



# WESTERN RECORDER

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**Oneida Baptist Institute**  
Father's Day Offering  
See insert

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## Study: One percent of congregations close up each year

Durham, N.C. (RNS)—An average of 1 percent of religious congregations shut their doors each year, a lower closure rate than other organizations, according to a new study.

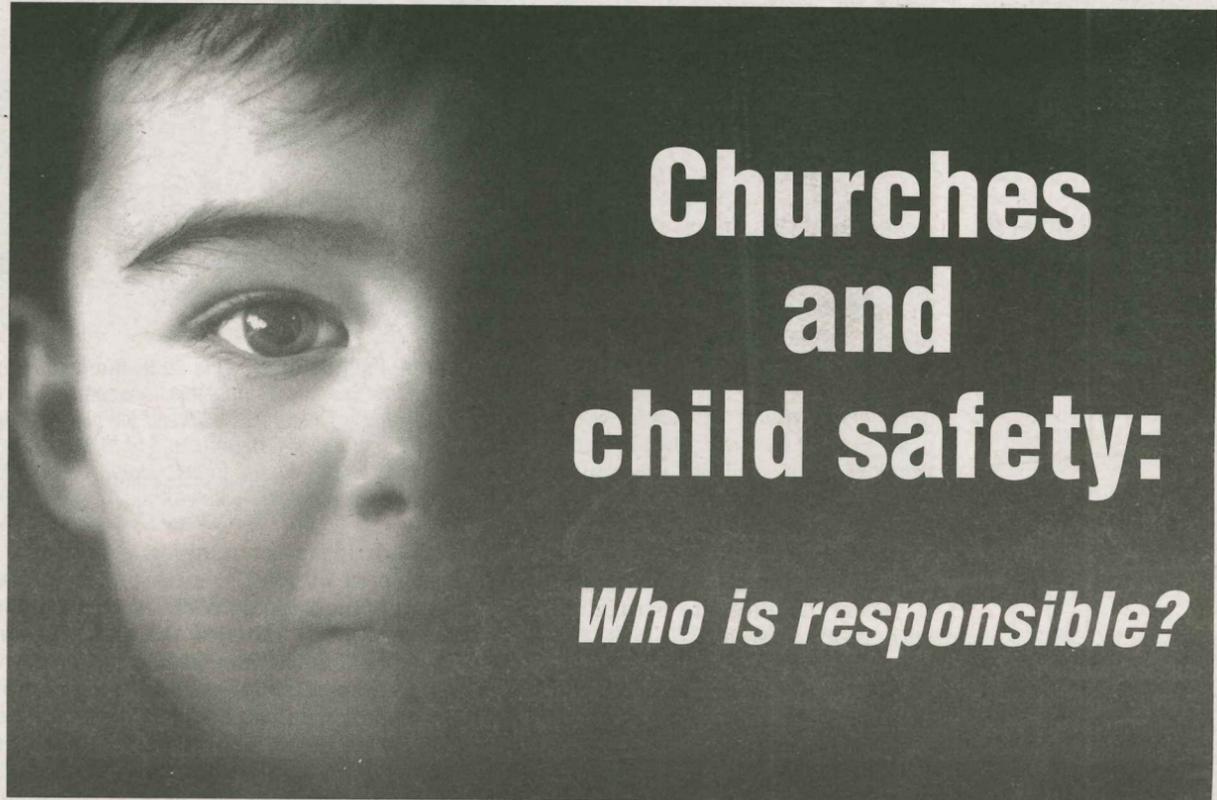
The finding, published in the June issue of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, means that about 10 of every 1,000 U.S. congregations end their operations each year.

Researchers from Duke University and the University of Arizona found that disbanded congregations tended to have fewer adult participants than active congregations. They also learned that congregations where conflict prompted individuals to leave in previous years were much more likely to disband than active congregations.

"The main difference between congregations doomed to disband and congregations destined for revival is a willingness to adapt, to alter their congregational identity in response to change in the communities in which they are located," the authors of the study concluded.

Mark Chaves, a sociologist at Duke University and co-author of the study, said a low mortality rate should not automatically be considered good news for houses of worship.

"Normally, one would think such a low mortality rate means that congregations overall are unusually healthy organizations," he said. "Instead, we think it means that congregations are a type of organization that has ways to stay alive even when they are very weak."



## Churches and child safety:

# Who is responsible?

Dallas (BP)—How vulnerable are the children and youth of your church to volunteers or staff with criminal histories? Can staff members at your church confidently look a young mother in the eye and say everything possible has been done to make sure her child is safe?

"Of all the crimes against children in the U.S. every year, thousands will occur within the walls of churches and youth centers," said Matthew Robbins of BackgroundChecks.com. "With crime and abuse at an all-time high, churches must develop hiring programs that work to prevent dangerous situations before they occur."

Because Southern Baptist churches are autonomous, the responsibility to provide safe, responsible employees and volunteers falls on the local church.

"Background screening will assist in making decisions that prevent placement of people in situations

that could lead to them committing an illegal act that will harm a minor and ultimately hurt the trust that communities place upon organizations that have pledged to protect that trust," Robbins explained.

Through an agreement between LifeWay Christian Stores and BackgroundChecks.com, churches have access to discount screening services, Robbins noted. Because most criminal records are kept at three levels—federal, state and county—the Web service has compiled a proprietary database called US OneSEARCH, the largest national criminal conviction database publicly available. The program offers services ranging from motor vehicle record screening to education and employment verification.

Background screenings may be helpful, but they also must fall within legal guidelines, Robbins pointed out.

"While it is very important to create and execute a thorough plan for protection against violence or crimes against children and workers, organizations must be mindful of consumer rights as well," he said.

Some pastors or hiring committees may feel uncomfortable performing background checks on volunteers or staff members, but the consequence of not performing these checks can be devastating, Robbins added.

"It is unfortunate that everyone must be checked out before they are given trust or confidence in their goodwill, especially when they are only trying to give back to the community through the giving of themselves to support a ministry," he said. "But child protection statistics tell a gruesome story that needs to change."

**For more on child safety in the local church, see page 6.**

## Southern Baptists question IMB's tongues, baptism guidelines

By Audrey Barrick  
*The Christian Post*

Raleigh, N.C.—A group of Southern Baptists are revisiting a controversy by calling on their international missions agency to remove restrictions from candidates who speak privately in tongues and have been baptized by immersion following conversion, but were not baptized by a proper administrator or another Baptist who believes in eternal security.

Thirty-seven former Southern Baptist missionaries, former International Mission Board trustees and Southern Baptist pastors have signed a statement expressing their "strong" disagreement with a 2005 decision by the IMB trustees that ruled out the appointment of missionary candidates who practice speaking in tongues in public or a

"prayer language" in private and who have not been baptized properly, according to the new guidelines.

"We are alarmed at the reports of the rejection of otherwise worthy candidates and reports of individuals who will now not even bother to apply to their own denomination's missions organization, lest these guidelines disqualify them," the statement, which was released June 2, read. "We are dismayed that one of the results of the implementation of these guidelines is the loss of valuable, faithful IMB personnel."

"Let us as Southern Baptists not purposefully turn away any qualified worker who has heard and obeyed the call to 'Go,'" the statement continued.

The signatories argue that the IMB's guidelines for candidacy stray "far beyond the parameters" set by

the Southern Baptist Convention's statement of faith, the Baptist Faith and Message.

In 2005, the IMB stirred debate when it adopted a policy that barred missionaries who practice private prayer language. The agency already had policies in place barring missionary candidates who practice public glossolalia (speaking in tongues) but went further to ban those who practice it in private. The adopted baptism guideline stated that candidates must have been baptized in a Southern Baptist church or in a church of another denomination that practices believer's baptism by immersion alone, and the administrator of the baptism must believe in eternal security.

Amid ongoing debates, IMB trustees revised the mission board's policy in May 2007, terming it "guide-

lines" rather than "policies." But the agency retained much of the original wording and reaffirmed the main provisions of the "guidelines."

Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington and chairman of the trustees' mission personnel committee, said "the rapid spread of neo-Pentecostalism and its pressure exacted on new churches in various regions of the world warrants a concern for the clear Baptist identity of our missionary candidates."

"Furthermore, the diversity of denominational candidates among missionary candidates requires a clear baptism guideline to guide the work of our candidate consultants as they consider the qualification of candidates," he noted at the time of the revision.

□ See *Southern Baptists ... Page 2*

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering falls short of 2007 goal

**“Although we’re disappointed by the failure to meet the goal of \$165 million, we think it is significant in the context of financial challenges in today’s economy that we received the same impressive level of giving as last year.”**

Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin

By Erich Bridges  
SBC International Mission Board

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Despite difficult economic conditions, Southern Baptists gave \$150.4 million to the 2007 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions to support the work of more than 5,300 missionaries worldwide.

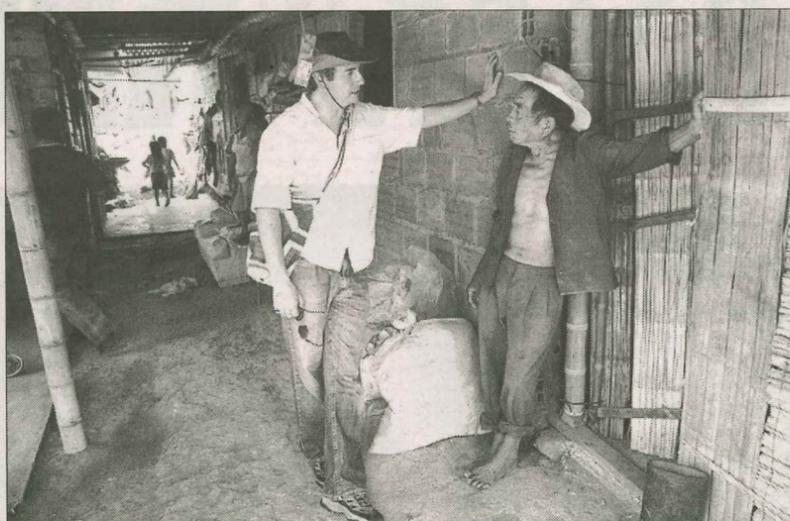
After financial books closed at the end of May, the annual offering totaled \$150,409,653.86—more than \$231,000 above the record 2006 offering of \$150.1 million, but falling short of the \$165 million goal.

“We are grateful for the strong commitment to the Great Commission exhibited by the generous giving of Southern Baptists to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering,” said SBC International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin. “Although we’re disappointed by the failure to meet the goal of \$165 million, we think it is significant in the context of financial challenges in today’s economy that we received the same impressive level of giving as last year.

“Many families are struggling with mortgages, foreclosures and the rising price of gasoline,” he added. “Many churches are struggling to meet budgets. Yet missions continues to be the priority of Southern Baptists as reflected in their giving.”

The 2007 total brings the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to a historic mark: Cumulative gifts from Southern Baptists to the offering, which has been promoted by Woman’s Missionary Union since 1888, have topped \$3 billion.

“We are grateful that Southern Baptists continue to make missions a priority as evidenced by this record amount given to the Lottie Moon



**WORLDWIDE IMPACT** Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions enable Southern Baptist missionaries such as Fernando Larzabal (left), seen visiting a villager in Colombia, to spread the gospel around the world. Southern Baptists gave \$150.4 million—more than \$14 million short of the \$165 million goal—to the 2007 Lottie Moon offering to help support more than 5,300 missionaries worldwide. (IMB photo by Justin Veneman)

Christmas Offering for International Missions,” noted Wanda Lee, executive director of the National WMU.

“Since WMU first initiated this offering in 1888, more than \$3 billion has been sacrificially given by Southern Baptists so that the name of Jesus may be heard around the world in every nation,” she added. “We praise God for these resources and pray that He will continue to bless our efforts to fulfill the Great Commission.”

The entire 2007 offering goal of \$165 million was anticipated to fund more than half of this year’s International Mission Board budget of \$304.8 million, which calls for nearly \$16 million more than the 2007 budget. Much of the increase is

needed to support new missionaries. The budget relies on an additional \$106 million coming from Southern Baptist missions giving through the Cooperative Program, with remaining receipts from investments, hunger and relief giving (reserved exclusively for those ministries) and other income.

The budget also includes an increase of almost \$2.6 million for missionary salaries and additional funds to help missionaries in areas where falling U.S. dollar values have driven up basic living expenses.

The lower Lottie Moon offering total “will result in a shortfall in our budget that will have to be made up from other sources, but even more critical is the declining value of

the dollar overseas,” according to Rankin. “I trust this double crisis will encourage Southern Baptists to give even more sacrificially to the 2008 Lottie Moon goal of \$170 million. Nevertheless, we will continue to do whatever it takes to get the gospel to the millions of lost people around the world who are desperately waiting to hear the Good News of God’s love.”

That means the push to send more missionaries will continue.

“We don’t plan to back off on sending missionaries at all. We plan to press forward,” noted David Steverson, IMB treasurer and vice president for finance. “We will evaluate all of our planned expenditures and forego most of our planned capital investments for the remainder of the year. The Lord provides for what He plans. None of this catches Him by surprise. If He’s calling missionaries out, He’ll find a way to get the funds to us.”

The mission board’s 2007 statistical report (covering the calendar year of 2006) revealed that Southern Baptist international missionaries and their national Baptist partners saw the number of reported baptisms top 600,000 for the first time. They also helped start more than 25,000 churches and implemented church-planting strategies among more than 1,100 people groups—including 100 people groups newly engaged with the gospel.

However, thousands of people groups have yet to hear the gospel. IMB leaders have challenged Southern Baptists to add nearly 2,700 more missionaries to the current total of about 5,300 to help meet that need.

## Southern Baptists challenge IMB’s guidelines on tongues and baptism

Continued from page 1

The revisions, which came after a year of review, were not made to create further controversy but rather to bring the study on the matters “to completion” and allow the agency to focus on its world mission task, Chitwood added.

But many Southern Baptists do not feel the matters are settled and remain concerned over the restrictions.

Signatories of the statement calling for a reversal said they are “disturbed” that the guidelines have led to “the intrusive scrutiny into the sanctity of the personal prayer closet.”

“Many faithful brothers and sisters who are members of Southern Baptist churches differ on this issue as they seek to live out their lives in obedience to Christ,” the statement continued. “The Bible at no point raises this issue to a matter of primary doctrinal importance, thus it should not disqualify any godly missionary candidate for service with the International Mission Board.”

They further argued that the baptism guideline places the IMB board in the position of “dictating to local churches what constitutes a legitimate Christian baptism.”

“With no anecdotal evidence from the field of widespread charismatic practices within our missionary family, and acknowledging that Southern Baptist churches are competent to judge the biblical nature of their members’ baptisms, we strongly urge Southern Baptists to seek the removal of these controversial and superfluous guidelines from use in the candidate

approval process,” the statement reads.

Since the new guidelines were put in place, Southern Baptists have remained divided on whether the IMB trustees acted appropriately.

Frank Cox, pastor of North Metro Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., who is running for presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, believes the trustees “acted in line” with their responsibility and that their action on the issue of baptism and private prayer language “was appropriate in keeping with the doctrinal integrity as to who we are as Southern Baptists,” according to Baptist Press.

Meanwhile, Bill Wagner, a former Southern Baptist missionary who is also up for SBC president this year, does not believe the trustees’ action was appropriate.

“We have lost some wonderful missionaries because of this decision. We already have the Baptist Faith and Message document. It has served us well. We do not need to add to it,” Wagner recently told Baptist Press. “I know much about this action at the IMB, and I feel that there was too much political reasoning involved in the decision. We as Baptists need to put politics aside and get back to our main task of winning people and making them disciples.”

Despite disagreements, the group of signatories asserted their support for the missions agency and commended the more than 5,000 IMB missionaries who have committed to spreading the gospel.

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## PowerPlant projects kick off with record-setting numbers

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—A record 2,200 students will gain real-world experience in church planting and evangelism this summer through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board’s 2008 edition of PowerPlant.

The middle-school to college-aged students represent a 29 percent increase in the number of PowerPlant participants over previous summers, reported Jonathan Wilson, a NAMB student volunteer mobilization consultant.

“This year, PowerPlant is emphasizing how students can use their God-given gifts and abilities in their own spheres of influence to infiltrate the world for God,” Wilson noted. “They don’t have to be called to ministry, they can go to their jobs in the marketplace and serve, realizing God has wired them for a particular profession for this very reason.”

Twenty PowerPlant projects—all connected to newly started churches—are scheduled for 20 U.S. cities from June 7 through Aug. 1. A project may require as many as 60 to 200 volunteer student workers.

Jeremy Webb, bivocational church planting minister for Capital City Fellowship in Austin, Texas, said although the 200 PowerPlant students will benefit his min-

istry, “I’m more excited about the experiences the students coming to Austin will have. It will get the kids out of their comfort zones and help them understand the difference between ‘doing’ church and ‘being’ the church—being Jesus in the community.”

Webb, an Austin native, said his hometown not only is the capital of Texas, it is a very young city, where the average age is only 32. With a metro population of 1.5 million, Austin also is one of the three fastest-growing areas in the United States.

“The world is coming to Austin,” Webb said, referring to the high-tech companies located there, which enhance the city’s already diverse culture, including 48,000 University of Texas students, Asians, Indians and Hispanics.

“So it’s a no-brainer when it comes to the obvious need to plant new churches in Austin.”

The 200 PowerPlant volunteers will give Capital City Fellowship the “people power” to get out and do some things in the community that the new church is not yet able to do on its own, Webb said.

PowerPlant’s overarching goal, according to Wilson, is for students to share their faith in Christ at least once during the week-long events.

## Local volunteers serve at challenging Crossover

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Indianapolis—Some people might call it “the Crossover that almost wasn’t.”

Indiana Baptists and hundreds of out-of-state volunteers persevered through torrential rains and flash floods to share the gospel and host block parties around Indianapolis last Saturday as part of the gospel-sharing emphasis held prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A tornado hit northeast Indianapolis May 31 followed by severe storms throughout the week. On June 7, heavy rains closed roads and forced the cancellation of some Crossover events.

Several Kentucky Baptists, including teams from Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, pitched in to help Indy-area churches.

The Cedar Creek team arrived days before Crossover, hosting vacation Bible school at Elim Baptist Church, a Korean congregation in Fishers, Ind., north of Indianapolis. Pastor Yong Pil Yun said it was the church’s first VBS since forming three years ago.

“We never had anyone qualified to teach small kids and youth,” Yong explained. Cedar Creek brought materials and served as mentors for church members, the pastor said. Teenagers assisted, translating for the Korean adults unskilled in English.

Lindsey Bird and Beth Jackson of Cedar Creek said they began the Wednesday-through-Saturday VBS with nine students and concluded



**FUNNY FACE** Joy Williamson (left) paints a mustache on a girl attending a block party at Elim Baptist Church in Fishers, Ind. Williamson and several other members of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville assisted the Korean congregation with its Crossover block party last Saturday. (Photos by Dannah Prather)

with 17. “They learned five (Bible) verses in four days,” Bird said.

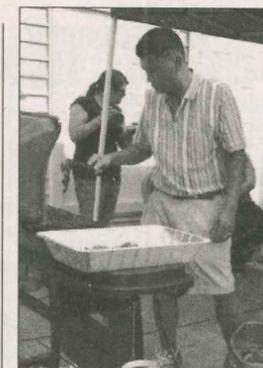
Yong said he and other church leaders saw “so many good things” during VBS about “how to approach kids” with the gospel.

VBS and the block party were learning experiences for the congregation, he continued. “We now have the confidence ... the conviction that we can do something (even) bigger.”

Cedar Creek volunteers also planted flowers and completed other projects at the church facility. As a member of a church founded in the

18th century, Bird said she was privileged to assist a 21st century congregation. “It’s been an awesome opportunity to serve a sister church.”

Eastside Community Baptist Church in Indianapolis also made positive strides in outreach days before Crossover. The congregation hosted a team from White Oak Baptist Church in Houston that went door-to-door sharing the gospel with neighborhood residents. Terry Lewis, pastor of Eastside, said 130 people made professions of faith. They concluded the week with a block party.



### BLOCK PARTY FUN

**Above:** A deacon of Elim Baptist Church in Fishers, Ind., prepares beef barbecue, Korean style, for a neighborhood block party. Enjoying the treat behind him is Beth Jackson, a member of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville. Several Cedar Creek members hosted vacation Bible school last week at the Indianapolis-area church. **Below:** Alexis Shuff holds still as a flower is painted on her cheek. Admiring the art is her mom, Ruby.

## Conference urges young adults to focus on ‘humble orthodoxy’

By Lillian Kwon  
The Christian Post

Louisville—Sometimes, Christians get so concerned with what’s right and wrong, we lose our humility, noted one Washington pastor and author.

“We think that we see what’s right and therefore we become self righteous thinking. ‘I am clever enough to know this. I am clever enough to figure this out,’” said Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

During May 24-27, some 3,500 young adults engaged in the study of Scripture while leaving the self righteousness at home. Participants traveled to Louisville for the 2008 New Attitude conference to focus on God’s Word and take up “humble orthodoxy”—believing, living and representing biblical truth with humility.

Joshua Harris, who founded New Attitude, wanted the thousands to experience the power of sound doctrine “and the fact that truth really changes your life.”

“We never want to assume the gospel,” Harris cautioned. “We always want to go back to and focus on the reality that Jesus died for our sins. We want to hold fast to those truths of the Christian faith. ... But at the same time, we want to be humble.”

Agreeing with the combination “humble orthodoxy,” Albert Mohler,

president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, stressed the need for sound biblical teaching, but reminded believers of how they have come to know the truth claims of the gospel.

“We need to say, ‘We are sinners saved by grace who know the truth not because we’re so smart but because God has spoken to us,’” Mohler emphasized.

This year, in addition to its speaking sessions, New Attitude featured its first ever Q&A session, bringing Mohler to the hot seat to answer live questions on almost any topic asked by conference participants.

“Should we be wary of postmodern ideas and their effect on the church?” a female attendant who identified herself as Bethany from Louisville asked.

“Yes,” Mohler said directly. Postmodernism can be helpful, he added, acknowledging that it helps people understand there is a diverse world of worldviews and not everyone shares the same “social system” as Christians.

On the other hand, postmodernism is pernicious, he commented.

“It can produce a wrong kind of intellectual humility that eventually says there is no truth we can know,” the prominent evangelical leader noted. “It denies there is a great universal truth to which we are accountable and to which we can know.”

Dever of Capitol Hill Baptist

Church called it arrogance to deny the truth claims in the Bible.

“God’s been really clear in the Bible. So for us to be vague on something God has been clear about, that’s not humble. That’s arrogant. It’s arrogant of us to put our own ideas as if they’re better than God’s,” Dever emphasized in an earlier interview. “Really believing the truth is humble of us, it’s surrendering ourselves to Him.”

### Issues addressed

Other questions New Attitude participants posed during the conference included the issue of homosexuality, inerrancy of the Bible, and the distinction between the Bible and other religious books.

“Always on the issue of homosexuality we realize, we as evangelicals are in perpetual danger of saying too much and too little,” Mohler told participants.

“If we ever compromise on the sinfulness of homosexuality and the fact that God has a normative pattern for our sexuality, we say too little and we can condemn people to their sin,” Mohler continued. “We can mislead them to their condemnation.”

“We can also say too much by trying to elaborate upon what the Scriptures say as if the Scriptures have a focus on homosexuality in ‘third Corinthians.’ There is no such book.”

Aligning his words with the concept of “humble orthodoxy,” Mohler cautioned Christians to speak humbly on the controversial matter, reminding them of their own sinful nature.

“We’re not saying that homosexuals are sinners sexually where others are not,” he noted. “We’re saying it’s a sexual sin clearly identified in Scripture as one that needs to wake us up to the reality of sin, one that is against nature. Any human being who’s gone through puberty is a sexual sinner. So let’s talk humbly about what it means as a sinner to find the grace of Christ and the gift of the moral law.”

Other speakers at the May 24-27 conference included C.J. Mahaney of Sovereign Grace Ministries and John Piper, author and pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis.

Piper exhorted the young believers to work hard toward their spiritual goals, warning them against laziness. At the same time, he advanced the notion of humility, making it clear that hard work isn’t “decisive” for achieving those goals.

“Don’t spare any effort to know your Bible ... Don’t ever think your hard work is the decisive key,” Piper said. “The decisive key is the sovereign grace of God. I plead with you, don’t waste your life.”

Reprinted with permission of The Christian Post

**“We never want to assume the gospel. We always want to go back to and focus on the reality that Jesus died for our sins. We want to hold fast to those truths of the Christian faith. ... But at the same time, we want to be humble.”**

Joshua Harris, founder of New Attitude

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

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## And death shall be no more

By **Erich Bridges**

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Death gets more respect than it deserves.

We fear death, flee it, deny it, do everything we can to delay its inexorable approach. Yet we think obsessively about it, watch in morbid fascination as it strikes others down, wallow in it, even glorify it.

Today's death-as-entertainment culture flows sewer-like from the latest news about random shootings, to police dramas focusing in microscopic detail on murdered corpses, to "true crime" shows, to celebrity death-watch updates. Pop over to your friendly neighborhood multiplex and you can see what Hollywood is marketing these days (besides \$6 tubs of popcorn): R-rated slasher movies so graphically bloody they constitute a new sub-genre called "torture porn." One shudders to think what would earn an NC-17 rating.

It is really nothing new. Death as entertainment has a long history. Public hangings, burnings, and drawing and quarterings in medieval Europe served as much to divert the masses as to warn them—much like the Roman spectacles of earlier times, when Christians and other victims were put to death to amuse the Colosseum crowd.

Death as an object of worship goes back even further.

The royal Egyptian city of Memphis, a few miles south of present-day Cairo, was the birthplace of a millennia-old cult of death. The god Osiris personified it. The people worshipped it. The pharaohs prepared for it. Its influence persists to this day. "What other city do you know of that has a million people living in tombs?" one observer asked, referring to Cairo's City of the Dead. The sprawling necropolis, an entire city-within-a-city of tombs begun in medieval times, swarms with squatters who have no place else to live. But their presence also carries a spir-

itual motivation. The veneration of shrines and graves and praying for the dead crosses religious boundaries, even seeping into Egyptian Christian tradition.

Similar influences can be found in many other cultures, ancient and modern.

Death as an object of fear is the oldest tradition of all. At the heart of the human obsession with death is terror—terror of death itself, terror of the judgment to come, terror of the "undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns," as Hamlet put it while contemplating what lies beyond the grave. We shall all travel there, eventually, on a one-way ticket—unless the end of days comes first. Our hearts hope for eternity, but our timid and faithless minds tell us all things die.

## Christ redeems a dying world

Is there hope? Yes, in the risen Christ—and Him alone. If Jesus Christ rose from the dead, all the promises of God to redeem a dying world are fulfilled. If He didn't rise, we are at the mercy of death.

One of the most tragic human distortions of death's power in some traditional "Christian" societies is the ritual observance of Christ's excruciating death—with little or no recognition of His resurrection. Without the resurrection, the cross of Christ is a grand gesture, but essentially powerless to change history. Many men have died for a cause. Only one Man died to conquer death.

Skeptics say Jesus' resurrection is a fiction, a miracle story tacked on to the end of His life by early believers in order to lay the foundation for the new religion of Christianity. No one comes back from the dead, they insist. It goes against the natural order. That last statement, at least, is true. Christ's resurrection is not natural; it is supernatural. The Lord overcame death—and the lethal power

of sin—to give eternal life to all who seek Him. He is the hope of ages.

"And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth," Job declared long ago. "Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another" (Job 19:25-27).

Linda Lipscomb lived in that hope. The Alabama retiree joyfully served with her husband, J.P., as a Southern Baptist worker overseas, first doing medical work in the Philippines and later teaching English in another Asian country. She was seriously injured there in a fall from a bus in January. She died Feb. 14, at age 63, of complications from her injuries.

Yet she died the way she lived—forgiving the distraught bus driver who inadvertently caused the accident, talking and joking with nurses even as her condition worsened, blessing others.

"Linda knew she was dying," her husband said, but she didn't fear it. "We never had any respect for death. Death is given too much respect."

Why was she so serene? Linda Lipscomb knew she had entered God's Kingdom 50 years before, when she decided as a 13-year-old to follow the risen Christ as Savior and Lord. For her, Feb. 14 was Easter—the culmination of a lifelong walk with Him.

"Death, be not proud, though some have called thee mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so," wrote John Donne, one of the great poets and believers of the Christian church. "One short sleep past, we wake eternally, and death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die."

*Erich Bridges is senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board*

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

## Missions at Living Hope

My wife, Kay, and I recently had the privilege of participating in the 14th anniversary celebration and building dedication for Living Hope Baptist Church in the Fern Creek area of Louisville, where Jack Naylor is pastor.

Although Living Hope is a relatively young congregation that has been busy securing property and building facilities, its 206 members have an incredible commitment to missions as evidenced by its giving to mission causes.

The church increased its missions giving through the Cooperative Program from \$24,097 in 2005-2006, to \$31,151 in 2006-2007. That's 15.3 percent of the church's undesignated gifts of \$203,410.

The church also has set new records in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions, which increased from \$9,514 in 2006-2007, to \$12,554 in 2007-2008. Giving for the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American missions went from \$5,497 in

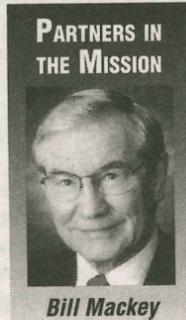
2006-2007, to \$7,693 in 2007-2008.

In addition, the church has given more than \$2,500 to fight hunger at home and abroad and more than \$2,000 to the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions this year. Sunrise Children's Services also received \$1,157 from the church in 2006-2007.

Sharon Pyles, who directs Living Hope's Woman's Missionary Union and Children in Action, said the members simply have a heart for missions. I know this is true, but I also know this kind of missions support could not take place without the positive leadership of the pastor and church leaders.

Naylor has been pastor during the entire 14-year history of the church. He had retired from Oaklawn Baptist Church in Paducah, where he twice served. He was asked to supply at the new church and soon became its pastor.

Naylor has served as a pastor for 52 years. He surrendered to God's



Bill Mackey

call to preach while serving in the Air Force in Orlando. He returned to his native east Tennessee to attend Union University and was soon called to his first church as a part-time pastor. He later graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He recalls the story of his first attempt to preach a missions sermon at the request of a WMU director as a part of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis. He knew very little about missions, but did his best the next Sunday. When the WMU director greeted Naylor after his message, she told him, "Remember the missions sermon next Sunday."

Naylor and his wife, Vonnelle, have become strong leaders in support of missions. Every church they have served has developed high levels of missions support. They are but one example of hundreds of pastors and spouses who have been strong in missions education and support. Because of their vision and commitment, the gospel is being shared in Kentucky, North America and around the world.

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

## GIVING

## Exiting a business offers opportunity for charitable gift

By **Laurie Valentine**

Business owners nearing retirement must consider how they will "exit" their businesses. While some will transfer ownership to a family member, for many the transition out of the business will be through its sale.

Including a charitable gift of a portion of your business in your exit plans provides multiple benefits, including reduction of what may be a significant capital gains tax liability; a charitable income tax deduction based on the market value of your gift; a potential increase in your income if you use a life insurance charitable gift; and a means of demonstrating your love for the One who entrusted and blessed you with so much.

Jane and Sam Jones, ages 65 and 68, have owned ABC Corporation for 40 years. They have decided it is time to retire and plan to "exit" through a sale of their business. ABC's current market value is \$5 million. The Joneses' cost basis is zero, which means an outright sale will result in \$750,000 of capital gains taxes, leaving \$4.25 million for Jane and Sam to invest. Investing the sale proceeds to earn 5 percent each year gives them \$212,500 per year in income.

Adding a charitable gift of a portion of ABC's stock to their exit planning—before a deal is struck to sell the company—can be beneficial to Jane and Sam. A gift of 30 percent of the stock (\$1.5 million) to a 5 percent charitable remainder unitrust reduces their capital gains tax liability to \$525,000. Their gift entitles them to a charitable income tax deduction of \$553,245, which will save income taxes. The unitrust will pay Jane and Sam 5 percent of the value of the trust assets, as revalued each year, for the rest of their lifetimes (\$75,000 in the first year) and the remainder of the trust will be distributed to the charitable organizations the Joneses name in the trust agreement allowing them to set up significant future support for Kingdom causes important to them. The combination of the unitrust income and the income from investing their net sale proceeds (\$2,975,000) results in potentially more income for the Joneses each year (\$223,750 in first year assuming 5 percent earned on sale proceeds).

In short, exiting a long-owned business provides a unique stewardship opportunity for business owners.

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



## Sustaining healthy marriages is accomplished with forgiveness

**Q: Every time my spouse does something that irritates me, no matter how small, I seem to blow it up into something bigger. Why do these little things irritate me so?**

The uber-secret to lasting relationships is found in the 11-letter, ultra-legal, super-charged spiritual steroid called forgiveness. The neglect, failure or unwillingness to apply Christian forgiveness to one's marriage serves to chronically cripple a couple's possibilities for long-term satisfaction and contentment, not to mention muting individuals away from all that Christ would intend them to be.

The Bible reminds us that truly understanding and receiving the great grace of God, as demonstrated by Jesus on the cross, preconditions believers to live out a life that does not harbor resentment, bitterness or hard-hearted anger. One makes a choice to no longer hold onto that which may easily be recalled in technicolor vividness. Simply put, the little things that irritate you so are simply the dragnets with which you hoist into consciousness all those rotting carcasses of the deep that serve to infect your relationship with mistrust, ill will and menacing attributions of motives.

Forgiveness calls us to wipe the slate clean, to burn the nets and to obliterate the button marked "repay." The wonderful thing about Jesus is that His forgiveness is once for all. His perfect sacrifice in the face of sinners' ugliest motives leaves His followers with a demanding and expectant grace. If we're really forgiven, then we will forgive. What a better practice field than marriage. And what a brilliant opportunity to use the "little things" to remind us of the one truly "big thing."—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: A lot of folks are single parents. How can we deal with churches and schools that create programs for mothers and daughters or fathers and sons when these significant others may be totally absent from their children's lives? Not only do I feel badly about this situation, I fear the negative impact it may have on my child.**

■ Determine who the "gatekeepers" are and set up an appointment. Approach them with a spirit of humility and openness—humility because they are used to designing programs based on their own tradition, training and experience, which might not fit today's realities; and openness as you share from your heart. In order for leaders to hear your heart they may need to know that you are willing to hear theirs. Try not to put them on the defensive. Share from your perspective and also from the perspective of your child.

■ There is a biblical mandate. The book of James teaches that pure religion is to look out for widows and orphans in their distress. Your situation may be a direct parallel with the biblical widow and orphan.

■ Be willing to be part of the solution. Brainstorm all possibilities, including Big Brother/Big Sister programs, adopt-a-grandparent programs, monthly educational meetings for parents and children, as well as recreational offerings, among other ideas.

■ Gather statistics of who the single parents are. After getting the blessing of leadership, send a mailer to these single-parent families.

■ Gather statistics for single-parent families within a several-mile radius which shows outreach potential. With both in-reach and outreach statistics, leaders are equipped and challenged to be responsive, like the church in the book of Acts when they responded to the needs of the Greek widows. Meet with staff. Meet with your minister or educational director. Once sensitized to this need, people tend to become responsive and could ultimately be a role model to others for how to live out our calling to be the church in the world.—*James Stillwell*

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### MARRIAGE



## A bold witness in the middle of Starbucks

(BP)—Many of us have already left for the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis, and many of us stopped for a cup of coffee along the way. I know I did.

I think I know the location of just about every Starbucks between Nashville and Indy. As a matter of fact—and this is kind of scary to admit—I know that there are 14 Starbucks within a few miles of the convention center.

I also have a confession to make: I drink way too much coffee. There is seldom a day that I can't be found in a Starbucks, drinking my venti black eye with mild coffee, reading the Word and journaling my thoughts.

One morning, I noticed that I was not the only one there to study the Bible. Across the room were two young men with their Bibles open. Nothing unusual about them: jeans, T-shirts, flip-flops, backpacks. I was near a college campus, so I assumed they were students. They appeared to be good friends and I got the impression this was not the first time they had studied together.

Coffee in hand, I sat down across the room and settled in with my laptop, headphones and Bible. Soon I was jamming with Matt Papa—one of my many morning Starbucks rituals.

For some reason these two guys kept catching my attention. They were laughing and seemed to be having a great time, even though I couldn't hear a word they were saying.

About halfway through my jam-and-journal session, I looked up and noticed that one of them had his face in his hands and appeared to be crying. I tried not to stare, but they had my complete attention. (Before you judge me for being nosy, just admit that a guy crying in Starbucks would get your attention.)

It was clear this guy was processing something heavy. But it was not the guy crying I was focused on—it was his friend.

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Harold Harper

Here they were in a busy Starbucks full of people, but these guys were oblivious to the crowd. The one not crying was completely focused on his hurting friend—so focused, in fact, he stood beside him and began praying in his ear. He didn't seem to care where they were or to be embarrassed by his friend's tears.

As I watched this young man ministering to his friend, I was reminded of Acts 4:13, "When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and knew that they had been with Jesus."

I couldn't take my eyes off them. This young man was standing there so confident, so sure of himself. He didn't say a word to me or anyone else, and yet I knew that he was a man who spent time with Christ because I saw the power of Christ at work through him.

Right there in Starbucks God gave me an object lesson. When I am not consumed with myself and my agenda, not concerned with what others may think or the approval of men, when I die to self, when I surrender the rights to my life, when I withdraw from the concerns of this world—only then can God work in and through me. When I allow Christ to reign in my life, His power and glory are reflected to a watching world.

I desire for my life not to be a demonstration of my abilities, my accomplishments, my position, my relationships or even my knowledge of Starbucks, but rather a demonstration of the Spirit and power of Christ.

I pray that as we converge on the city of Indianapolis that people see the power of Christ in us. I pray that our lives and our conduct are a testimony of a people who are passionately pursuing God, people who are a reflection of Christ.

Harold Harper is executive vice president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

## Engage culture without assuming it

By Jay Smith

**Brownwood, Texas (ABP)**—I have to be brutally honest; I am not a Rob Bell fan, although many of my students are. He has two best-selling books: "Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith," and "Sex God: Exploring the Endless Connections between Sexuality and Spirituality."

Additionally, he has completed three teaching tours, the most recent in 2007, where he visited America with his "The gods Aren't Angry" tour. Each one was staged in a secular venue with theatrical lighting and the ever-hip, culturally relevant Bell at its center.

Although I disagree with much of Bell's theology, this does not mean that I don't appreciate what he is attempting: an engagement with culture. "Culture" is the matrix of human activity and structures that give life significance. In Christian theology, culture, like humankind, has experienced the Fall.

As sensationalist and provocative as his titles are, Bell is attempting to be relevant to a "fallen" postmodern culture. Many young believers and spiritual seekers, feeling disenfranchised from the modern church, have flocked to Bell's tours, podcasts and books. In him, they have found a kindred spirit—someone who has experienced their disenchantment with the modern church, yet one who seems to have found a way to connect them to an authentic, relevant faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Regardless of what position you take on Rob Bell, he forces each of us to deal with the issue of culture and

its relationship to our theology. This is an age-old struggle. It is the struggle of the Israelites with the Canaanites, Jesus and the various Jewish sects, as well as Paul and the Greco-Roman culture of his day. Theology and culture are locked in an eternal struggle until the end of days.

Interestingly, Christians can claim that the Bible lands on both sides of the debate. On one hand, Paul seems to encourage an engagement with contemporary culture in the form of his sermon on Mars Hill (Acts 17:22). On the other hand, Paul states that we should not "conform" to the world in his letter to the Romans (Romans 12:2).

But if it is an age-old struggle, why then has it erupted with such a vengeance today?

A simple explanation is that culture is changing at a faster pace than ever previously understood. Technology advanced at such a rapid pace in the 20th century that it outpaced our ability to understand its moral implications. So, culture becomes a swamp of ethical and theological questions amid a global technological explosion.

Complicating this situation, it would also seem that some of the philosophical concepts that helped sustain our modern culture are being questioned today. Thus, although the scientific, technological and philosophical ideals of modernity have been a great benefit to us, these ideals simply aren't enough to sustain us spiritually.

Consequently, we now live in a culture of difficult change where the very basis of modern Christian-

ity is being questioned at every turn. How are we to proceed as faithful followers of Christ in such a chaotic cultural climate? How can our theology meet this challenge?

Let me suggest a two-fold answer: engagement, not assumption.

First, we must engage culture, which I believe to be the very heart of our Christian mission. This is the legacy of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the witness of Paul on Mars Hill (Acts 17). The church is the transformative agent of Christ's love within culture through the direction of Scripture and the power of the Spirit (Luke 10:25-27).

Nevertheless, in this engagement, we do not assume or acquiesce to culture. Christ transforms it (Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15).

As Christians, we have something unique to offer to our world—the witness of Jesus. As Baptists, we affirm the centrality of Christ and the authority of Scripture as our sole rule of faith. That is the "what" of our assumption.

The Scriptures, as the book of the Spirit, then give guidance in regard to the "how" of our practice. What the Scriptures do not address directly will stand in tension with our engagement of culture.

A vigorous attempt to understand and engage culture, without surrendering to its secularizing philosophical tendencies would benefit the church well in the third millennium.

So Rob Bell and others of the emerging generation, you've thrown down the gauntlet to us all.

Jay Smith is assistant professor at the School of Christian Studies at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas



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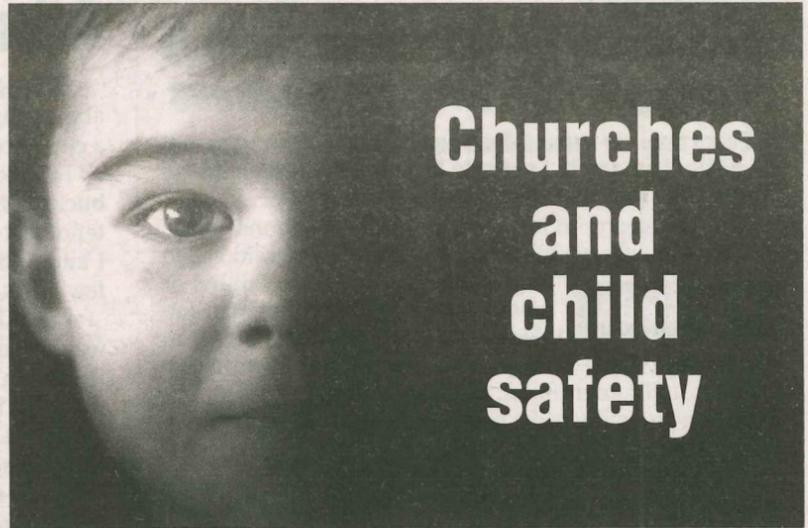
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## Churches and child safety

### Advocate says adults must protect children from abuse

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

Charleston, S.C. (BP)—“It is unrealistic to expect a 6-year-old to fend off sexual advances from an adult,” according to Lane Aspinwall, who works with Darkness to Light, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the incidence of child sexual abuse. “Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

“We strap them into car seats; we walk them across busy streets; we ask them where they are going and who they will be with—all to keep them safe. Adults also should be responsible for protecting children from sexual abuse.”

A child “can’t even recognize sexual advances for what they are,” Aspinwall added. “A 6-year-old has been taught to ‘mind’ adults who are authority figures.”

Churches that do not take steps to prevent child sexual abuse leave their children vulnerable to predators. Many churches allow virtually unfettered access to large numbers of children, allow people to come and go at will, and have no means in place to protect its children.

People who might say, “That wouldn’t happen in our church,” should speak with Carol Hogue of Northwood Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C., where Darkness to Light is based. Her 9-year-old son notified her that he was being sexually abused by the organist at the church where her husband was pastor.

“We were horrified,” Hogue recalled. “We watched as our son, our family and our congregation had to deal with the effects of child sexual abuse up close and personal.”

According to Darkness to Light statistics, two out of 10 church youth group members were molested as children—one in four girls and one in six boys. Nearly a third of them will never tell anyone.

That is why Darkness to Light trains adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The organization has 725 facilitators who lead Stewards of Children training sessions to help adults understand the nature and impact of child sexual abuse and establish conditions to protect the children in their care.

Cynthia Putman said she was so impressed by the Stewards of Children training, she incorporated it into her teacher education program at Charleston Southern University.

“I have seen firsthand the trauma and damage that occurs to children who have been psychologically, physically and sexually abused,” Putman noted. “As Christians, we should make the safety, care and nurturing of children one of our top priorities.”

The constant stream of stories in the news about crimes against children should be enough to mobilize churches to take action, said Jana Jackson, director of church and community ministries at Dallas Baptist Association and a Stewards of Children facilitator.

In one week, for example, families in the Texas association’s area “experienced horrific acts of violence,” according to Jackson.

“A mom was charged with setting her children on fire. A man was accused of killing his wife and stepsons,” she recalled. “Our churches should be grieving over crimes against children and the brokenness of families in our city. We should be praying for the peace of our cities and seeking to be used as Jesus’ instrument for healing.”

Jackson said she regards Stewards of Children as an excellent source for healing—and preventing—child sexual abuse. Information on the program has been made available at the association’s annual meeting and is also used at a childcare providers’ workshop.

Even still, too many church leaders do not think child sexual abuse will happen in their ministries and too few have policies and procedures in place to prevent it, Aspinwall said, adding that many church leaders do not realize how often sexual abuse happens in their members’ homes and have not trained adult workers to recognize the signs of abuse and how to intervene.

That is why Carol Hogue is so passionate about persuading churches in the Charleston area to get Stewards of Children training.

“Our journey was long and at times painful,” she recalled, “but we have seen victory. God has given us His grace, peace and wisdom. He also has given us healing, the ability to forgive and restoration.

“As churches, we minister to hundreds of children each year through our programs,” Hogue added. “We have a God-given responsibility to provide a safe, loving and protected environment for those children.”



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### WHAT IS OBI?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

OBI was founded in 1899 by James Anderson Burns, and opened its doors on January 1, 1900. We have been ministering to young people for 108 years.

At Oneida, we teach respect for authority, honesty, high moral standards and responsible behavior.

### ONEIDA IS A MISSION FIELD

OBI began as a school for children of the eastern Kentucky mountains. We still welcome day students, many of whom carry on a family tradition by coming to Oneida.

Approximately 60 percent of our students are from Kentucky. Some 25 percent are from other states and another 15 percent are internationals.

Oneida is a place where local, state, North American and international missions are all going on—at the same time.

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# Oneida Baptist Institute

Connecting you to missions



Michael enjoyed vocational (see inset) and fine arts opportunities.

handed a script when an actor quit. He acted in every play after that for a total of six productions, earning the Best Supporting Actor and Best Actor awards. He was selected to perform in a skit at the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2006.

Michael was a five-year member of the OBI choir and one of several from the choir to perform a monologue at churches the choir visited. He auditioned for All Festival and All State Chorus and was selected for both.

Michael struggled academically, but he was glad to have a C average at OBI instead of straight F's like he had at home. "At Oneida, you get to know your teachers and that helps. Everybody had an interest in me, especially Dr. Underwood. At my old school, nobody cared."

Michael became a Christian at OBI. He said, "I never fell asleep in chapel. I listened every day and tried my hardest to apply it to my life." Last summer, he had an opportunity to go on a summer missions trip to Ecuador.

Michael appreciates all of the opportunities he has had at OBI. "If I had been home, I would have failed miserably and dropped out of school," he said.

Mickie has enjoyed her many opportunities at Oneida and has learned to use time wisely. From the start, she said, "I wasn't going to waste my time here. I wanted to stay focused on what I was really here for—graduating from high school." Her goals include teaching music or P.E.



All Festival Chorus, a regional honor choir, three years in a row.

Mickie wanted to try a few more activities before graduating. She won the Talent award in the Yearbook Queen pageant. She had the leading role in the fall play.

As a Christian, Mickie found OBI chapel services to be similar to her Baptist church back home. She got involved in other faith-enriching activities, including girls' dorm devotions and Baptist Campus Ministry.



Sports and other activities "opened a whole new door" for Mickie.

## Michael traded failure for success

Michael is from Ohio and has attended OBI since the seventh grade. He said even as a middle schooler, his life was headed for failure. "It started in sixth grade when I was hanging out with the wrong kids. I got in trouble for vandalism and stuff. I was always grounded, but Mom worked the night shift so I did whatever I wanted. I never did drugs, thank God," he said. His mother looked for an alternative school and found OBI.

Michael found his niche in Oneida's work program. "It's my fa-

vorite part about this school," he said. He started on the mowing crew. He transferred to the farm where he learned mechanics, welding and how to drive a tractor. Later, Michael drove tractors for the boys' work program on the main campus.

Michael joined the FFA and was an officer for two years. He earned several awards, including his Greenhand and Chapter Degrees.

Michael explored a variety of interests at OBI. His sophomore year, he joined drama as a member of the stage crew—but was surprised to be

## Mickie found academic and spiritual support at OBI

Mickie had not been doing well academically in middle school at home in Virginia.

"My mom was concerned...She was working, and there wasn't really anybody to help me. She wanted a place where I could get help and keep my faith," she said. She enrolled for summer school before ninth grade.

Mickie was willing to "make the best of it." When she found out that there were no try-outs for sports, she was elated. She said, "I'm going to be in everything!"

"Sports at Oneida opened up a whole new door for me," Mickie said. She joined softball and track. She was a team captain and earned top awards in soccer and cheerleading. "I learned to work with teammates and my leadership skills improved a lot," she said.

As a junior, Mickie enjoyed a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to travel with her mother to London, England to appear in the New Year's Day parade with the Universal Cheerleading Association's All Star Squad.

Mickie was also a four-year member of the OBI choir. She earned Perfect Attendance awards for three years plus a Singer of the Year award and the Director's award. She sang in

## OBI's first valedictorian from China



At OBI, Amy enjoyed a well-rounded education.

Amy is from China and attended OBI her junior and senior years. "Before I came here, I was thinking that education in America was different than what I had at home. I wanted a new experience. I wanted to know something different and experience a different culture," she said.

Amy had a friend in her school who found OBI through the internet. "My parents talked to his parents," she said. It was a difficult decision for them. "At first, my dad disagreed with this idea, but my mom was always on my side," she smiled. "They're wonderful parents to allow me to come. They worried about a girl [alone] in America, but this school is safe. I like the environment, the countryside. It helps you concentrate on your studies."

Amy enjoyed a variety of activities including band, Student Government Association, tennis and cross country. "At my old school there was not much opportunity for cocurriculars. School focused solely on studies. [At OBI], I could do many aspects of education. My dad thinks it's good for his daughter to develop in [these areas]," Amy said.

Living in the dorm helped Amy improve her English while becoming more familiar with American culture. "My roommates helped me. There is more time to spend with friends and get to know each other in the dorm," Amy said.

She enjoyed the chance to visit the home of a roommate. "They were so excited to have a Chinese person in their home. They showed me a really great time," Amy said.

Amy believes she has experienced the presence of God while at Oneida. She said, "Before I came to this school, I had no idea about [Christianity]. I asked questions and discussed it with my teachers. My experience here has changed me. I think I've been blessed that God found a way for me to [be here]."

# Oneida Baptist Institute

Connecting you . . .

## ANNUAL OFFERING

This is the fourteenth year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

## FOLLOWING CHRIST

"And you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth."—Acts 1:8b

Unlike many Christian schools, Oneida welcomes teens who do not know Jesus. At OBI they hear the gospel message daily. If we can reach them for Christ, they will take the good news around the world.

## OBI'S FUNDING

Approximately 9 percent of Oneida's funding comes from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

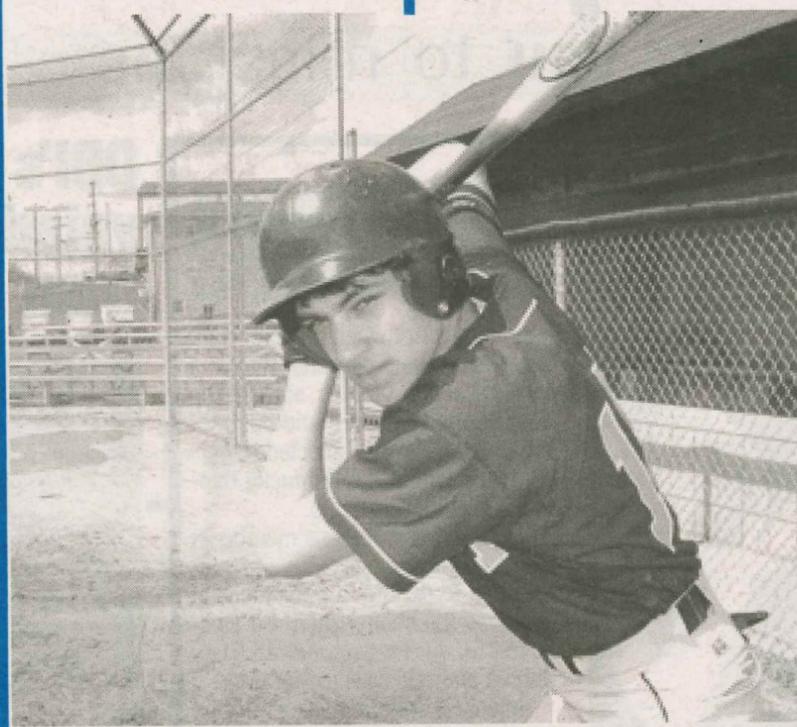
Another 35 percent comes from student fees.

The remaining 56 percent comes from income from our modest investments, churches and individuals who choose to invest in the lives of young people.

These gifts are the financial backbone of our ministry.

## WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE ONEIDA?

- ◆ Some are struggling with academic setbacks.
- ◆ Others have been hurt by family conflicts and situations.
- ◆ Many need a change in peer group.
- ◆ Still others are seeking a distinctly Christian education.
- ◆ Often parents and grandparents are looking for a loving and structured environment for their teens.
- ◆ Young people enjoy the independence boarding school gives in preparation for college.



Anthony tried activities he had always wanted to do.

## OBI was the place Anthony needed to grow up

Anthony enrolled at OBI near the end of his sophomore year from Florida. His mom died when he was 12, and he did not know his dad. He lived with his brother until age 15, when his brother had to go to Iraq with the military. Anthony then moved in with his aunt and uncle, who were a lot less strict.

"They couldn't control me. I was really into my friends, skateboarding, partying and stuff. My grades were bad. I definitely needed a different environment," Anthony recalled. His uncle spoke with their pastor, who recommended OBI. "He said it was a good place for kids to grow up," Anthony said.

Though it took him several months to adjust to Oneida, Anthony thrived here. He liked the work program and took his job responsibilities seriously. He became a supervisor of his mowing crew and dorm cleaning crew. "I loved to work, to cut

the grass around here, to help clean up the dorms and tell other kids to clean them up," Anthony said. After he turned 16, he learned how to drive a tractor, a helpful skill in the campus work program. Anthony received three work awards plus a Cleanest Room award.

His senior year, he joined drama and baseball as a change from the work program and a chance to try new things before leaving OBI.

Smaller classes made school a lot easier for him. Before, Anthony said his grades were "straight F's." At Oneida, he maintained a C average. "My grades weren't spectacular, but they were much, much better." He said he worked harder, because, "I want to make something with my life." Anthony plans to major in graphic design in college. He advanced through three levels of Commercial Art at OBI and would like to have a career in the sign business.



Beverly was crowned the 2007-2008 Oneidian Yearbook Queen.

## Beverly found the "fresh start" she needed at OBI

Beverly was nearing the end of her freshman year when she enrolled at OBI. At home in central Kentucky, she was failing classes and fighting constantly with her parents.

"I needed a fresh start. OBI was close and affordable and Christian," Beverly said. Beverly most benefited from having a sense of independence. "I could do things on my own without being nagged. It was a breath of fresh air. It was all up to me to do my chores," she said. She earned a Cleanest Room award at the end of her first year at OBI.

Beverly liked living with friends

in the dorm. "At home, I didn't have the privilege of talking to friends outside school," she said. With the privilege came responsibility. "I had to learn when to keep my mouth shut. I learned that lesson the hard way by losing friendships," she said. By her senior year the class named her "Most Dependable."

Beverly also enjoyed the variety of students at OBI. "I had never met a Korean or an Ethiopian. I got to experience a lot of cultures—what they eat, how they dress and interact," she said. Beverly worked in the kitchen, dining hall and dormitory, but she was most involved in assisting sports teams as a manager. She earned an athletic letter jacket for her three seasons with cheerleading and soccer and two seasons with softball, volleyball and cross country.

She enjoyed the chance to enroll in a music class and dust off her viola skills. Last fall, she played her viola for the talent portion of the Yearbook Queen pageant. She was surprised when she won.

Beverly said her parents are most proud of her academic improvement. She said required nightly study hall kept her from failing her first two years at OBI. Her junior and senior years she earned A's, B's and C's. "My parents were ecstatic," she recalled.

"The teachers here are all great. They're a lot more personal with you. I had never experienced a teacher who was willing to come to study hall to help you. Plus, some are coaches and sponsors, and some preach in chapel. You get to know them that way." Beverly said that she and her parents get along much better now. "It's weird ... being so far away brought all my relationships so close."



Wayne (leading the race in the "Oneida" jersey) enjoyed more playing time on OBI teams.

## Wayne wanted a Christian school

Wayne was looking for a unique educational experience. "I was really looking forward to going to a Christian school and getting closer to Christ," he said.

From central Kentucky, Wayne enrolled at OBI as a freshman. He noticed that being away from his family was harder than he had expected. He said, "You don't have a parent around to tell you what's right and wrong. I made a lot of mistakes when I first came. You become a lot more responsible with how you live everyday life."

It took a few months to adjust but Wayne was glad to have the experience of living on his own. He appreciated that at Oneida, the other students were friendly. "There were no single groups or people making fun of other people. It's like we were one big family," he said.

Wayne was involved in sports at home, but he enjoyed less pressure and more playing time on Oneida teams. He earned the Coach's Award in basketball and baseball and the Most Improved award in basketball and cross country. He went to state in cross country three years in a row.

Wayne studied commercial art at OBI all four years of high school. His senior year, he worked in OBI's sign lab two periods a day as part of the Field Placement program. He won first place in graphic arts at the Eastern Kentucky University Bluegrass regional art show this spring and honorable mention at state. He plans to major in graphic design and photography in college. "It's fun. You get to be creative. You can make business signs, or you can make art," Wayne said.

# Oneida Baptist Institute

to missions

Grace had many opportunities to develop her musical skills.



## Grace wanted to continue her education in the U.S. at a Christian school

Grace attended a public school her sophomore year as an exchange student from South Korea. When the one-year program ended, Grace researched private U.S. schools in hopes of continuing her studies in America. "It's fun for me to learn things in a second language. I was so bad at English at first! Now, I can make a conversation. And in the United States I can work on school but still have time to do something else," she said.

What appealed to Grace about OBI was the fact that it was a Christian school. "I always wanted church and school to be together, and I [found] it here," Grace said.

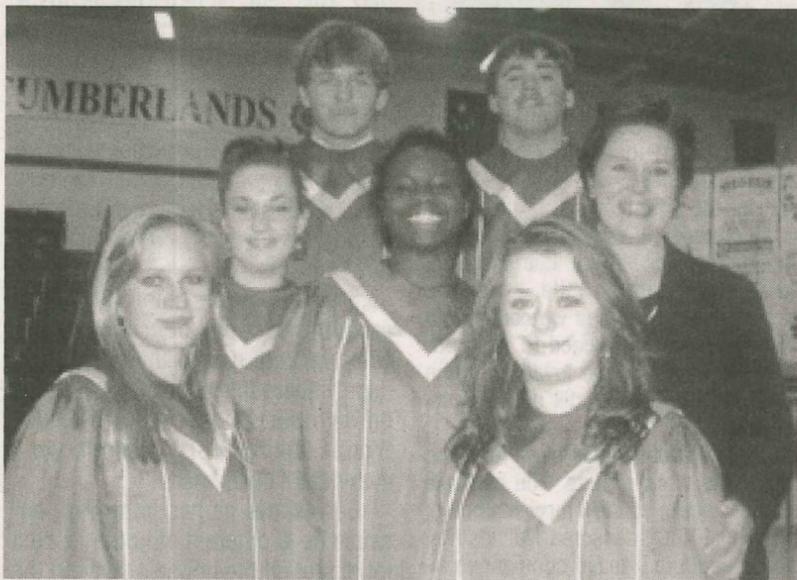
At OBI, Grace enjoyed the chance to continue her musical education.

For two years, she practiced the violin, piano and drums each day in band class. She was the drummer for the pep band and the chapel praise and worship group.

The OBI faculty voted her the Most Outstanding junior girl. Her senior year, Grace represented OBI in a skit presented at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Grace plans to enroll in an American university. "The time went so fast. It's hard to believe it's been three years. I have missed home, but I am glad I was here and got to experience something new," she said.

## Autumn accepted Christ and "grew up" at OBI

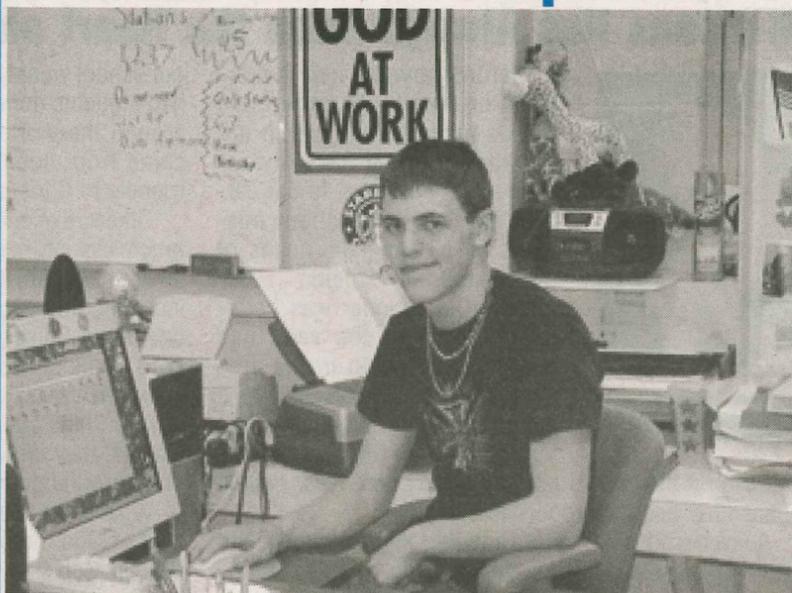


All Festival Chorus was one of many activities Autumn (bottom right) enjoyed at OBI.

From Ohio, Autumn enrolled at OBI in the eighth grade. She said, "My stepbrother went here.... I was having family and school difficulties. I had recently moved in with my dad. I was mad...and I brought

that into school...I went against everything. I made home really complicated. We were constantly fighting."

Autumn agreed to try Oneida. What appealed to Autumn most was



Joe's dependability at work got him promoted to Dorm Chief.

## OBI's rural setting and smaller classes helped Joe improve grades

Joe's younger brother had been in some trouble at home in central Kentucky. "My mom and dad wanted to find a school where he could concentrate better and be away from [negative influences]," Joe said.

When they brought his brother to OBI, Joe decided he wanted to attend. "I really love the country," he said. He also wanted to improve his grades. At home, Joe earned C's and D's. At OBI, he began earning A's and B's. "The classes are smaller, and you can concentrate better. The teachers help you. They walk you through the assignment. That's why I liked being down here," he said.

By his senior year, he had straight A's, which included two AP classes. He plans to study computers and electronics in college.

Joe earned three Outstanding Worker awards. "I loved it. At home, I would just sit around and be bored

out of my mind. Here, I always had something to do, like homework and then my supervisor job," he said.

After two months, Joe was promoted to supervisor of his dormitory cleaning crew. He said, "I was really excited to have that job." He believed in doing a job to the best of his ability and helping others to do the same. This year, he became the Dorm Chief, the supervisor over all of the dorm crews.

Joe grew up in a Baptist church. "I actually liked going to chapel every day. Some of the preachers could really be interesting. It helped me grow with God," he said. Joe is glad he chose to finish high school at OBI. "Being down here and being around a Christian environment has helped me grow up. I don't think I would have been happy at any other school," he said.

OBI's sports program. She had never had the opportunity to play at her old school—partly because of the cost to join. At OBI, she participated each year in fall, winter and spring sports.

Her awards include Most Improved in softball; Best Defense and Most Valuable Player in soccer and the 110% and Best Attitude awards in cheerleading.

Autumn was also a four-year member of the choir. Her senior year, she made the All Festival Chorus, a regional honor choir.

During her first year at OBI, she made a decision to give her life to Jesus Christ. She recalled the chapel service: "I felt like a weight was lifted. Since then, I've never felt alone."

Autumn enjoys the close friendships she developed at OBI. "Even when we would be away on breaks,

we would still keep in touch," she said.

Autumn reflected on how much she has changed since eighth grade. "My first couple of years [at OBI], I was still really negative. I talked back to the teachers a lot. I got suspended for repetitive misbehavior," she said. By tenth grade, "I realized they don't accept that at OBI. I decided to grow up...This environment was the best for me to successfully get through high school," she said.

Autumn brought her grades up to a B average. She said, "The teachers care about you. They have more time for individual attention. They put their personal lives to the side to come to study hall or bring food to the dorm." She plans to study psychology or history in college and would like a career "where I can help people."

### A MULTI-FACETED MINISTRY

An 11:1 student/teacher ratio, a Tutoring Lab with a 2:1 student/teacher ratio and nightly study hall are just a few of the reasons many students find it easier to excel academically at OBI.

A full array of co-curricular activities keeps our students productively busy. Oneida also has a unique student work program. Many students who do not excel at sports find their niche in the work program.

Many OBI students are not Christians when they enroll. We share the gospel through daily chapel, Sunday worship, Bible classes and campus ministry.

### EDUCATION FOR TIME AND ETERNITY

Every school deals with the mind of man, but few, like Oneida, minister to the soul as well. Day after day, our students hear the gospel message. Each year, many boys and girls make positive decisions of eternal significance.

### MORE ABOUT OBI

- ◆ Oneida's average enrollment is 325.
- ◆ We have approximately 150 full-time faculty and staff.
- ◆ OBI has a 700-acre campus which includes a 200-acre farm. We have a full agriculture program.
- ◆ We accept students throughout the year.
- ◆ OBI provides Christian education at an affordable rate.

# Oneida Baptist Institute

Connecting you to missions

How YOU can connect with Oneida Baptist Institute

Share the good news of what's happening at OBI. Do you know of a child in grades 6-12 who could benefit from our ministry? Tell the family about us!

Visit our campus and bring a group from your church. We love for people to see what we're all about.

Volunteer with us for a short-term missions project.

Give as God leads. Your financial gift is an investment in the lives of young people. Other donations of all sorts help us in a variety of ways.

Make sure your church has received our box of Father's Day Offering materials. Offer to take charge of displaying posters and distributing flyers in your church.

Pray for our faculty and staff as well as for our students. We need prayer support to undergird all that we do for our students.

## Missions Has Always Been the Heart and Soul of Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Before anyone can understand or even try to analyze the Oneida ministry, one has to understand that we have always been about missions. In our earliest days we were about missions by meeting the needs of the extended Oneida community. Our founder was determined to meet the academic needs of the youth in the area who did not have access to a public education. Whether or not they came from Christian homes and even if they could not pay the modest fees, Oneida opened her heart and doors to everyone.

A few decades later more and more students began to arrive on our campus from surrounding counties and by the 1930s students were coming to us from across Kentucky. Not surprisingly, by the 1940s more and more students enrolled from other states and by the 1950s Oneida began receiving international students.

When Kay and I were students at Oneida in the early '60s most of our international students were from Iran. It was a friendly country to the U.S. at the time, and Oneida welcomed those Iranian students just as we do today. When Kay and I graduated in 1963 there were four Iranian students in our class. I am sad to report that three of those students were apparently killed during the revolution when the Shah was overthrown in the late '70's. The best information I have is that the three were killed because they had been educated in the U.S., including their years at Oneida. The fourth class member married an American girl and lives safely in the U.S.

Today our students come from many different countries. Actually, we have students from 17 countries enrolled in our school today. I wonder what the founder of

our school would think if he knew his little country school had students not only from across the U.S. but also from around the world? Some of our international students come from countries like South Korea, which is very friendly to Christians and the Christian faith.

Others, like our students from China and Mongolia, are much less informed about Christianity. They have grown up in a culture that is hostile to nearly any form of religion, including and especially Christianity. Recently, however, two of our Chinese girls made professions of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. It was refreshing to talk to these girls about their decision to become Christians. When they return to China after completing their university or college studies, they know they will have to meet in some of the underground churches in China.

What a wonderful opportunity we have to share the love of God. Admittedly, it is sometimes a challenge to explain God's love to a student who has never before heard about the love of Jesus. We know many of our international students really struggle with the concepts of sin, forgiveness and redemption. Often our international students have seen inconsistencies in the way many Americans talk about their faith and the way they live that faith in their daily activities. Some may not automatically think about missions and Oneida in the same thought. But Oneida has always been about missions. We believe we are fulfilling the Scriptures in Acts 1:8 "... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When you support Oneida through the Father's Day Offering you are helping us share the gospel with students from every corner of the earth! We thank all our friends who help empower Oneida to be active in missions.

—Dr. W. F. Underwood (OBI '63)  
Oneida Baptist Institute president

## In the details

Dear Friends,  
I was born the son of a Baptist pastor and the youngest of three children. My parents raised me in a loving Christian home. Despite the care and affirmation of my family, I grew up to develop a low self-esteem and contempt for authority. I failed the sixth grade and it seemed I was in a downward spiral by the time I reached the ninth grade. I was entrenched in a bitter battle with my parents for control of my life. I grasped for power in any area. I soon found that I had absolute command when it came to my grades. I set out on a quest to fail everything academic and I succeeded 100 percent. My parents implemented a new plan or punishment monthly and I was always eager to defeat the latest challenge. I thrived on the conflict. I was intent on proving they could have no effect on my decision to govern my own life. Much to my objection, in the winter of 1989 I arrived at OBI under protest. I finished my freshman year at Oneida failing school just as I had at home. But things were somehow different here. Failure seemed to lose its fulfillment when there was no one to argue with and the only reaction was one of understanding or encouragement.

By the beginning of my second freshman year at Oneida, things were starting to change. A student at OBI then and now is required to work at a job for one hour a day. As a result of the required work program, at the age of 17 I learned to operate light equipment, weld, drive a tractor and repair most common things that broke along the way. Problems I faced in the classroom seemed easier to solve if they related to work. I didn't know if 1/2 was greater or less than 7/16. I did know, however, that a 1/2-inch wrench was larger than a 7/16-inch wrench. Schoolwork became more interesting and relative when it could be directly applied to a particular skill or trade. I found new challenges in work to replace the old conflicts at home. The more complex, intricate and detailed the project, the more I enjoyed it. I began to take pride in my work and found that others were proud of me, too. I immersed myself in all things work. Grades were never again an



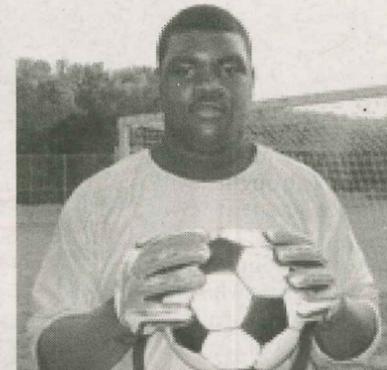
Dan (left) instructs volunteers

issue; I finished the remaining three years on the honor roll. The architect Ludwig Mies said, "God is in the details." And so it was that in those details I found my God, in and among the simple things a man does with his hands when his work is done well and for the right reasons. In those fine details that I still love so much today, I also discovered God's plan and purpose for my life. I never left the little school in the mountains that did so much with so little. I met and married my high school sweetheart here, and we continue to serve as support staff today. We are privileged to raise our three beautiful children in the traditions we loved so much as students, traditions that have done and still do so much for so many across the globe.

Every day we strive to make Oneida a better place for those who live, work, teach, learn and worship here. You can take part in that effort. In just a few weeks you will receive a box of materials to promote the annual KBC-sponsored Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute. Please consider making these materials available to your congregation even if your church does not formally promote the offering. More important to us than money is the chance to share information about our ministry. A member of your church may know a young person who needs to be at OBI just as I did.

God chose Oneida Baptist Institute as His path into my life. To those of you who made that possible and continue to do so, "Thank you" is not enough. May God bless you always.

Sincerely,  
Dan Nichols (OBI '94) Construction Coordinator



Ben improved both work and study habits.

## Ben got "back on track"

Ben came to Oneida as a sophomore from New Jersey. His brother graduated from OBI in 1998.

Ben said, "School started to get really frustrating. I had bad grades, and I never did my work. I probably would have dropped out."

Ben passed all of his classes his first year at OBI. He made up classes where he could in his regular schedule and in two sessions of summer school.

When the guidance counselor met with him at the start of this year, Ben saw the result of his work. "I was really happy. I had my credits. They got me back on the right track to graduate with my class," he said.

Getting caught up academically also meant that Ben was finally eligible to play sports. He had been a manager, but he always wanted to play. This year, he was a goalie on the soccer team, he earned the Most Valuable Player award for basketball and he competed with the track team this spring.

Three years of dorm chores and required daily jobs helped Ben develop good work habits. "My work ethic is better. I'm used to working every day," he said.

It wasn't always this way. He recalled his first day of school at OBI, when he returned to the dorm for a nap: "I heard this knock-knock-knock on my door. It was 'Mr. J.' He said, 'You're late for work.' I had to work every day? I was mad."

Ben knows he has improved, because he is different at home. "I do a lot of stuff in the house. I take out the trash, mop the kitchen floor and repair things. Before, I would just go out. Now, I help my mom and then go out." Ben said.

In college, Ben would like to study criminal justice or forensic science and play basketball. "If it happens and God wants it, that's what I'll do," he said.

Facing life's challenges

Uncertain times require bold witness of Christ's presence

Have you wondered lately if the world news could become any worse? Each day we are bombarded with reports from around the globe describing horrific disasters ranging from floods to droughts, earthquakes, famines and many others. I am sure there are countless people wondering where God is in the midst of all these circumstances.

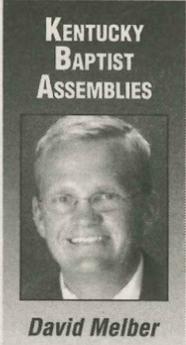
With economic issues plaguing our country, some Americans, perhaps for the first time, are feeling pressures that have not been felt in recent decades—and certainly not in our population comprised of teenagers and 20-somethings. For the first time in recent history, the combination of inflation, fuel costs and employment issues have created an economy that is a far cry from the prosperity many of us have enjoyed our entire lives.

What is our response as the church amid crisis? First and foremost, we know God and all His attributes are above and beyond temporal earthly issues. We, as believers, should be quick to respond when people feel uncertain as uncertainty can be a great motivator

to cause people to think of God. I am reminded of that each day during this time of year as we see thousands of people throughout the summer. Growing up in the world is incredibly difficult and adding the variable of uncertainty makes life even more challenging. I am encouraged as I look for ways that allow for a discussion about the hope found only in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

During the next few weeks, the opportunities we face as a camping ministry are greater than we have ever experienced. Our ministry not only touches lives from 15 states this summer, but we touch lives in Eastern Europe and Africa as well. Throughout this wide geographical area, we become aware of challenges every day that are overwhelming.

Instead of praying for all of the world's struggles to disappear, maybe we should pray that our faith is strengthened and our witness is bold as God uses these times to make Himself known to the world.



David Melber

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "Thou breakest the heads of \_\_\_\_\_ in pieces" (Psalm 74:14)
- 7 "Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a \_\_\_\_\_" (Judges 7:5)
- 10 In on
- 11 Like an aria
- 12 "\_\_\_\_\_ it ever so humble"
- 13 Conjunction
- 14 "Behold behind him a \_\_\_\_\_ caught in a thicket by his horns" (Genesis 22:13)
- 17 Loathing
- 18 Feminine nickname
- 20 Brit. islands (abbr.)
- 22 Blue pencil pushers? (abbr.)
- 23 Printer's measure
- 24 Wisconsin, the \_\_\_\_\_ State
- 27 Catch sight of
- 30 "I \_\_\_\_\_ the true vine" (John 15:1)
- 31 "The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow \_\_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 14:5)
- 32 "All \_\_\_\_\_ like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6)
- 34 Rooster's better half
- 35 Chicago sight
- 36 Dad, in Dublin
- 38 One of the 13 original states (abbr.)
- 39 "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring \_\_\_\_\_, walketh about" (1 Peter 5:8)
- 42 Stags
- 44 What to do with the frizzies and large felines

1	2	3	4	5	6				7	8	9
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53				54							

- 46 Greek letter
- 47 Iron (symbol)
- 48 Verb in primer's vocabulary
- 50 Director Lupino
- 52 Kind of engineer (abbr.)
- 53 TV network
- 54 "Shalt thou exalt like the horn of an \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 92:10)
- 16 Large quantity
- 19 Preposition
- 20 "Easier for a \_\_\_\_\_ to go through the eye of a needle" (Matthew 19:24)
- 21 Part of psyche
- 24 Requested (arch.)
- 25 "She maketh fine linen ... and delivereth \_\_\_\_\_ unto the merchant" (Proverbs 31:24)

Down

- 1 Discovery zone? (abbr.)
- 2 "The poor man had nothing, save one little \_\_\_\_\_ lamb" (2 Samuel 12:3)
- 3 One of the 13 original states (abbr.)
- 4 "He shall rule ... with a rod of \_\_\_\_\_" (Revelation 2:27)
- 5 Expose to air
- 6 "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white \_\_\_\_\_" (Revelation 19:11)
- 7 Obstinate one, not too kindly
- 8 Chemical suffix
- 9 Rocky Mountain \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Mosquito that carries yellow fever
- 26 Harsh
- 28 Penn's pad? (abbr.)
- 29 "The king doth not fetch home again his \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Samuel 14:13)
- 33 Exclamation of scorn
- 34 Tortoise's tormentor
- 37 City near Bethel
- 40 These may be yoked
- 41 Division of the United Kingdom (abbr.)
- 43 "And Peter followed \_\_\_\_\_ off" (Luke 22:54)
- 45 Fuss
- 49 Good or well (prefix)
- 50 Characteristic of (suffix)
- 51 Word in a command

Last week's solution

1	I	M	P	O	T	E	N	T	7	A	G	U	E
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23	M	A	E		O	N	E	R	25	R	I	O	
26	I	T	S		G	E	B	A	L	30	C	R	
	T			31	C		K	Y	32	E	L	I	
35	I	F		36	S	I	P		38	V	I	N	E
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42	S	O		O	I	L		44	F	L	E	E	R
	45	D	O	E	S		46	E	U	S	U	E	
48	D	R	O	P	S	Y		48	E	X	I	T	D

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## Feds looking to churches to welcome immigrants to U.S.

By Amy Green  
Religion News Service

Orlando, Fla. (RNS)—Adelino Najarro emigrated from Mexico four years ago. Today, to make a living, he works in a restaurant kitchen. And to improve his English, he goes to church.

Twice a week, Iglesia Forest City in northwest Orlando partners with the local school district to offer English-language classes. One recent evening, Najarro, 29, was among nearly two dozen Spanish speakers who turned out for class. The church also offers a food bank, speakers on the naturalization process and has plans to offer GED classes.

"We the church are the first contact with the United States," noted Santiago Panzardi, the church's pastor and president of the Hispanic Christian Church Association of Central Florida. "The first place they knock is the church."

Now there is someone else knocking at the church door—the federal government. But they insist they are not looking to check immigrants' legal papers. They are looking to help.

Washington is lending aid to churches and religious groups that offer services to immigrants. It is a welcome gesture for many, but for some, it may not be enough to assuage deep-rooted distrust among immigrants and their advocates.

During each of the past five years, some 1 million immigrants were granted permanent resident status in the U.S., according to Alfonso Aguilar, chief of the Office of Citizenship within U.S. Citizenship and Im-

migration Services. Yet only 1.2 million are currently enrolled in government-sponsored ESL programs, and more than 60 percent of those programs have long waiting lists.

"Many times that doorway into the community is a church," Aguilar said. "Immigrants sometimes don't feel comfortable going to a government office or an adult education program, but they feel comfortable going to a church."

In 2006, President Bush established a Task Force on New Americans aimed at finding better ways to help immigrants settle into American society. Partnering with community organizations such as churches and religious groups was one recommendation.

Aguilar and others are traveling nationwide appealing to religious leaders to join the outreach. Dozens of training workshops since last October have drawn educators from church volunteers to librarians.

Still, others wonder whether advocates and immigrants harbor too much distrust for the government for the two groups to effectively work together.

At Iglesia Forest City, most parishioners are Puerto Rican, which makes them U.S. citizens. But trust remains an issue. Panzardi agrees with Washington's overall mission but remains frustrated efforts at immigration reform have stalled.

"There is nothing that the government can offer immigrants," he said, explaining any reform probably will likely remain on hold until after the presidential election.

## 'And I will make you to become fishers of men'

### Support of Oneida makes it possible for students like Amy to experience Christ

Those first disciples had no idea what Jesus actually meant when He told them to leave their nets and follow Him. There is a pretty good chance that they were equally confused when Jesus told them He would make them to become fishers of men.

As we travel through life, we do not know how God will use us to impact the lives of others. Even the founders of ministries such as Oneida Baptist Institute likely never envisioned how God would use those ministries to accomplish a much greater mission. I have often thought the founder of this ministry, James Anderson Burns, would be more than surprised to see how his little school deep in the Cumberland Mountains would reach teenagers from around the world. Originally conceived to provide an education to boys and girls who had never been able to have one, his little school on the hill now reaches students half a world away.

Oneida is truly connecting Kentucky Baptists to boys and girls who have never heard the gospel before coming to our campus. Amy, one of our Chinese students who recently gave her life to Jesus, told me that she had never met a Christian until she came to OBI. She also did not know that there were Christians in China or that there is an underground church there.

It was refreshing to talk to Amy about her conversion. She admitted that some of her discussions in our Bible classes likely seemed more confrontational than simply an earnest desire to understand. Amy, who is our 2008 valedictorian, was learning about sin and a God she had never heard

of before. She wanted to understand more about this Jesus we told her about. She didn't understand why He would come to earth and die on Calvary for sins she did not even know she had committed. It was a joy to hear Amy explain why she finally came to the conclusion that sin had separated her from the love of this wonderful God.

I am sure most of you know we cannot send missionaries into China. Amy was fairly certain her e-mails to her parents back home were being monitored. After completing her education, Amy will likely return to China. She knows she will have to seek out other Christians bold enough to proclaim their love for the God who sent His son to save Amy.

Many other students from across America and around the world have been told about the God who sent His son as an expression of His great love. The Oneida ministry has truly become a witness of that love in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Sunday, June 15 is Father's Day. It is also the day Kentucky Baptists will have the opportunity to support Oneida's efforts to teach boys and girls about the love of God. Students learn about that love through our Bible classes, Sunday worship, daily chapel services, shared testimonies of fellow students and the living example our students see in the lives of our faculty and staff. Hopefully your church will use the Father's Day offering materials sent to them last month so it will see how your mission dollars are being used. Amy is not the only young person who had never before heard the Good News.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)



W.F. Underwood



Donnie Fox

## Off to the North Country

### Clear Creek grad follows God's calling to Alaska

When our students first come to Clear Creek they usually don't have a clue where God will lead them when they graduate. May 2008 graduate Michael Hatter said he has felt God's call to go to Alaska.

"Some of my favorite memories about Clear Creek are the mission trips I was able to take to Alaska as a student," Hatter recalled. "My first mission trip was to Juneau to help with some construction work on Glacier Valley Baptist Church. After our mission trip was completed, I took advantage of already being there in Alaska and spent two weeks in the wilderness by myself. It was a blessing to be able to enjoy God's creation from that perspective. My second mission trip as a Clear Creek student, I was able to lead my own team to the Prince of Wales area and do evangelistic work.

"After graduation I plan to go back to Alaska and work a job around the Yukon Territory," Hatter said. "I feel led to explore some future ministry fields in the area. My plans are to one day end up there for good. I would like to move into or near a village of na-

tives and try to adapt to their ways and begin to share the gospel with them. Eventually I hope to plant a church there."

Michael said he appreciates the training he received at Clear Creek to prepare him for this ministry calling.

"My studies at Clear Creek have helped ... immensely for this calling God has placed on my life. I view my studies as a necessity for what I am about to do. All my classes have helped to equip me to be a better minister wherever God plants me. For me, Clear Creek has been the whetstone that has sharpened the ax."

So, how can you pray for Michael?

"Pray that I will allow the Lord to guide me and give me the vision of what to do," he noted. "Pray for strength, courage and boldness for me because the gospel is not readily accepted where I am going."

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



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## Diverse religious groups pool resources to help Gulf Coast

New Orleans (RNS)—A diverse group of faith-based organizations has raised \$4.5 million for two disaster relief funds that will aid affordable-housing projects, help rebuild small businesses and develop community centers on the Gulf Coast.

The Isaiah Fund LLC, a project of Baptist, Catholic, Jewish and Mennonite institutions, is believed to be the first national interfaith fund for long-term domestic disaster recovery.

The groups, which have been active in volunteer efforts since Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, said they recognize that some of the hardest rebuilding work still lies ahead. Providing long-term, low-cost, flexible capital is one of the best ways they can continue to help.

"We looked at the tremendous needs that exist throughout the region," noted Jeffrey Dekro, senior vice president of Jewish Funds for Justice in Philadelphia,

which will manage the funds.

The partners in the fund said they realized that if they pooled their resources, they could create a more ambitious and high-profile program than going it alone.

The two funds, one for loans and one for grants, will initially focus on low-income communities on the Gulf Coast. But the founders hope the Isaiah Funds will become a blueprint to create other funds to support recovery from future disasters.

The goal is to grow the program to \$10 million for loans and \$1 million for grants by the end of 2009 with the help of other foundations and faith-based institutions. The money will be disbursed through local financial institutions.

The first loan, of \$500,000, will be awarded to Gulf Coast Housing Partnership, which has finished about 600 units of affordable housing since the storm and is working on an additional 500 units.

## Marriage battle intensifies in California and New York

Sacramento, Calif. (BP)—A proposed constitutional amendment in California to prohibit gay marriage and reverse the controversial decision by the state's high court has qualified for the ballot, California Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced June 2.

Meanwhile, the pro-family Alliance Defense Fund filed a lawsuit June 3 against New York Gov. David Paterson, asserting that his directive ordering state agencies to recognize out-of-state gay marriages exceeded his authority. The suit was filed on behalf of 16 state taxpayers, including two state senators and three state assemblymen. The suit maintains that the governor "does not have authority to declare which unions will be recognized as valid marriages in New York" and that such authority belongs to the legislature.

The news out of California came just before the California Supreme Court turned back pro-family groups June 4 by refusing to delay its ruling legalizing gay marriage from going into effect until after the November election. Without the stay—requested by legal groups such as Liberty Counsel and the Alliance Defense Fund—same-sex couples can begin marrying in California June 17.

"Denying a stay in light of the certification of the Marriage Protection Act for the November ballot reveals the political agenda of a handful of judges," Liberty Counsel founder and attorney Mathew Staver said in a news release. "The battle over marriage is far from over and will not be decided by four judges. The people will decide in November."

Liberty Counsel and others assert that legal chaos will ensue if gay marriages are permitted for five months, only to be prohibited by

voters on Election Day. Such a scenario would "create innumerable complex legal questions" about the status of the marriages performed, according to ADF.

Amendment supporters submitted 1.1 million signatures, far more than the 690,000 required.

The California court's ruling has served to unite the two pro-family camps that, for more than two years, promoted competing marriage amendments. The one that made the ballot was backed by a coalition known as ProtectMarriage.com. The other coalition was known as VoteYesMarriage.com and never got off the ground this time around. A statement on the VoteYesMarriage.com Web site thanked supporters but said "funds were insufficient" to "wage a professional multi-million-dollar statewide signature-gathering campaign."

In 2006, each of the two coalitions gathered signatures but failed to get an amendment on the ballot that year.

ProtectMarriage.com's amendment was backed by Focus on the Family, Family Research Council, the Alliance Defense Fund and Concerned Women for America. VoteYesMarriage.com's amendment was supported by Liberty Counsel, the American Family Association, Campaign for Children and Families and the Traditional Values Coalition.

The disagreement centered on whether the ProtectMarriage.com amendment was strong enough and, on the flip side, whether the VoteYesMarriage.com amendment could pass during a statewide general election. Both amendments would have prohibited gay marriage, but the VoteYesMarriage.com amendment was worded such that it could have banned same-sex domestic partners already legal in the state.

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## Sect's children leave custody of Baptist caregivers in Texas

Dallas (ABP)—After court rulings declaring that the state of Texas had insufficient cause to keep them from their parents, more than 400 children taken from a compound owned by the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints began returning to their parents earlier this month.

In April, authorities seized the children from the FLDS Yearning for Zion Ranch in Eldorado, Texas, on suspicion of sexual abuse. But the Texas Supreme Court found that the authorities had not produced enough evidence to justify keeping all of the compound's children in state custody. The sect is led by imprisoned polygamist Warren Jeffs.

State officials asked Baptist Child and Family Services, an agency affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, to coordinate care for all of the children. In addition, several of the children were housed at BCFS facilities.

"There are no longer any FLDS children at the BCFS Youth Ranch," according to a June 2 e-mail message from BCFS administrator Kevin Dinnin. He also said members of the agency's incident management team were in Austin, assisting Texas state authorities with the logistics of returning the children.

According to a BCFS spokesperson, the 72 FLDS children who had been staying at the BCFS Youth Ranch in Gonzales, Texas, bid an emotional farewell to workers at the facility May 31 with cards, poetry and a song.

The children mentioned many workers by name and thanked them for their generosity. The children "showed real trust, since they are wary of ... anything," said Asennet Segura, BCFS' director of residential services.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Greensburg Baptist Church's Celebrate Recovery ministry.** Patty Durrett coordinates the 12-step, biblically based program for those seeking freedom from addictive and compulsive behaviors. Using eight Christ-centered principles, Celebrate Recovery helps those recovering from addictive behaviors experience a healthy and whole relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray that those with addictions will recognize their need and seek help through the CR program. Pray that those recovering would find healing, hope and salvation through Jesus Christ.

### MSC missionaries Larry and Linda Otterback of Louisville.

The Otterbacks serve through Eastern Kentucky Sonrise Ministries and are active in the physical and spiritual development of the people of Appalachia. They encourage local churches and volunteers to provide growth opportunities through retreats, Bible studies, ministry projects and medical clinics. Pray that many will come to understand the reality of a personal God who loves them very much. Pray too, that volunteers who work in the ministry will be challenged and renewed through the transformational power of Jesus Christ.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ABERDEEN, OHIO**—Aberdeen Church recently called **Phillip Huffman** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSBURG**—**Doug Boyd** recently resigned as pastor of Providence Church.

■ **HENDERSON**—Ambassador Church recently called **Glen Morris** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Midlane Park Church will host a corn hole tournament June 21, 1 p.m., to benefit South East Associated Ministries. The cost is \$30 to register a team of two by June 20; \$40 on the day of the event. For more information or to register, call (502) 491-7966.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville Church recently ordained **Dustin Boyd Coyle**, minister of youth at First Church of Morehead, to the gospel ministry.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Liberty Church recently ordained **Ivan Bennett, Kenny Catron, Darrell Coffey, Steven Fletcher** and **Larry Lee Huckaby** as

## Spotlight on ...

### Princeton



Southside Church will host an Answers in Genesis conference June 15, 6 p.m., featuring scientist and physician **Tommy Mitchell. Delton Beall** is pastor.

deacons. **Brian Rafferty** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—The University of the Cumberlands softball team will host a softball skills and drills camp June 20-21 for players age 8 through 16. The cost of the camp is \$35 and all participants must register by June 16. To register call (606) 539-4178, or send an e-mail to [adean@ucumberlands.edu](mailto:adean@ucumberlands.edu).

## Survey shows churchgoers tithing at lowest percentage in decades

**Gardendale, Ala. (RNS)**—Linda Pateo of Gardendale, Ala., said she and her husband, Robert, try to give 5 percent of their income to their church and 5 percent to Christian charities, but it is difficult with three children in college.

"I have strong feelings that God expects first fruits," Pateo noted. "Sometimes we fall short. It's something we are all called to do."

A recent poll by pollster George Barna shows that only 5 percent of Americans say they tithe, or give at least 10 percent of their income to their congregations.

According to other studies on church giving, congregants give an average of 2.58 percent of their income to their churches. That's down from 3.11 percent of their income in 1968, according to studies published by Empty Tomb, a ministry that studies church finances.

"Tithing is in decline," explained William Hull, a research professor at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and a Baptist minister. "The older generation was taught to tithe. It's not being taught very much anymore."

Decades ago, the church was a fo-



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

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

**15-17** Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, Cedar Crest.

**18-20** Acteens Camp, Cedar Crest.

**20-21** Acteens Splash, Girls in Action Overnight, Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek.

**20-21** Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

**21-28** Kentucky Changers, Maysville.

**22-29** All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Tour, Murray.

**23-26** Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.

**27-28** Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

**28** Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon, Baptist Building, Louisville.

**30-7/3** Girls in Action Camp, Cedar Crest.

### July

**5-12** Kentucky Changers, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg.

**16-18** Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, Cedar Crest.

**18-19** World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

**24-25** Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, West Union Association office, Paducah.

**25-26** World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, London.

**28-30** Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful Christian, patriotic, military neckties: retail value: \$15, cost: \$6. Striped neckties: special price \$4.50. Humor book: "Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine," \$6 (1,000 sold). Schofield Bibles: \$69 \$39. Call (606) 285-3051.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church of Ripley (west Tennessee) to lead our congregation averaging 240 in Sunday morning worship. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 23, Ripley, TN 38063; or by e-mail to [pastorsearch@fbcpringley.org](mailto:pastorsearch@fbcpringley.org).

**SEEKING:** Experienced leader to coordinate music ministry at Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala. We are a congregation of 1,500 members affiliated with both CBF and SBC. Send resumé to Minister of Music Search Committee, Shades Crest Baptist Church, 452 Park Ave., Birmingham, AL 35226; or e-mail pastor, Dr. Dennis Foust, at [dfoust@shadescrest.org](mailto:dfoust@shadescrest.org). (205) 822-1360.

**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](mailto:Phyllis@broadwaybaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister for Friendship Baptist Church in Campbellsville, Ky., to work with children birth through grade 5. Contact Pastor Bill Henderson at (270) 849-7924.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/education. Submit resumé to John McGuire at [johnmcguire@rosehillsland.com](mailto:johnmcguire@rosehillsland.com). Rose Hill Baptist Church, 1001 Winslow Road, Ashland, KY 41102. (606) 329-2821.

**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](mailto:dktatum@charter.net); or mail to PSC, Steve Stone, 808 West Hickory St., Tullahoma, TN 37388.

**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 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:** 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 before June 30 to: Pastor Search, Upton Baptist Church, PO Box 130, Upton, KY 42784. E-mail: [SJCottrell@windstream.net](mailto:SJCottrell@windstream.net).

**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](mailto:bcyouth@bellsouth.net). Deadline is June 30.

**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 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](mailto: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:** 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.

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# Summer reading guide

## Some spiritual alternatives to those tired beach novels

By Kristen Campbell  
Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register

Mobile, Ala. (RNS)—It's that time of year again when we hit the road and head to the beach, mountains, valleys or maybe just a comfortable chair in a climate-controlled environment.

As sure as we are to slide sunglasses and stuff T-shirts into duffel bags, many of us are liable to pack those books we have meant to at least scan, along with a few we hope to really read.

There are the tomes intended to stretch our spirits, challenge our minds and comfort our souls. Some, we hope, will remove us from our realities for a little while. Others we procure precisely to gain tools we might apply to living each day.

These new releases might do all those things:

**Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith.** Suzanne Strempek Shea. Beacon Press. \$24.95.

Come Sunday, most people keep to their own. Their own pews, their own booths for brunch, their own beds.

Not Suzanne Strempek Shea, who for a year traveled the country visiting the Protestant churches that had been forbidden during her Catholic youth. Her goal, she writes in her introduction, was to glean a first-timer's impression.

Her journey took her to well-known congregations including Rick Warren's Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. Some places are clearly a better fit for Shea than others.

Finally, in an interfaith chapel in the Denver International Airport, Shea recognizes "that we are always in God's house, wherever we find ourselves."

**Controlling Interest.** Elizabeth White. Zondervan. \$13.99.

"Controlling Interest" centers on a smart but inexperienced blonde

(Natalie Tubberville) who joins a streetwise but sensitive detective (Matt Hogan). The two are trapped in a pantry and stuck on a cruise ship as they track a runaway bride (and new Christian convert) tangled up in matters of international intrigue.

In the midst of investigating faith and practice, family and tradition, the characters do not claim to be flawless.

As Hogan tells Tubberville: "Look, Natalie, my life is what it is. I haven't been a perfect Christian guy all my life. I could rake myself over the coals for all the mistakes I've made, or I can keep going and try to live the rest of my life for a better purpose. Right? Isn't that all anybody can do?"

**Walking With God.** John Eldredge. Thomas Nelson. \$22.99.

Best-selling Christian author John Eldredge returns to readers with "Walking With God," this time challenging them to seek God's presence not simply in the midst of big adventures but in the course of mundane decision making.

For those unacquainted with the notion, much less the practice of spiritual warfare, some parts of the book may seem strange or even unsettling.

But walking with God, as Eldredge outlines it, is not always a comfortable pursuit.

In 218 pages, Eldredge chronicles his journey, complete with physical and spiritual tumbles, during the course of a year. Bottom line: Seek—and heed—God's will in everything, from when and where you go on a trip to what Scripture passages you read on a particular day.

Eldredge acknowledges that "the prevailing belief is that God speaks

to his people only through the Bible." But the "Bible teaches that we hear God's voice."

**The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully.** Joan Chittister. BlueBridge Press. \$19.95.

Internationally renowned writer Joan Chittister intends her series of essays about growing older to reach a broad audience: Those on the brink of "old age," those concerned about aging parents and those who do not feel old but are "older than they ever thought they could possibly become." It is, in short, for everyone.

In essays brief enough to consume with a cup of coffee, Chittister addresses matters of possibility and adjustment, learning and letting go, dreams and limitations. She begins with a reflection about regret—regret is not insight, she writes, but "the sand trap of the soul."

Still, she notes: "The blessing of regret is clear—it brings us, if we are willing to face it head on, to the point of being present to this new time of life in an entirely new way. It urges us on to continue becoming."

**Flanders' Book of Faith.** Matt Groening. HarperCollins. \$9.95.

Ned Flanders of "The Simpsons" fame answers kids' questions about religion ("How do we know that everything in the Bible is true?" "Because God himself spoke these words and the forty or so fellas who wrote the Bible then copied them down. Naturadiddly, when I say 'copied,' I am speaking in the biblical sense, not the Xeroxical sense"). He confronts ethical dilemmas (pay Uncle Sam that extra \$68.42). And he sanitizes song lyrics ("Baby Got Tax'd").

There are recipes from the Flanders' cookbook too, including one for devil's food cake. But fear not. Flanders advises readers to procure a box of devil's food cake mix and prepare it according to the package's directions. Then: "Bring in a priest or pastor to exorcise the cake with holy water. Pray seven minutes for the cake, followed by the singing of a hymn."

While the square tome remains focused on Springfield and its inhabitants, readers should not be surprised to see themselves—or someone they know—within its pages. The book offers a two-page spread of the 40 types of people you meet in church, including The Catnapper, The Hymn Hummer, The Wristwatch Watcher and The Happy Head Nodder.

**America the Beautiful.** Laura Hayden. Tyndale House Publishers. \$13.99.

Before the story of presidential candidate Emily Benton begins, readers are reminded in fine print: "This novel is a work of fiction. ... Any resemblance to actual events, locales, organizations, or persons living or dead is entirely coincidental and beyond the intent of either the author or the publisher."

Still, failure to see any connection between fact and fiction is a bit of a challenge. The cover bears the book's title, but more prominently, the image of a blonde woman with a stylized segment of the American flag in the background.

Before the first chapter ends, readers learn Benton is a divorcee who could be easily painted as "the good woman ridding herself of an unfaithful and feckless husband."

As the campaign continues, issues of faith and questions of ethics circulate. At the book's conclusion, the election is settled, but questions remain.

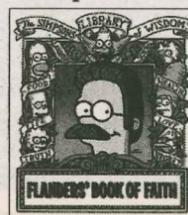
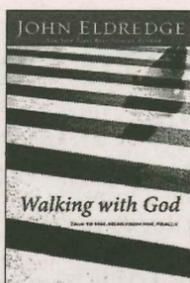
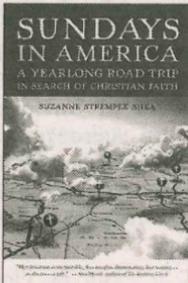
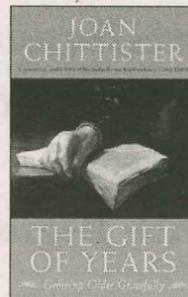
## Clear Creek profs publish new books

Pineville—Clear Creek Baptist Bible College professors Robert Don Hughes and Eleanor Thompson Gillum each recently celebrated the release of a new book.

Hughes' book, "History: Think for Yourself About What Shaped the Church," explores church history, finding that it is full of unlikely heroes; regular people who saw something lacking in the body of believers and set out to develop it.

Hughes is professor of missions and evangelism at the Pineville school, as well as a former missionary and faculty member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Gillum, an assistant professor of English at Clear Creek, is the author of "Journey: A Christian College Reader," an anthology written specifically for Christian students training for a career in ministry.



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## **CLEAR CREEK IS THE CLEAR CHOICE!**

**"We are a community of learners who affirm the trustworthiness of God's revealed word as the guide for our life and the foundation for our equipping ministry." ...Core Values Statement**

**Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number 404-679-4501) to award the Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts Degrees. Clear Creek is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 26, Orlando, FL 32822-1781; telephone number 407-207-0808), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.**



### **CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**

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