical professionals, as well as lay workers and preachers, all with the objective of bringing quality health care and the gospel to needy Haitians.

This year, the group returned armed with thousands of snacks provided by the associational WMU. They had enough to help them survive the scare rations in hungry Haiti, but also to share with the Haitians. They also took medical supplies, part of which were supplied by a \$175 donation from the WMU ladies.

Tommy Reed reported that they worked with a Haitian who went to New York as a youngster and worked his way through college driving a taxi. He became a Christian and went back to build a clinic in Ouanmintha, Haiti, near the Dominican Republic. He started a school with 15 students in kindergarten 12 years ago, and it has grown to an enrollment of 1500. Each student is furnished a uniform and one daily meal at school. This year they had their first graduating class.

He also has built a three-story clinic, where the mission group worked, but it does not have a permanent doctor there.

Twenty-nine volunteers made this year's trip, and 30 Haitians gave their lives to the Lord while they were there. One volunteer asked a Haitian lady if she knew Jesus as her Savior. "Yes," she replied and pointed to Brother Reed. "That man over there told me about Him last year and I gave my heart to Jesus. I went home and told my three daughters. Now they are saved."

I asked Tommy how that made him feel.

"I realized it was not up to me for the results," he said. "I was just to sow the seed and let God reap the increase."

"Being a missions volunteer lets the missionary experience the Great Commission," he added. "You can put your finger on the heartbeat of God."

June Rice is an author, retired librarian and regular columnist for the Paintsville Herald

GUEST EDITORIAL



June Rice

Summer safety issues to think about

It's here, my favorite time of year as a youth minister—summer. This is the time I always looked forward to because it is prime time to build relationships with students. As I think about this summer, I wonder about some of the activities we as churches are doing and what we are doing to legally protect our ministries and ourselves.

First a disclaimer: I am not a lawyer, nor do I profess to be able to offer any legal advice. I just want to look with some common sense at areas we may need to pay attention to.

Adults

Two-deep leadership. While this practice is required for all Boy Scout units, it is sound advice for youth ministries as well. Never should an adult find him or herself as the only adult in the group. Whether transporting students home at night or leading the Wednesday night youth meeting, there should never be only one adult with a student or a group.

I don't know how many nights my daughter, Karen, would ride all over Christian County with me, as I took students home on the church van after an event. It just eliminates any appearance of impropriety. The scouts even go so far as to require adults and students to sleep in different rooms or tents and must have separate shower facilities. This is something we need to look at as

well. It is difficult when we want adults to chaperone students 24/7, but distance in beds and privacy when changing clothes and showering can be accommodated with very little effort. This may even mean postponing or cancelling some events if there aren't enough chaperones.

Background checks.

Every adult who works, volunteers or has contact with students in your ministry needs to have a criminal background check run for them. It is mandatory at every school. A system of screening all workers lets parents know that you are serious about the safety of their children. It also keeps those who would want to harm your students from preying on those God has entrusted to us. Churches tend to be easy targets for sexual predators because we are always looking for people to help in our ministries.

It also is a good idea to have a mandatory waiting period in place before allowing anyone to work with your students. Six to nine months is an adequate amount of time. This applies to students who just graduated and want to return to help out, as well as parents of students. Again, it shows that you are serious about the safety of the students in your care.

Transportation

Drivers. It is advisable to check the driving records of all adults who will be transporting students. Legal-

ly, you are liable for anybody who does so. And it is not a good idea for students to transport other students. Do you want to be liable for the antics of a 17 year old in a car? Do you want a parent with several tickets or a DUI transporting your students? It behooves us to use due diligence in this matter.

Vans and buses. Several issues arise here that need attention. Is the maintenance on the van or bus up to date? Do you have the records to back that up? Have your drivers been screened and are they trained to drive the vehicle they are using? Do you have a written and enforced policy of the number of passengers allowed in a vehicle and of the safe speeds while driving? Do you have a written policy on what to do if the bus or van has a flat tire or breaks down? Have the vehicles been inspected and are the appropriate safety triangles, flares and a working fire extinguisher on board? Do you have a seat belt policy and is it being enforced?

One last thing: Be sure to check with your insurance carrier to make sure you are covered for the activities that you are doing. Ask specifically about events like white water rafting, rappelling, construction projects and other high-risk activities. You may need to get specific riders added to your policies to cover those activities. The time to find out if you need a rider is before you actually need one.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

IMB missionaries seek intercessors for Amazon peoples

Continued from page 1

ing conditions, crumbling or non-existent roads and unpredictable waters.

Over the years, many missionaries have lost their lives attempting to reach these isolated peoples. One of the best-known incidents occurred in 1956—recounted in the 2006 movie, "The End of the Spear"—when a group of Huaorani Indians in eastern Ecuador killed Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming and their missionary jungle pilot, Nate Saint.

But not all was lost among the Huaorani.

"When (those five missionaries) died, it really raised up a host of prayer warriors (who) began to pray for the Huaorani," noted Russ Bare, another IMB missionary and Texas native who leads work among indigenous people in Ecuador. "Today we have many Huaorani believers. There is power when God's people pray."

More than 50 years later, prayer is still needed if the gospel is to penetrate the isolated corners of the Amazon Basin.

Missionaries continue to explore ways to reach Amazon peoples. One option is training local believers to travel into the remote areas; another involves sharing the gospel with those who venture from their isolated villages into cities or areas along the rivers.

Some indigenous believers en-

dure persecution to share their faith among their people. Pablo*, who leads a church among his Kogi people, works with a missionary to translate portions of the Bible into his language. Christian workers estimate there are only 100 believers among the 11,000 Kogi, who are located in remote areas of Colombia.

"The Kogi live a sad life," Pablo said. "It's just full of fear. They're never really at peace."

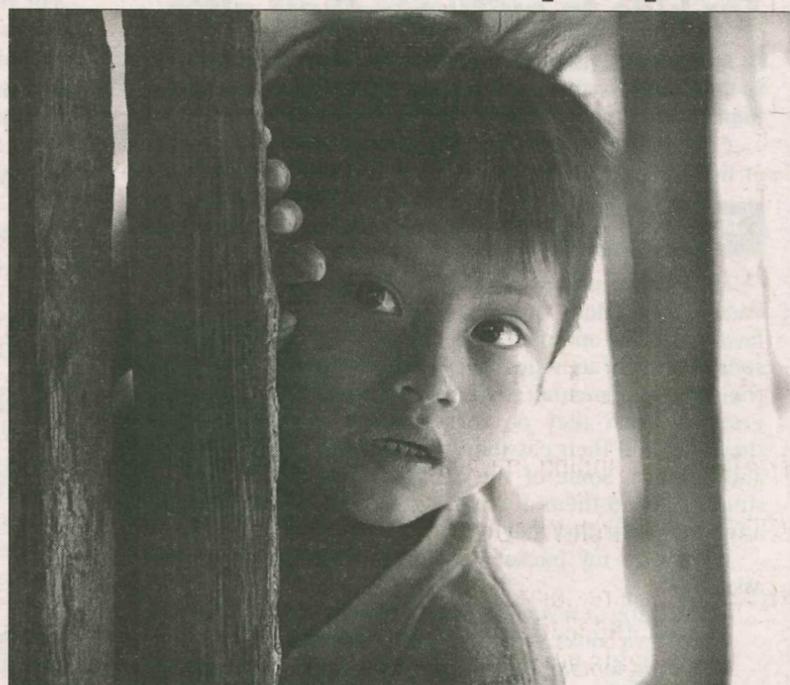
The Kogi spend their lives seeking to pacify the spirits by offering payments for everything they do—whether they are cutting down trees or harvesting crops. Pablo explained that some of them wonder, "If I don't make this payment, what's going to happen? Will my child die if I don't make the payments correctly?"

Life for the few believers also has been difficult. Some Kogis have threatened the lives of Pablo and fellow Christians. Still, these believers continue to share the Good News among their people.

The Kogi "see a big difference in our life," Pablo said. They "have lived in fear, paying the spirits and not seeing any results. And when we tell them Jesus has paid all for us, they really like that."

Not all, however, are happy with indigenous people like the Kogi turning their lives over to Christ.

Many anthropology and government organizations do not welcome change among indigenous people.



SEEKING HOPE A boy peers around the corner of his house in the Amazon Basin. Most children grow up believing in spirit worship and superstitions. Others live in isolated areas where outsiders cannot reach them. Their only hope to hear about Jesus is through the prayers of faithful Christians for the gospel to reach their villages. (IMB photo)

Warning signs or government officials guard protected territory in some areas.

"They don't want them to hear the gospel," Terry pointed out. "The government, a lot of times, sees indigenous peoples as museum pieces—something they can show. They are actively against indigenous peoples being educated."

The only way many of them will be reached is through prayer, Terry emphasized.

"Baptists have been working in South America for 150 years, and ... I would ask them to pray that God open (these people's) hearts to understand who the one and true God is through Jesus Christ."

*Names changed for security reasons

Meet needs, share Christ, panelist urges

By Adam Miller
On Mission

The Woodlands, Texas (BP)—When several thousand people walked out of church in their stocking feet at Fellowship of the Woodlands near Houston, Texas, they made a simple yet huge difference in their community.

"A big church makes a big impact," Fellowship pastor Kerry Shook said. "We wanted to make a big impact on the homeless of Houston. We knew people had given them plenty of blankets, but what they needed were shoes. We decided to do something that would solve a big problem instantly."

So he challenged the congregation—if people felt led and with no guilt attached—to take off their shoes and place them at the front of the sanctuary. The church collected 4,600 pairs of shoes that day.

"People filled a need," Shook emphasized. "And when they walked out in their socks, they got to experience a little of what the homeless in our area deal with every day."

Shook is one of four panelists slated to participate in the Missional Network Dinner and Panel Discussion set for June 9 during the 2008 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Shook and other missional pastors will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing churches as they look for relevant ways to witness and minister in their communities.

Every church, regardless of size, can be Christ's presence in its community, Shook explained, adding it is a matter of identifying the needs of a community and doing something that will mobilize an entire congregation into service and evangelism.

Fellowship of the Woodlands has done this through simple acts like raking leaves on a Saturday or, as they grew larger, collecting as much as 70,000 pounds of food for relief efforts. They even purchased and staffed feeding units for disaster relief ministries.

"Acts of kindness, no matter how simple, make a difference," noted Shook, who said he sees every kindness as an open door to sharing the gospel.

These "conspiracies of kindness" and the church's vision to multiply and spread have spawned church plants elsewhere in Texas and in New York, as well as a satellite church 50 miles away in Atascocita, Texas, that already runs 1,700 in attendance.

However, the congregation has not always latched onto Shook's vision.

"We had 15 people come to help start the church," Shook recalled. "They got so excited only eight came back."

But once the people catch on, they own it, he said. Now, besides organizing events for individuals to join and serve, members perform small acts of kindness in their own neck of the woods—doing things that will speak of Christ's love to neighbors and friends. The goal is mobilizing all 15,000 members to perform at least one act of kindness.

In light of recent concern about baptism numbers across the Southern Baptist Convention, Shook highlighted the importance of finding relevant ways to witness and minister in a community.

"On the whole, we're becoming less relevant," he said. "I see many who are becoming relevant and making inroads, but we're not getting into the community like we should."

"The thing that'll perpetuate us is being known for the love of Christ," Shook added. "We want people to start coming to our church who don't know Christ."

Shook is slated to preach at this year's SBC Pastor's Conference in Indianapolis and will join the June 9 Missional Network panel alongside Brian Bloye, pastor of West Ridge Church in Hiram, Ga.; Daniel Floyd, pastor of Lifepoint Church in Spotsylvania, Va.; and Shawn Lovejoy, pastor of Mountain Lake Church in Cumming, Ga.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Resolutions will be receiving resolutions to be considered at this year's annual meeting until October 11.

This year's meeting is to be held Nov. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington

IF YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

E-mail it to: executive@kybaptist.org (preferred method)

or
Mail it to: Committee on Resolutions
c/o KBC Executive Office
P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253

All Resolutions Must:

- Be typewritten, titled and dated
- Be accompanied by a letter or e-mail from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing
- Include complete contact information for the person submitting the resolution and his or her church

No person may submit more than three resolutions in a single year.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Executive Office

P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

502-489-3577 or 866-489-3577



For more information, visit our web site at:

www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

KENTUCKYNOTES

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 489-3534 • Toll-free: (866) 489-3534
Supplement to Western Recorder

Funding for this publication made possible through contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

Join the celebration!
Eliza is a millionaire!!

2007-08
Eliza Broadus Offering
for Kentucky missions
\$1,069,374.42
given as of 05/21/08.

Summer 2008

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2008

- WHAT?** Equipping, motivating, inspiring and experiencing the joy of missions
- WHO?** Church WMU and Baptist Men on Missions leaders, Associational WMU leaders
- WHY?** To create an excitement and develop expertise in missions education; to lead others to be compelled to impact their world for Christ and His mission; to become the leader God wants you to be

HIGHLIGHTS?

Hopkinsville: Matt Johnson, Church Planter, Murray; Arlene Miller, MSC, Food/Clothing Ministry, Hopkinsville; Harrell Riley, MSC, Job Corps Chaplain, Princeton

London: Shirley Cox, MSC, Missions Photo-Journalist, Mt. Vernon; Mark Elkins, Church Planter, Pineville; Theresa Marinaro, Director, Christian Shelter for the Homeless, London

Associational WMU Leadership Track: Both locations

WHEN? and WHERE?

July 18-19, 2008 First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville (Central Time)

July 25-26, 2008 First Baptist Church, London (Eastern Time)

Friday 6:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

COST? \$20 per person (if registered by June 27)
\$25 per person (if registered by July 11)
\$30 per person (if registered after July 11)
Includes:

- Friday and Saturday workshops and sessions
- Saturday lunch
- WMU participants receive a 2008-09 WMU Year Book
- Baptist Men on Mission (Baptist Men, RA, Challengers) participants receive related resources

HOW? Request a registration brochure from Kentucky WMU, complete and return with registration fee.

QUESTIONS?

Call 502-489-3534 or 1-866-489-3534 or e-mail: Brenda.Price@kybaptist.org

A Personal Word

It was a special moment at the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting when we announced that Eliza is a millionaire! We have exceeded the million dollar goal for 2007-08 and will be using the overage for evangelism, including Crossover, when the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Louisville in June 2009. Thank you for giving faithfully and generously for state missions.



Joy Bolton
Executive Director-Treasurer

Our 2008-09 state missions materials will be mailed in early July to WMU directors and contact persons. New this year will be the option to choose subtitles in either English or Spanish on the DVD. While the audio on the DVD is in English only, we hope that this will be a help to our Spanish-speaking members who are learning English. An additional copy of the DVD will again be mailed to pastors. Remember that the DVD contains computer files of all the print materials.

Kentucky WMU will be hosting four young adults from Korea in late June as they come to observe our camps. They all have worked in camps in Korea and are coming to learn from our camping program. Later in the summer, Kentucky volunteers will again travel to Korea to teach English camps for children and youth. Pray for them as they combine teaching English with Bible stories, songs, and activities. Pray for the outreach efforts of their host churches through the camps.

We have been praying for Korea utilizing prayer requests provided for us from an IMB missionary. These are now posted monthly on our new Kentucky WMU News Blog. While you can go to this blog anytime to get Kentucky WMU news, the best option is to subscribe to the blog by e-mail. Then, anytime there is a new posting, it will be automatically sent to you. Kentucky WMU now has a Facebook page. Facebook users can become fans of Kentucky WMU. I recently learned that Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon both have Facebook pages. Facebook is the social network of the Internet and is a great way for internet users to connect with friends around the world. To learn more, go to www.kywmu.org and click on the words in the left column that say "Blogs and Facebook."

My Mission Fulfilled and Missions Interchange are WMU Web sites that have been specially designed with younger adults in mind. Share these Web addresses with the young adults in your church and encourage them to check out WMU on the internet (www.mymissionfulfilled.com and www.missionsinterchange.com).

World Missions Unlimited is a great opportunity for WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders (including all age-level organizations) to get ready for the new church year. Offered two weekends in two locations, this training includes basic leadership information as well as a variety of special interest conferences. In addition, we have teamed up with KBC Evangelism Department to offer an Understanding Other Beliefs Conference on Islam during World Missions Unlimited.

Kentucky was well-represented at MissionsFEST, April 26-May 3 in Boone's Creek Association. Over 150 volunteers from nine states came to make this a special week of ministry.

And what about you? What hands-on ministry are you doing? Summer is a great time to get involved. A listing of Kentucky missionaries is included in the state missions packet and on the Kentucky WMU Web site. Get the list, pick a missionary, call, volunteer. You can make a difference!

—Joy Bolton

Celebrate God's Love

Season of Prayer for State Missions

and

Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2008

Offering Goal: \$1,052,008

- ◆ A packet of state missions teaching materials, DVD, poster, offering envelope, and promotional ideas will be mailed to the WMU director or WMU contact person in every church in July.
- ◆ An additional DVD will be mailed to pastors.
- ◆ DVD includes: Four promotional videos (2 minutes each); Mission Study Video; two Bonus Videos; and files of all print materials and graphics.
- ◆ 2008 materials include information about these ministries:
 - Ministries through a Personal Touch (Harrell Riley, HR Ministries, Princeton; Amy Wilhelmus, Moore Activity Center, Covington);
 - Church Planting (Larry Baker, KBC; Matt Johnson, The Journey Church, Murray; Keith Menshouse, LifeSong Church, Ashland);
 - Ministries to the Homeless (Jefferson Street Baptist Center, Louisville; Christian Shelter for the Homeless, London).
- ◆ Please return the order card for additional envelopes, prayer guides, and posters.
- ◆ All state missions materials are provided free of charge.
- ◆ The material is undated and may be used any time during September.
- ◆ Suggested date: September 7-14, 2008.

Churchwide

What a blessing to be a part of MissionsFEST Kentucky! The week was filled with a great spirit as folks from across the country gathered and worked in Boone's Creek Association. Many thanks to Twyla Sheffield and Brother Jim Smith who led the team to pull together such a great experience. If you have not been on a MissionsFEST or FamilyFEST trip, plan to get involved in the future and encourage your church and association to do likewise.



Baptist Nursing Fellowship sponsored Baby Boot camps.



Clowns ministered at several block parties during MissionsFEST.

Now is the time to prepare for the fall in your church and/or association. One of the greatest assets to your preparation is attending World Missions Unlimited. This is a tremendous opportunity to get ideas, learn about the emphasis for the upcoming year as well as network with other leaders. Hope to see you there.

—Wanda Walker

Reminder to Directors:

- Please give information about WMU enrollment in your church to your Church Clerk for inclusion on the 2008 Annual Church Profile. Please include all age-level organizations (members and leaders) as well as churchwide WMU leaders in your total.
- Please complete a new Church WMU Leadership Form for 2008-09 and send a copy to the Kentucky WMU office and to your Associational WMU Director.

Adults

As I listen to women across our commonwealth who have created a legacy for Woman's Missionary Union, I often hear that it is time for someone else to carry the torch for missions education. At the same time there are fewer younger women involved in missions education. How do we continue to grow Women on Mission?

Mentoring! Ladies who have the experience and love for missions need to mentor and raise up women to carry on their legacy. Many younger women, after having been in GA and

Acteens, are involved in so many life experiences that they have pushed missions education to the side.

Recently a young adult woman said that she wanted to know about Women on Mission and WMU and would love to have an older experienced woman mentor her. There were some older ladies in the audience who seemed surprised that a younger woman would even be interested. Imagine how many times what we don't know or assume can be misleading and wrong. There are probably women in your church waiting to learn from your experience and ready to glean from you. Anyone can men-

tor regardless of age. So if you are 30, perhaps you can get to know and mentor a young woman in her early 20s, or if you are 80+ in age you can get to know someone 60ish. You get the idea.

What a wonderful way to carry on and maintain the rich legacy of being an Acts 1:8 woman.

Summer Blessings!

—Wanda Walker

Youth

Exalt and 4:GO 2008 were great! The speakers, concerts, worship music and breakout sessions were inspirational and relevant. We'd like to thank First Baptist Shelbyville for hosting us. The church was very gracious and there were a multitude of vol-

unteers there to make sure everything ran smoothly. More photos from the weekend are posted on the KY WMU Web site as well as the Exalt/ 4:GO 2009 event page of Facebook.



Autograph session following 33Miles concert at Exalt.



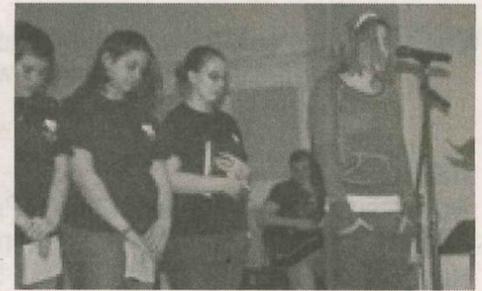
Exalt attendees brought masks for the first night.



Matt McDougal led worship at 4:GO.



Closing session of Exalt and 4:GO.



Acteens from FBC Mt. Washington leading in prayer.

June is a busy month for Acteens. June 18-20 is Mission Adventure Camp for girls in grades 6-10 at Cedar Crest. The event features ministry projects in the community, a praise band, and Bible study. Acteens Splash will take place at Jonathan Creek June 20-21. Monica Jakoby will speak, there will be special interest workshops and time to splash in the water. On June 25, a team of 13 Acteens and leaders will head to Ocean City, Maryland as the Kentucky Activator team.

Start planning for the fall now. This year's theme is "Called to Love" and start thinking of ways that you can call your students to love others in Christ's name. Plan to attend World Missions Unlimited training in Hopkinsville July 18-19 or in London July 25-26.

—LaRaine Dail Rice

Preschool and Children

"What you don't know won't hurt you" certainly does not apply to being the best teacher or leader you can be! Prepare to have an effective missions education program for preschoolers and children in your church by attending World Missions Unlimited this summer. There will be something to learn and share whether you are a new teacher or leader or an experienced one in Mission Friends, Girls in Action or Children in Action. (See page 1 of this insert for the details.)

In September, preschoolers and children in your church will want to participate in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. It would be a great way to start the new church year. The study and prayer material will focus on ministries to the homeless in Kentucky. Teaching guides are available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

—Brenda Price

Children in Action Missions Day Camp

Saturday, September 20
10 a.m.—3 p.m.
Cost—\$10.00 per person

For members of Children in Action
(boys and girls, grades 1-6)

Meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, do crafts, play games and have fun galore!

Contact the Kentucky WMU office
after July 1 for details.

President's Perspective

Time flies when you are having fun!! I have certainly been having fun this year serving as your president. Thanks for allowing me to serve another year. Sandra Duguid as vice president and Cheryl Hatfield as secretary will be serving another year, too. I know that as we work together this year, with God's help, we will accomplish great things!



Pat Reaves
Kentucky WMU
president

I want to thank Marilyn Seelig, Patty Renfrow, Vicki Bierman, Debbie Mullins, Pat Ginn, Peggy Craycraft, Renea Houston, Barbara Cheek and Beth Wyatt for giving of their time and talents as they served on the WMU Executive Board. Get some rest! We will miss you.

I hope you didn't miss the annual meeting in Bardstown on March 28-29. I appreciate all Virginia Drake and her committees did to pull it off. There were over 750 of us. It was a wonderful celebration—especially when it was announced that ELIZA is a MILLIONAIRE!! I hear the second million is easier to get than the first, so our dream now is to make Eliza a multi-millionaire. I know the ministries funded by this offering are very appreciative of you and your churches. It was great seeing our Korean friends and getting to spend some time with them. All the testimonies and reports were inspirational. Don't forget about the Heritage Fund and the plan to grow it. We need your help! Again, I want to thank you for praying for me as I presided. I felt your prayers.

In April, I was at *Exalt* with the over 425 Acteens and their leaders. What a great time. LaRaine and the panel did a wonderful job planning this event. I don't know much about teenagers since I spend most of my time with preschoolers, but I learned doing my conferences that Acteens love play dough too!! Thanks for letting me be a part of this special time for our young ladies.

Dudley and I were in Winchester for MissionsFEST. Kentucky WMU and National WMU have many opportunities for you to go on a mission trip. Be sure and take a look at them as you plan your calendar.

The staff and resource team members are getting ready for World Missions Unlimited. I hope you are planning to be at one of them. They will be in July—one in Hopkinsville and one in London. Come get ready for the new year in WMU and learn more about our new emphasis "Called to Love".

Call if you need me and walk worthy.

Working together,
Pat

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund December 1, 2007 - February 29, 2008

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the second quarter of the 2007-08 fiscal year. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. In addition, gifts for the 1000² Campaign for the Heritage Fund continue to come in. Pledge gifts are noted each quarter and may also be given in honor or memory of someone. You can participate in the 1000² Campaign by making a pledge or gift today!

In Honor of:

Horace and Maribeth Hambrick
Roy and Kay Faulkner
Retired/current
Kentucky WMU staff
Edna Keeling

Clara Winter
Pat Howard Gutierrez

Eula Mae Feltner
Bettie Sue Wells
Anna Mary Byrdwell
Betty Williams Chandler

In Memory Of:

Lealice Dehoney
Joyce Thompson
Adele Ransdell
Adele Ransdell
Lealice Dehoney
and Doris Mullendore
Jessie Chandler Girdler
Bro. Joe Bagwell
Ms. Jeroline Baker
Louise Hayes Williams

Donor:

Frankie Johnson
Laurel River Baptist Association WMU
Mrs. Dolores J. Peterson – toward pledge
Mr. and Mrs. William A Lamkins Jr. – toward pledge
Cheryl Hatfield – toward pledge
Mr. and Mrs. George Chinn – toward pledge
Beth Wyatt
Clayvillage Baptist Church
Judge and Mrs. William Lamkin, Jr.
Carol C Russ – toward pledge

Donor:

Maribeth Hambrick
Judy M. Wilhelm
Mr. and Mrs. James K. Whitehouse
Mary L. Jenkins
Mrs. Dolores J. Peterson
Beth T. Wyatt
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Major
Franklin Baptist Association WMU
Carol C. Russ – toward pledge

1000² Campaign Contributions (includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments, and other campaign gifts)

Dr. and Mrs. T R Sisk Jr.
Oakland Avenue Baptist Church WMU
Kentucky WMU staff
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Triplett
Sandra D Duguid
Night Women on Mission, Dry Ridge Baptist Church
Pulaski County Baptist Association WMU
Cheryl Hatfield
Twyla Sheffield
Westport Road Baptist Church
Three Forks Baptist Association
(Dwarf Baptist Church and Hazard, First Baptist Church)
Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Linda) Cooper
Jo and James Pelham
Shelbyville, First Baptist Church Women on Mission groups
Crestwood Baptist Church WMU
Davies McLean Baptist Association WMU Leadership Team
Mary Lou Crutcher
Joy Bolton
Blood River Association WMU
Little Mount Baptist Church WMU
Jo Anne L Logue
Bettie Sue Wells
Dr. and Mrs. Barry Allen
Shelby Baptist Association WMU

1000² Campaign Update—As of 4/30/08:
Total Pledges & Other gifts: \$76,043.48
Received to date toward campaign: \$56,267.31

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund 1000² Campaign

The Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund is a permanent endowment for the purpose of developing, promoting, strengthening and sustaining the work of Kentucky WMU. The earnings from this endowment fund are used by Kentucky WMU for our vital work in missions education. By increasing the Heritage Fund to a million dollars and beyond, the increased endowment distribution to Kentucky WMU will allow us to do more in missions education and support.

The number of donors (individuals and groups) that have

given or pledged \$1,000 to the Heritage Fund is growing. Our goal is 1,000 donors. If one thousand WMU donors (individuals or groups) give \$1,000, we will increase the Heritage Fund by one million dollars.

The 1000² Campaign was launched at the 2007 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting. We received additional gifts and pledges during the Heritage Fund luncheon at the 2008 Annual Meeting. If you would like to participate in the 1000² Campaign, please contact Kentucky WMU for a pledge card or visit our Web site (www.kywmu.org) and

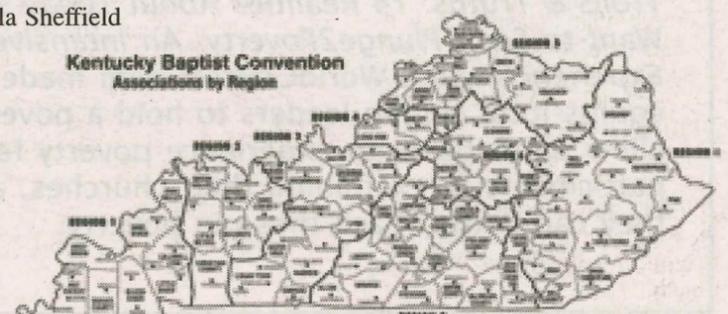
click on the Heritage Fund page.

You can also learn solutions to estate planning issues through the educational information provided on the Christian Estate Planning pages included on the Kentucky WMU Web site. The Christian Estate Planning Tool found on our Web site is a great resource to complete prior to writing your will or meeting with your financial planner. Should you need additional information, all requests for more information through the Web site are referred to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

2008-09 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

President: Pat Reaves
Vice-President: Sandra Duguid
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Hatfield
BNF President: Benita Decker
Development Specialist: Twyla Sheffield

Region 1: Linda Alexander, Cecilia Wallace, Marjorie Yandell
Region 2: Dolores Gilmore, Kim Thomas, Jo Pelham
Region 3: Linda Cooper, Konnie Smith, Mary Lauer
Region 4: Susan Bryant, Betty Montford, Cathy Mattingly
Region 5: Carole Kemper, Loretta Simpson, Jessica Childers
Region 6: Marcia Ballard, Linda Devine, Mary Lou Ray
Region 7: Shirley Cox, Mae Renner, Kim Price
Region 8: Estella Brashear, Mary Lou Walzer, Molly Hall



Have a
ROARING GOOD TIME!!!



Go on a Missions Safari at Mission Adventure Camp!

You can experience the culture of Africa without ever leaving Kentucky. Best of all, you can learn how missionaries are sharing God's love with the African people. You won't want to miss **Missions Safari!**

MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP STAFF Cedar Crest

Director: Stacy Nall
Fellowship /Asst. Director: Angie Cornett
Recreation Leader: Melanie Jones
Lifeguard: Kristen Key
Kitchen Coordinator: Rachel Sheron
Worship Leader: Adrienne Butler
Nature Leader: Sarah Denison
Technology Leader: Kasey Fehler
Crafts Leader: Amanda Grace Richey
Missions Leader: Jessica Mason

2008 CAMP SCHEDULE

Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest

*Church chaperones are required for all camps.

Girls in Action Camps, grades 3-6

June 9-12

June 23-26

June 30-July 1

Express Camps, boys & girls, grades 3-6

June 12-14

June 15-17

Acteens Camp, girls, grades 6-10

June 18-20

Mother/Daughter Overnights

For girls in grades 1-3 and moms

June 20-21

June 27-28

Overnights at Jonathan Creek

June 20-21 **Mother/Daughter Overnight**
GA Overnight
Acteens Splash

Space may still be available!
For more information, contact the WMU office at:
1-866-489-3534

Calendar

June

- 8-9 National WMU Annual Meeting, Indianapolis
- 9-12 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 3-6
- 10-11 Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis
- 12-14 Mission Adventure Camp (Express) for Boys & Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 15-17 Mission Adventure Camp (Express) for Boys & Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 18-20 Mission Adventure Camp for girls, grades 6-10, Cedar Crest
- 20-21 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Jonathan Creek
GA Overnight, grades 4-6, Jonathan Creek
Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 23-26 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 3-6
- 27-28 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 28 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon, Baptist Building, Louisville
- 30-7/3 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 3-6

July

- 18-19 World Missions Unlimited, WMU & Baptist Men on Mission Leaders, FBC, Hopkinsville
- 25-26 World Missions Unlimited, WMU & Baptist Men on Mission Leaders, FBC, London

August

- 16 Super Saturday, Immanuel BC, Lexington
- 23 Super Saturday, St. Matthews BC, Louisville



Project HELPSM is a call to action! Through Project HELP, WMU® seeks to get believers involved in a social issue.

Encourage churches to host a poverty simulation. WMU has created a Poverty Bundle (W089101) for church leaders. This bundle includes: *Trolls & Truths: 14 Realities About Today's Church That We Don't Want to See*, *Plunge2Poverty: An Intensive Poverty Simulation Experience* and a WorldCraftsSM item made in Sri Lanka. This bundle equips local church leaders to hold a poverty simulation that will allow participants to experience poverty for a 24-hour period, guide participants in examining their churches, and determine new ways they can better reach those in poverty.

Live the Call Through Medical Missions

BNF Summer Meeting
Saturday, June 28
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Kentucky Baptist Building
Louisville

Medical missionaries will
be the guest speakers.

\$12.00 for BNF members
\$15.00 for non-BNF
members

Contact the KY WMU office
for more information

Passing the baton

Estate planning is essential part of financial stewardship

As baby boomers age and family business owners anticipate retirement, the necessity for well designed estate and business succession plans is more important than ever. Too often, people make critical decisions without fully considering the impact on those they love, including the Lord Jesus Christ and His mission in this world. Others procrastinate and in many instances, die without having put a plan in place.

Such planning is part of our responsibility to the Lord as stewards of all He has entrusted to us. Therefore, failing to have a well designed estate and succession plan is failing to do what the Lord expects and requires, and is failing to care for those we love. The Apostle Paul warned those who are negligent in this regard have "denied the faith and are worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8).

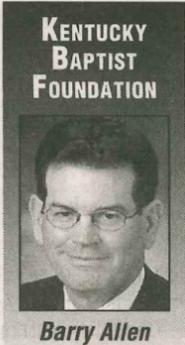
Estate planning may seem like a giant jigsaw puzzle in which you must fit together the people and the causes you love and match them to the assets they will inherit and responsibilities they will assume. Decisions can range from

naming a health care power of attorney to finding a successor to run the family business. As Christians, we are compelled to make the pieces fit and to make these vital decisions prayerfully and with the assistance of competent professional advisors.

More than \$41 trillion is already being passed from one generation to the next and will continue over the next few decades. This historical generational wealth transfer will be a bumpy process, especially for family-owned businesses. Statistics reveal that only 30 percent of such businesses survive into the second generation, 12 percent into the third and 3 percent into the fourth.

And remember, there's more at stake here than money and you do not have to limit yourself to family members. As with any jigsaw puzzle, it helps to have an overview of the plan you are trying to create and the expertise to design and implement that plan. Contact Kentucky Baptist Foundation Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine to assist you in this process.

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp

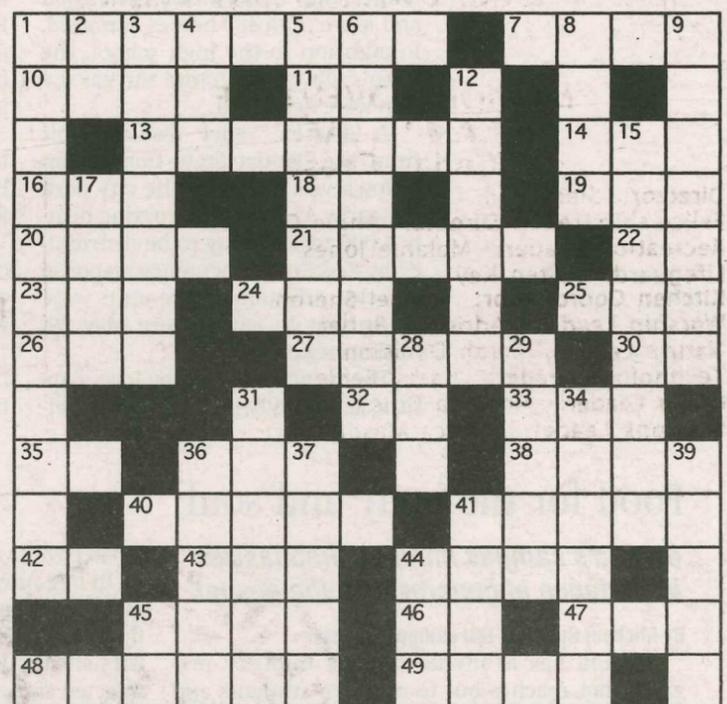


Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

Across

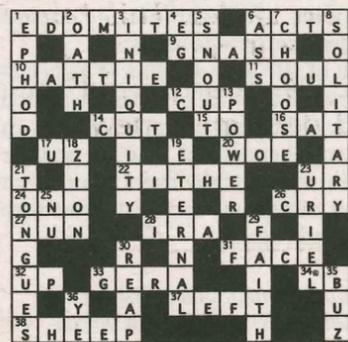
- 1 "There sat a certain man at Lystra, _____ in his feet" (Acts 14:8)
- 7 Recurring chills
- 10 "When her branch is yet tender ... ye know that summer is _____" (Mark 13:28)
- 11 At the age of (abbr.)
- 13 Naaman's illness (2 Kings 5)
- 14 Mischievous child
- 16 Study of art or science (pl. suffix)
- 18 Football position (abbr.)
- 19 Detail for a duffer
- 20 Stir up
- 21 Angry
- 22 Chicago's Lake Shore, for one (abbr.)
- 23 First name in life preservers?
- 24 _____ upmanship
- 25 _____ Bravo
- 26 Possessive pronoun
- 27 "____, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines" (Psalm 83:7)
- 30 Accountant's abbr.
- 32 In what state Churchill Downs is found (abbr.)
- 33 "____ said unto Samuel, Go, lie down" (1 Samuel 3:9)
- 35 What _____? (worrywart's favorite question)
- 36 Small drink
- 38 "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the _____" (Matthew 26:29)
- 40 Sacrifice site



- 41 "Yesterday at the seventh hour the _____ left him" (John 4:52)
- 42 As stated
- 43 "But the wise took _____ in their vessels" (Matthew 25:4)
- 44 "Resist the devil, and he will _____ from you" (James 4:7)
- 45 Female deer (pl.)
- 46 Organization including Britain, France, and Germany (abbr.)
- 47 Bring legal action
- 48 "A certain man... had the _____" (Luke 14:2)
- 49 Egress

- 6 Describing a modern take on a classical style
- 8 Trotting, for one
- 9 Nero, for one
- 12 "They ... fled unto _____ and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia" (Acts 14:6)
- 15 "A merry heart doeth good like a _____" (Proverbs 17:22)
- 17 _____ of many colors
- 28 Tournament privilege for number-one ranked team
- 29 Built to keep a river from overflowing
- 31 "And Lot dwelled in the _____ of the plain" (Genesis 13:12)
- 34 "Forsake not the Levite as long as thou _____" (Deuteronomy 12:19)
- 36 Rigged sailboat
- 37 Paralysis
- 39 "Which some professing have _____ concerning the faith" (1 Timothy 6:21)
- 41 Coming in of the tide
- 44 Assessment
- 45 "And whatsoever ye _____ in word or deed" (Colossians 3:17)

Last week's solution



© 1999 Barbour Publishing

MID-SOUTH BUS CENTER
www.thebuscenter.com

TRANSPORTATION SOUTH
The Bus Center

Responsive to YOUR needs.

"After visiting several companies, our church decided to take our business to Transportation South. They were very responsive to the needs of a growing church and sensitive to the limits of a church committee environment. They have been honest, straightforward and very quick to answer all of our questions. We look forward to doing more business with Transportation South in the future."

Greg Stephenson
Committee Member
First Baptist Church
Decatur, Alabama

View our huge selection of new and used buses at www.thebuscenter.com
TOLL FREE: 800.367.9463

BusCenter.com
SERVING BUS & VAN MINISTRIES SINCE 1972

Your church newsletter

Mailed to every church family for about the price of a postcard! For more information, call (866) 489-3535.

WESTERN RECORDER
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Iowa Baptists offer aid to tornado victims

Parkersburg, Iowa (BP)—Residents of the small town of Parkersburg, Iowa, have assembled a makeshift memorial in front of the home of a couple who died in the tornado that devastated the area May 25. Two kitchen chairs, a flag and a pot of flowers now serve as a reminder of the lives that were lost.

Richard Nations, editor of the Iowa Baptist newspaper, spoke with Ed Thomas, the athletics director at Aplington-Parkersburg High School, which was destroyed by the EF5 tornado. He called the devastation unbelievable but was grateful that students were not in the school when the storm hit. Thomas and his wife lived across the road from the school and were huddled in their basement when their home was blown away.

"This is where your faith really enters in," Thomas said. "It brings our churches and community together."

Southern Baptist chaplains have been deployed to walk the streets in Parkersburg and assist those who are grieving after officials counted 222 homes and 21 businesses destroyed and more than 400 homes damaged. In addition to the high school, the town's sole grocery store and gas station were destroyed.

A disaster relief feeding unit from the Baptist State Convention of Iowa was set up in the city park in nearby Aplington, preparing nearly 4,000 meals a day to be distributed by Red Cross emergency response vehicles. Additional state units were being sent to Parkersburg May 29, Nations reported.

The meals prepared by Iowa Baptists also were being served at a Vet-



REMEMBRANCE A makeshift memorial of two kitchen chairs, a flag and a pot of flowers was set up in the front yard of a Parkersburg couple who died when their home was destroyed by the strongest tornado to hit Iowa in 32 years. (BP photo by Richard Nations)

erans of Foreign Wars post in Parkersburg. Businesses, churches and local residents had donated food to the VFW for relief efforts, but Nations said officials were turning more to meals prepared by Baptists out of a concern for food safety and temperature control.

"We are trying to use as much of the food from the Baptists as possible," noted Rick Ruble, disaster relief food coordinator for the Red Cross. "We know the quality and safety is consistent. We were glad to see SBC disaster relief roll up. We think the world of them."

Ruble said Parkersburg "looks like a landfill in some places" after the tornado destroyed about a third

to half of the town of 1,900 people in northeast Iowa.

Dan Doolin, pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church in Wapello and food coordinator for the unit from the Iowa convention, said the crew is trying hard to keep up with demand.

"The biggest challenge is to work with large- and small-scale operations of food needs," Doolin explained. "Some meals are large like 2,000 meals at a time. Others are small, like 50 or 60. It's hard to keep the inventory of food up to gauge the need and response."

A second team of food unit volunteers was expected to arrive May 31 and remain activated through this week.

Ala. governor says churches need to care for prisoners

Montgomery, Ala. (RNS)—Gov. Bob Riley asked Alabama churches May 20 to shoulder the burden of caring for newly released inmates, saying the state lacks the flexibility and funds to help them successfully re-enter society.

Leaders from churches and charitable groups were asked to provide a wide range of services to former inmates, including employment assistance, housing, clothing, health care and cash.

Riley said the state's churches can rise to the challenge just as they do in response to natural disasters.

"If we can motivate the faith-based community in the state the way we do during an emergency, then we can make a difference," Riley told a group of religious leaders.

Bill Johnson, director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, noted that the state releases 11,000 inmates a year and is not capable of providing the services necessary to help them readjust.

The state will provide no direct funds to the program, but will coordinate the efforts of the churches and other volunteer groups.

"We're admitting we can't solve the problem," Johnson said.

Food for the body and soul

Oneida's campus ministry emphasizes importance of generosity & the gospel

By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

Oneida has a unique campus ministry program that reaches out to our own students and to others around the world. We had a wonderful month of April with many reasons for praising the Lord.

Each year, OBI sponsors two "spiritual emphasis weeks," one at the beginning of the school year and one at the end. These meetings would be called "revivals" in most Southern Baptist churches. Our spring spiritual emphasis week was April 20-23. It began with a Sunday evening concert by Affinity, a local Christian band that did an outstanding job.

Starting Monday, our students and staff were blessed with the preaching of Trevor Barton and the music of Daniel Carmack, pastor and associate pastor, respectively, of the rapidly growing Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London. Pastor Barton brought solid and practical gospel messages each day and the Hawk Creek worship team added special music for the evening services.

Pastor Barton spoke at three morning chapel services and three evening gatherings. There were more than 15 professions of faith and many of those students were baptized at Oneida Baptist Church. The week was a real blessing for our staff who came in large numbers each evening.

OBI's campus ministry program also includes a high school Baptist Campus Ministry group and a girls' devotional group. Both have seen record attendance this year. Campus ministry associates Clark and Teresa Bunch and Jamie Jory have given many hours of service beyond their regular jobs

to keep these ministries moving forward.

In late April, we held another favorite campus ministry event. For the past three years, a highlight of the school year has been the campus ministry silent auction. This event raises money for a selected cause and provides students and staff an exceptional time of fellowship. This year's cause was Union University in Tennessee. We felt a special responsibility to support one of our sister Baptist schools following the devastation of the campus by a tornado in February.

OBI staff and students contributed desserts of all kinds. The welding class donated special custom-made bird feeders. Everyone was allowed one hour to bid on sweets and other foods. The record item was a teriyaki chicken dinner that brought \$300. Several pies and cakes brought \$65. Jugs of Georgia sweet tea went for \$20. The event raised a grand total of \$2,240.

For a small private school, that was quite a generous offering. In the last four years, OBI has given nearly \$9,000 to various causes. The majority of this money comes from our students, who take a lot of pride in the project. I can assure you that after hours of preparation, it doesn't take hours for those desserts to vanish.

These are two of the ways Oneida is a special place where the way and work of Jesus are passed on to students by word and example. Join us in God's Kingdom work here at OBI. Visit us, pray for us, give to the ministry and tell others about what we do. Most of all, share OBI with a student who needs a place to begin again.

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



W.F. Underwood

Katrina's aftermath still evident

Mission trip is reminder that victims still need our help

You do not see the pictures on the newscasts very often anymore but a visit to the Gulf Coast remains a vivid reminder that people still are trying to recover from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Recently, I led my fourth trip to the Gulf with 20 people from the Clear Creek family.

This was our second trip to Shoreline Park Baptist Church in Bay St. Louis, Miss., where Pastor Ed Murphy has set up a disaster relief camp literally on the church property. The camp houses volunteers from all over the nation who have come to help in the recovery effort. The congregation has reached out to its members and other people in the community affected by Katrina.

Even though a lot of progress has been made since we were there last year, there still are too many vacant houses that have not been touched since the storm came through nearly three years ago.

I remember hearing the "ooh"s and "ahh"s from our students as we toured the community and saw the destruction—stilts standing where houses once stood.

A highlight of the trip was visiting with Charlie, a gentleman we

helped last year. Charlie had been in his new house for two weeks when we visited him. He was proud of his home, and very grateful to all the volunteers who helped him with the rebuilding process.

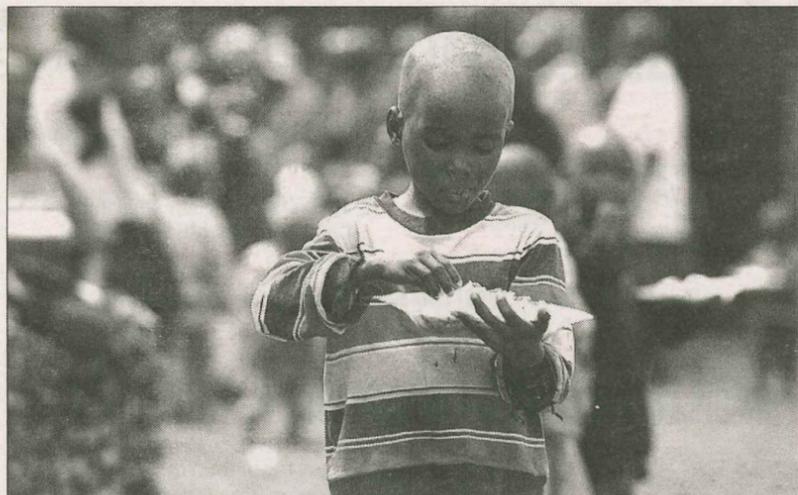
This year, we were privileged to serve Mark. His house was on 20-foot stilts and still had water damage to the ceiling. Mark was an example of Shoreline Park Baptist Church reaching out to their community to help. Although Mark is not a member of the church, Pastor Murphy has committed volunteer groups housed at the church to help Mark rebuild his home. Our group hung drywall in Mark's house the week we were there.

Please continue to pray for the many people, like Mark and Charlie, who still are trying to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of Katrina. I also encourage you to help in the ongoing rebuilding process along the Gulf Coast as God provides those opportunities for you.



Donnie Fox

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



GROWING PROBLEM As the global food crisis continues to grow, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries work to sustain both physical and spiritual needs. According to Baptist Global Response, 16,000 children worldwide die from hunger-related causes each day. (IMB photo)

Baptists respond to growing hunger crisis around world

By Shawn Hendricks
SBC International Mission Board

Harare, Zimbabwe (BP)—As a growing global food crisis stirs uncertainty and generates hostility around the world, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries are finding ways to help sustain both the physical and spiritual needs of the people they serve.

Poverty and famine are nothing new to the world, but as demand rises for fossil-fuel replacements like soybeans and corn, many struggle to find—much less afford—even basic food items. Political strife and natural disasters in recent weeks have only compounded the problem in some countries.

"In the area I live, things would seem perfectly normal did I not have to go to the grocery store," said a missionary in Zimbabwe where post-election tensions have sent the local economy spiraling out of control.

"In most stores, the shelves are almost empty. Bread has tripled in price in the last two weeks."

IMB missionaries are working alongside Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization, to help people in places like Zimbabwe and other areas of the world.

In recent months, Baptists have provided about 1,000 packages of food for Zimbabwe. Another shipment of 3,900 packages is on the way.

The inflation rate in the African nation has soared to more than 200,000 percent. Shoppers pull an item off the shelf only to put it back after seeing the price. Simple items like bread and millet often are nowhere to be found.

Missionaries in the country, however, concede the situation could be far worse.

"I truly believe there are two ways we can see God's hand at work," one missionary noted. "The violence has not turned into open, widespread conflict, and our churches have remained faithful to minister ... to those hurting and in need."

Zimbabwe is just one country struggling with hunger. According to Baptist Global Response, 16,000 children worldwide die from hunger-related causes each day. Right now, 800 million people in the world suffer from chronic hunger.

In Niger, IMB missionaries in a drought-ravaged area have organized a two-month food distribution project to deliver rice, millet, powdered milk and goats to those unsure where their next meal will come from.

"We have only been able to help a handful of hungry people," said a missionary in that country, "but it has been a blessing and a great witness."

The global food crisis has only compounded shortage problems and caused prices of items like bread, rice, millet and oil to skyrocket. On the West African coast in Senegal, missionaries are working with another food project where drought killed off crops of millet and peanuts.

"Someone said that in their family they had not cooked a regular meal for 20 days," missionary Jim Vaughn said. "Others are eating one meal a day. Many farmers have been out of food and are looking for work and food wherever they can."

Vaughn is working with local believers and volunteers in Senegal to distribute sacks of rice to 750 households in eight villages. They also have distributed Christian materials to the predominantly Muslim people group.

"Even though it is a drop in the bucket compared to what they need to get them through to harvest time in October, it is greatly appreciated," Vaughn acknowledged.

Across the Indian Ocean, Thailand also has struggled with food shortages this year. High prices triggered riots in past months.

"Thailand, though a relatively prosperous country, has its fair share of poor," missionary Jack Kinnison said. "The recent radical increases in (the cost of) fuel and food on a worldwide basis have hit those at the lower end of the pay scale the hardest."

One team in the country is reaching out to people in some of the hardest-hit areas through community development projects that teach vocational skills and health care.

Their efforts create close relationships through which the team can share the gospel and distribute Christian materials. Many have come to faith in the Lord as a direct result, Kinnison noted.

Mission Milestone

90 YEARS

COMMEMORATE A MILESTONE.
CELEBRATE YOUR WELLNESS.

VISIT THE GUIDESTONE BOOTH AND
WELLNESS CENTER AT THE SBC CONVENTION

Join us as we celebrate a milestone of **90 years of GuideStone's mission** in serving Southern Baptist churches, ministers and staff.

Here are some things to look for at the GuideStone booth and Wellness Center:

- Retirement and Investment Review
- Health, Dental and Life Insurance Checkup
- Wellness Screening
- Wellness Walk Registration
- Long-Term Care Information Sessions
- Celebration of Mission:Dignity™ Ministry (formerly known as Adopt An Annuitant)

With all this attention to wellness, it's no wonder **we don't look — or feel — 90!** Please join us at the convention or visit www.GuideStone.org/90Years for more information.

free
copy of



Dr. O.S. Hawkins' latest book,
More Good News for Great Days

1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433)

© 2008 GuideStone Financial Resources 13501 05/08

GuideStone®
Financial Resources

Do well. Do right.™

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Tom Townsend

The month of June has a relaxing feel. I like the smell and freshness of new flowers and the trees, but I especially like the reality of new life in Christ Jesus. It smells and feels so good. I like that He came to give me life abundant and everlasting through my faith in Him. Come to think of it, I don't know of anything that has a better freshness than becoming aware that I am a new creation in Him.

The Bible puts it this way, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). That new beginning will put a song in your heart and a smile on your face.

Consider this:

■ God loves you as much as He has loved anyone in the past, present or future. That puts us in some pretty awesome company.

■ God will never love you more in the future than He loves you today. No matter how hard you work to earn His love, it remains constant.

■ God has a wonderful plan for your life. In order to discover that plan, you must accept His son as your Savior, believe in Him and confess your sins to Him. Whatever plans you have, they will never measure up to the Lord's plan for your life.

Now, how does that feel? Can you smell the freshness of your new life in Jesus? Can you relax in His love and let Him take control? It sure makes the summer seem better and this season of recreation will become a season of re-creation. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for this new creation. Now, come sit in His presence and take a load off.

Tom Townsend is marketing and business manager for the Western Recorder

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **COLUMBIA**—William Karnes recently retired as pastor of Pierces Chapel Church.

■ **EDMONTON**—Pink Ridge Church recently called Troy Hawkins as pastor.

■ **HARTFORD**—Living Faith Church recently called Kenny Rager as pastor. He previously was pastor of South Greensburg Church in Greensburg.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—South Fork Church recently called Randy Mitchell as minister of music and senior adults. He previously served at Vine Grove Church. Norm Brock is pastor.

■ **LIVINGSTON**—Union Church will hold revival services June 26-29 with Gary Kirby, pastor of Lick Fork Missionary Church in London, as evangelist. Anthony Taylor is pastor.

■ **NEWPORT**—First Church recently called as Richard Pitzer as pastor.

■ **SEDALIA**—Lynnville Church will

Spotlight on ...

LaGrange



DeHaven Church will host the **India Children's Choir** from Manipur in northeastern India June 12, 7 p.m. The concert is the group's only performance in Kentucky. The choir is sponsored by the Bibles for the World ministry. For more information, call the church office at (502) 222-1535.

hold revival services June 9-11, 7 p.m., with Bob Copeland as evangelist. William Strong is pastor.

Georgetown restructures office to improve church connections

Georgetown—In an effort to focus additional attention on the religious life of the school, Georgetown College has established the Office of Religious Life under the leadership of H.K. Kingkade, the school's director of church relations.

The restructured office will encompass campus ministry, chapel ministry, church relations and the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry.

"As a Christian college, we are concerned about the spiritual growth of our students," said Kingkade, who served the Kentucky Baptist Convention as campus minister at University of Kentucky before returning to his alma mater in 2006. "This restructuring and bringing together of the different areas of campus dealing with faith issues will allow us to enhance the way we program and communi-

cate the religious life of the college.

"Our first priority at Georgetown is our students," he continued. "We feel this restructuring will benefit the students by providing the support for religious programming and student-led initiatives."

President William Crouch called the new venture part of "our continuing effort to demonstrate (that) a college can be nationally ranked and remain faith based. This will intentionally focus us on our responsibilities as a Christian college."

During his tenure, Kingkade has sought to strengthen Georgetown's relations with churches across the state.

"This new office will help focus on the religious life of the college both internally (and) in the way we relate to individual churches," Kingkade noted.

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

4-7 Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.

7 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

7-14 Kentucky Changers, Monticello.

9-12 Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.

12-14 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, Cedar Crest.

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

National champion



Eric Tisdol, a member of the University of the Cumberlands track and field team, takes flight during the NAIA National Outdoor Track & Field Meet in St. Louis May 22-24. The sophomore earned the National Championship in the long jump event with a jump of 7.25 meters. Tisdol's victory makes him the first Patriot track student-athlete to win a national title in an NAIA Outdoor National Field event. He also placed fourth at the national meet in the high jump competition with a jump of 2.06 meters. A member of the 2008 NAIA Track & Field All-American team, Tisdol also was named the Mid-South Conference's Most Outstanding Athlete.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Pastor for Highland Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn. Five years experience as pastor and a seminary degree required. Please e-mail resumé to dktatum@charter.net; or mail to PSC, Steve Stone, 808 West Hickory St., Tullahoma, TN 37388.

SEEKING: Full-time children's and recreation minister, Marion Baptist Church, Marion, Ky. Responsible for organizing children's activities as well as various activities for all ages in our family life center. Please send resumé to FLC Search Committee, Marion Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Marion, KY 42064.

SEEKING: A passionate, conservative bivocational minister who is committed to serving youth. Individual should have the skills and drive for planning, coordinating, conducting and evaluating all youth-based activities and department personnel. The candidate must have a true love for ministering to youth while standing on God's Word, and the capacity to work with parents to reach the full potential of each youth. If God has challenged you in this capacity, this may be where God is calling you to serve. If interested in the 20 hours/

week paid position, please send cover letter, resumé and CD of recent teaching to: Youth Minister Committee, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, PO Box 40, Smith Mills, KY 42457.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor, Owingsville Baptist Church. Conservative congregation (120 average attendance) with recent building project. Looking for a pastor with a heart for reaching the lost, for teaching the truth, and for loving and caring for God's people. Currently enjoying blended worship and growing opportunities for outreach. Send resumé to Sandy Davis, 169 Mariella Drive, Owingsville, KY 40360.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Excellent opportunity for conservative, Bible-based, energetic, enthusiastic man of God to serve a loving, talented, mission-minded congregation. Blended worship; active participation in children's, youth and senior programs; tremendous opportunity for visitation, outreach and growth. With a small-town setting (located in central Kentucky, one hour south of Louisville), parsonage is provided. If you feel God's lead, please send resumé, DVD/CD or tape, and e-mail be-

fore June 30 to: Pastor Search, Upton Baptist Church, PO Box 130, Upton, KY 42784. E-mail: SJCottrell@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Providence First Baptist Church, 214 South Broadway, Providence, Ky. Send resumé to Mr. Ray Gobin, 214 Benjamin Terrace, Providence, KY 42450.

SEEKING: Full-time, Spirit-filled, God-called youth director for vibrant, growing body of believers with 60 to 70 youth, dedicated parents and congregation with exceptional support. Full job description available upon request. Mail resumé to Youth Director Search Committee, Buck Creek Baptist Church, 3788 US Highway 431 North, Calhoun, KY 42327; or bcyouth@bellsouth.net. Deadline is June 30.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Gap Creek Baptist Church, a conservative member of the Cumberland Gap Baptist Association in Claiborne County, Tenn. Experience preferred. Gap Creek has an active membership of over 300 and is growing. If possible, send a CD or DVD of your sermon, along with a resumé, to

Gap Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Arthur, TN 37707, Attn: Troy Poore. You may e-mail your resumé to trpoore@hotmail.com; or fax to (423) 869-8777.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Friendship Baptist Church in Irvine, Ky. Please send resumé to Pulpit Committee, Friendship Baptist Church, 124 South Hudson Ave., Irvine, KY 40336.

SEEKING: Full-time general secretary competent in MS Word, Excel, Publisher, and administrative module of Church Windows. Salary and benefits; 35 hours, five days a week. Broadway Baptist Church, (502) 895-2459. Phyllis@broadwaybaptist.org.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and youth. Responsible for planning youth activities and leadership for choirs of all ages. Send resumé to Pleasant Memorial Baptist Church, 5440 West Fifth St. Road, Owensboro, KY 42301, Attn: Youth & Music Committee.

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.

The Saw Man

Minnesota native creates sharp ministry among fellow disaster relief volunteers

By **Mickey Noah**
SBC North American Mission Board

Vanduser, Mo. (BP)—As the guys on the Arkansas disaster chainsaw team—tired after a long day of working a recent Missouri storm—ate their dinner at a local Southern Baptist church, the big, burly man who came in was impossible to miss. Imagine John the Baptist with a Stihl chainsaw.

Dressed in blue denim with a full, graying beard and huge hands, Minnesota native Tom Stanton, 53, dropped by their table and asked if they needed any chainsaws sharpened.

"The Saw Man," as Stanton is called, didn't have to ask twice. Any operator of a chainsaw knows that a dull chainsaw is useless, and sharpening chainsaws is a prickly job best left to experts. And The Saw Man is just that.

Stanton's unique chainsaw-sharpening ministry is valuable to Southern Baptist disaster relief teams that respond after ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and other disasters leave trees, utility poles and other debris in their wake.

Deer River, Minn.—about 100 miles south of the Canadian border—is Stanton's home. Until last October, he was pastor of a small church there. Now, his "day job" is running a shear/scissor sharpening business.

Stanton's disaster relief ministry began 2001 when a tornado hit Siren, Wis. The following day—after a sleepless night—he said he felt called to go to Wisconsin.

"I had no clue what I was going to do," said Stanton, who first learned to sharpen chainsaws as an 18-year-old logger in Montana. "My first paycheck was a chainsaw.

"In Wisconsin, I found guys who didn't know how to file chainsaws. So I volunteered and started sharpening. People came out of the woodwork. I sharpened chains with a file for three days until a preacher got me a 12-volt rotary tool. Then I sharpened for another 10 days."

That was the beginning of Stanton's chainsaw-sharpening ministry.

He doesn't know for sure but figures he's sharpened thousands of chainsaws in the wake of disasters including Hurricane Katrina. He doesn't charge a penny.

Financially, how does Stanton cover his expenses? What about those record gas prices required to keep his Ford pickup traveling to disasters? What about tools? Lodging? Food?

"God provides," Stanton said. "The people are really generous with me." He said God gave him his sharpening business back home that provides most of his day-to-day financial needs.

"Through the years, God has provided for me miraculously with a small camper/trailer, a generator and even with my truck, given to me by a Christian friend from my hometown. Last year, someone gave me a GPS so I won't get lost."

These days, Stanton is too professional to use files or even his original rotary tool to sharpen saws.

"Dremel Company now provides me with all my tools," he said. "In fact, I was invited to their plant in Racine, Wis., to teach their people how to use their tool." With the Dremel device, Stanton does not need to remove the chain from the saw to sharpen it, saving significant time and effort.

During the first two weeks after Hurricane Katrina, someone estimated that Stanton sharpened 2,000 chainsaws in Louisiana and Mississippi. He worked as many as 20 hours a day.

"Since I can leave the chain right on the saw, I can pull up to a bunch of guys and easily sharpen 10 saws an hour," Stanton said. "When I have someone to hand me the saws, I can do 16 an hour. Hand-filing takes up to 20 minutes apiece. This helps the disaster relief teams get back to work faster."

Why would a man who's had both hips replaced—and who last year suffered a heart attack requiring 10 stints—chase natural disasters around the country to sharpen chainsaws for strangers?

"It's really hard for me to stand

back and see somebody else hurting," Stanton said. "I've been crippled up through the years. Since 1997, I haven't been able to do much physically for people except for chainsaw sharpening. It's a tremendous need."

Stanton even has a Bible verse, Ecclesiastes 10:9-10, that reflects his ministry: "The one who cuts wood may be endangered by doing it. If the axe is dull, and one does not sharpen its edge, then one must exert more strength."

"God has allowed me to see many people make professions of faith in Jesus Christ," Stanton said. "I go to disasters, sharpen chainsaws and tell people how to avoid the world's greatest disaster (rejecting Christ)."

At a disaster site, Stanton witnesses to the public during the day as he sharpens their chainsaws. He gives tracts and New Testaments from a five-gallon pail he calls the "Bucket of Hope."

At night, he sharpens chainsaws for disaster relief workers, including those from Southern Baptist teams—counseling, challenging and encouraging Christian men in their walks with God.

Stanton said he would like to see his chainsaw sharpening ministry go full-time.

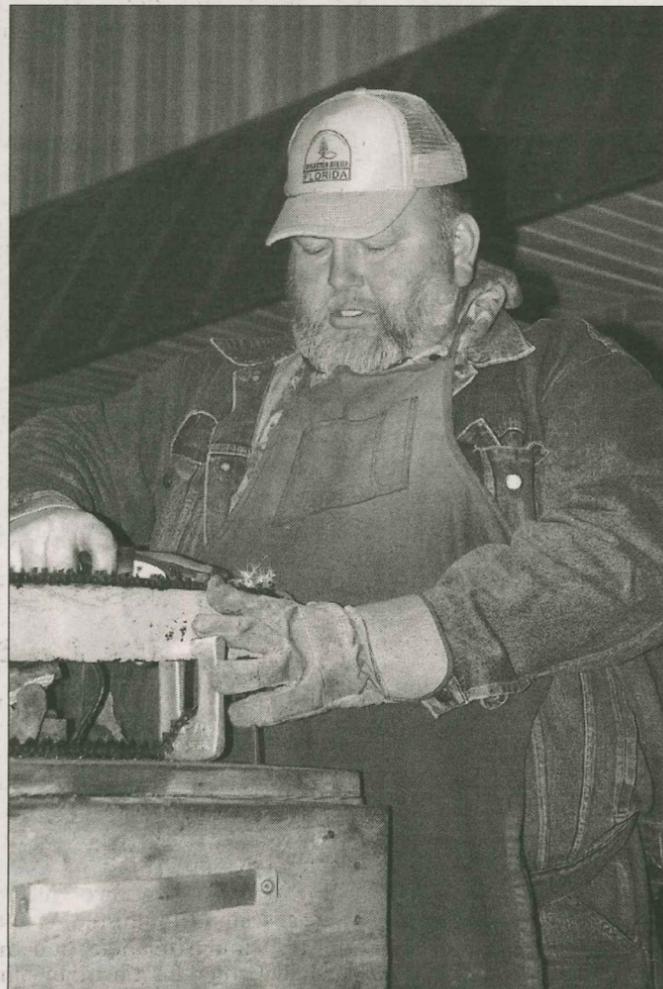
"I'd love to go to fires, ice storms, snowstorms—do it full-time if the Lord opened up the door for it."

He's also eager to train others on the fine points of chainsaw sharpening. He's taught two classes for the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"I'd love to teach chainsaw sharpening as an evangelistic ministry to every association—just to equip people to get out there. I'm just praying that God will raise up more people to do what I do."

Fritz Wilson, Florida Baptists' director of disaster relief and recovery, has known Stanton for several years, working several hurricanes and other disasters with him. He calls Stanton a "super" Christian with a unique ministry.

"He comes in and sharpens our saws, and then goes out in the com-



munity and offers to sharpen anyone's saw," Wilson said. "Tom has a unique ministry and uses sharpening to parallel the Christian life and walk. He tells people that we can't be good tools for Christ unless we stay sharp."

In 2007 alone, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board tallied more than 8,500 clean-up jobs performed by disaster relief volunteers throughout the U.S. While state Southern Baptist conventions provide the manpower and most equipment, NAMB coordinates multi-state disaster responses and partners with national relief groups such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army to ensure vital services quickly reach areas in greatest need.

BUZZING ALONG Former Minnesota pastor Tom Stanton sharpens a chainsaw for an Arkansas Baptist volunteer serving after severe storms in Sikeston, Mo., earlier this year.

Bible study curriculum finds attentive audience with nation's inmates

By **Kelly Shroud**
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—Pam Stubblefield, department assistant in leadership ministry training and events at LifeWay Christian Resources, receives a lot of feedback from customers who use the Christian Growth Study Plan.

Notably, Stubblefield receives almost daily feedback from an unlikely group of CGSP students—prison inmates.

"I get letters almost daily telling me how a certain workbook in the Christian Growth Study Plan has made a difference in the lives of inmates," Stubblefield said. "I also get letters from prison chaplains and volunteers telling me how our resources, MasterLife in particular, have impacted the lives of incarcerated individuals."

Stubblefield also has received phone calls from parents of inmates sharing tes-

timonies of how their sons and daughters have grown closer to God through CGSP materials.

After Stubblefield shared with her coworkers the tremendous feedback she was getting from inmates, Ann Duncan, who also works in leadership ministry training and events, began to research the extent of prison chaplains and prison ministries across the country to reveal a large number of potential CGSP and LifeWay resource users.

Since the program's inception, more than 14,000 requests have been made for CGSP credit from inmates.

Donna Gandy, manager of training and events services at LifeWay, noted that even before the feedback started rolling in, LifeWay maintained a long-standing relationship with prison chaplains and ministries through CGSP.

"Chaplains in prison ministries find that CGSP is a great way for inmates to study in a structured way Christian growth principles," she emphasized.

The five most popular courses for inmates include: Experiencing God, Survival Kit, Living Your Christian Values, God's Transforming Word, and Making Peace with Your Past.

"We began to search out ways we could become more involved in impacting prison ministry," Duncan said. "We learned about the Tennessee Faith in Corrections Conference, an annual conference for chaplains and volunteers who work in prison ministry."

Last month, Duncan and Stubblefield hosted a booth of LifeWay resources for attendees of the two-day conference held in Hendersonville, Tenn.

"This is a wonderful way to showcase

the many resources we have to help prison ministries," Duncan noted.

Deborah Newman of Mason, Tenn., attended the conference. She volunteers at the West Tennessee Detention Facility where she mentors female inmates. She said she has used the resource Making Peace with Your Past on many occasions.

"This is an incredible resource that teaches women to settle their issues from the past and give God control of their lives," she added. "I have seen many women let go of many hurtful issues of their past and move on to freedom in Christ."

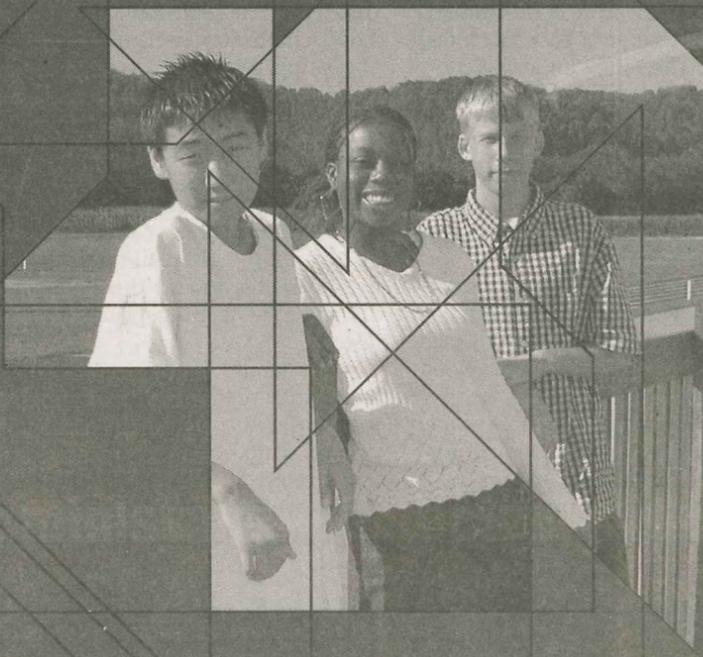
"With all the women I work with, I want to instill in them that God is our Healer," she emphasized. "I teach them that God is the only key to set them free. If God is not involved in the rehabilitation process, I can't promise what the outcome will be."



Education for Time and Eternity



Connecting You To Missions



Oneida Baptist Institute

PO Box 67 Oneida, KY 40972 606.847.4111 www.oneidaschool.org