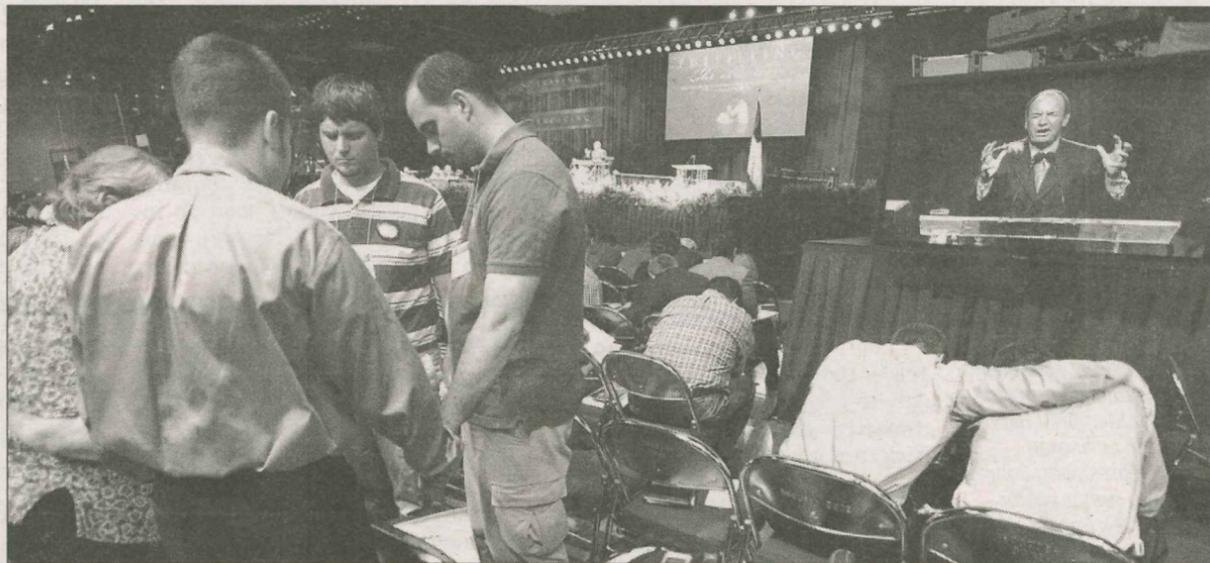


June 17, 2008
Vol. 182, No. 25**2008 SBC OVERVIEW****Elections**Convention messengers elect Johnny Hunt SBC president on first ballot; tie breaker decides second VP post. *Page 2.***Executive Committee**Citing local church autonomy, Executive Committee rejects sex offender database for SBC churches. *Page 2.***Guest editorial**Observations from last week's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. *Page 5.***Resolutions**SBC resolution could significantly shrink church membership rolls. *Page 6.***Motions**Messengers refer motions to rejoin Baptist World Alliance, disaffiliate churches with female pastors, restrict agency heads from serving as SBC president. *Page 7.***Convention sermon**North Carolina Pastor Al Gilbert says SBC must evaluate its priorities with a 'death check.' *Page 8.***NAMB report**North American Mission Board unveils GPS initiative for reaching North America with the gospel by 2020. *Page 9.***IMB report**International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin says despite breaking missions records, Southern Baptists struggling to keep pace with 'lostness.' *Page 10.***Pastors Conference**Speakers sound the call for revival. *Page 12.***Evangelists**Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists inducts inaugural Hall of Faith class. *Page 13.***Tackling tough issues**

Messengers gather together during a time of congregational prayer at the 151st Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. A total of 7,277 messengers attended last week's meeting, the third smallest convention crowd since 1948. Kentucky Baptists had the largest number of messengers in attendance with 722. (BP photo)

Messengers elect new president, debate regenerate membership

Indianapolis—Southern Baptists elected a new president and discussed topics ranging from child sexual abuse prevention to regenerate church membership during last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis.

A total of 7,277 messengers attended the June 10-11 meeting, nearly 1,400 fewer than attended last year's convention in San Antonio, and the third smallest SBC crowd since 1948. Officials claimed that the dip in attendance may have been caused by the heavy rains and flooding that closed several roads into Indianapolis days prior to the meeting, keeping some messengers from arriving. Those messengers who did make it elected Johnny Hunt as 2008 SBC



Johnny Hunt

president. The pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., beat out five other candidates on the first ballot, the most crowded SBC presidential ticket in nearly 30 years.

In a press conference shortly after his election, Hunt noted that "radical change" is necessary to stem the tide of decline in the SBC.

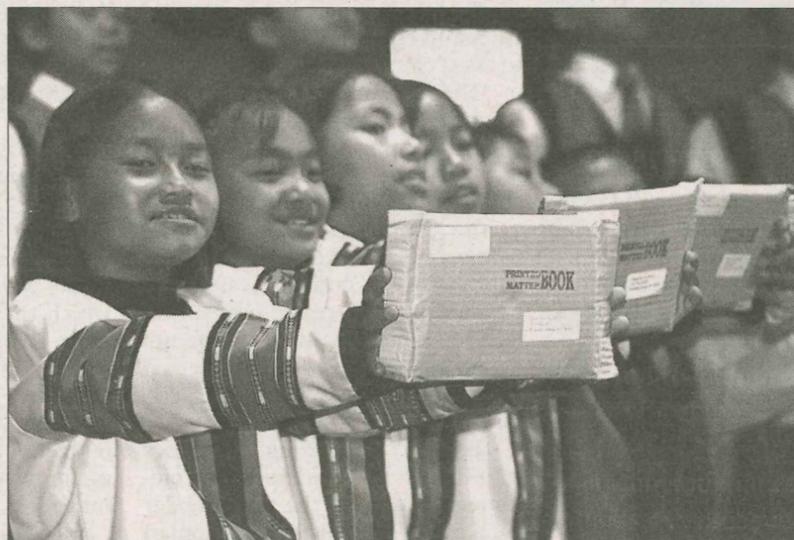
"We've been declining as a denomination, and you can't turn something around until you stop the tide and direction it is going," he said.

The new president also indicated that he plans to reach out to the younger generation of denominational leaders and get them to "buy in" to the vision of the SBC.

Citing the autonomy of the lo-

cal church, the SBC Executive Committee rejected a motion to establish a sex offender database available to SBC churches. Recognizing the "growing crisis" of child sexual abuse, Executive Committee President Morris Chapman encouraged church leaders to remain vigilant in exposing sex offenders, referring them to the U.S. Department of Justice's national database to protect against employing known offenders.

An approved resolution that could dramatically decrease church membership rolls garnered considerable discussion among messengers. The proposition would call on churches to require "wayward members" to secure regenerate church membership. Amendments also were made to the resolution which would tighten the overarching definition of a "member."

Children's choir shares powerful story of tribe's transformation

THE B-I-B-L-E Members of the India Children's Choir hold up mailing envelopes with Bibles in them during the group's June 12 performance at DeHaven Baptist Church in LaGrange. The song helped describe the ministry of Bibles for the World—the organization that sponsors the choir—which sends out free Bibles to every person with a telephone number in major cities around the world. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

By Drew Nichter
News Director

LaGrange—Nearly 100 years ago, British missionary Watkins Roberts sent a single copy of the Gospel of John to the chief of an unreached tribe in Manipur in Northeast India. As a result of that simple act of evangelism, several members of the Hmar tribe chose to follow Jesus Christ and an entire people group was transformed.

The fruit of Roberts' efforts endures to this day in the ministry of the India Children's Choir.

A group of 22 Hmar children ranging in age from nine to 12 visited DeHaven Baptist Church in LaGrange June 12 as part of the choir's 10-month tour of the United States.

Performing the musical titled, "Headhunters to Hearthunters," the children—each one a direct descendant of the first Hmar believers—told the story of their ancestors' transi-

tion from fierce headhunters to a people group that is now 98 percent Christian. The performance incorporates traditional Hmar dances and songs, as well as several well-known Christian children's standards, sung in both English and the Hmar's native language.

The children also expressed their appreciation to Americans with "Thank You America," a reworking of the patriotic song, "America the Beautiful." According to India Children's Choir tour manager Michael Esh, the song epitomizes the tour's purpose.

"The concert is to say, 'Thank you,' for the support of America," he noted.

Esh, who works for the organization Bibles for the World which has sponsored the choir for many years, said that the tour is also intended to raise awareness of the Hmar tribe, as

□ See Children's choir sinos ... Page 3

Georgia pastor Hunt elected SBC president on first ballot

Ky. pastor Henard easily captures first vice president post

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

Indianapolis—Atlanta-area megachurch pastor Johnny Hunt topped a six-candidate field to win the Southern Baptist Convention presidency at last week's annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., received 3,100 votes (52.94 percent) taking the SBC's top post on the first ballot.

The presidential election featured the convention's most crowded ballot in almost 30 years. When the SBC's so-called moderate and conservative factions squared off for control of the convention in the 1980s, they each put up one candidate to carry the standard for their respective causes. This year harked back to a previous era.

Hunt, a longtime SBC insider, surprised convention observers by taking the presidency in one ballot. Other candidates and their vote totals and percentages were:

- Frank Cox, pastor of North Metro First Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., 1,286; 21.96.

- Avery Willis, retired vice president of the SBC International Mission Board, 962; 16.43.

- Bill Wagner, a former missionary and president of Olivet International University in San Francisco,

255; 4.35.

- Les Puryear, pastor of Lewisville (N.C.) Baptist Church, 188; 3.21.

- Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., 45; 0.77.

Hunt "is a man with a heart for the nations," stressed Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., who nominated him.

Hunt also has "a heart for the next generation," Traylor said, noting about 7,000 young ministers have gathered for Hunt's Timothy-Barnabas mentoring conferences. Young pastors say of Hunt, "This is our hero," Traylor added, claiming Hunt's election would "send an instant message to that young generation that they have a place at the

SBC table."

Kentucky pastor Bill Henard won the SBC's first vice presidency in a landslide. He defeated two challengers, receiving 1,748 votes—or 73.23 percent of 2,387 ballots.

Henard is pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and chairman of the board of LifeWay Christian Resources.

He defeated John Connell, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Savannah, Ga., who received 377 votes (15.79 percent) and Crist Camden, pastor of Oconee Heights Baptist Church in Athens, Ga., who garnered 224 votes (9.38 percent).

The initial vote for the SBC's second vice president resulted in a tie.

John Newland, pastor of Fall Creek Baptist Church in Indianapolis, and Doug Mulkey, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Canton, Ga., both received 769 votes, or 30.24 percent each. A dead tie is unprecedented in SBC history, outgoing convention President Frank Page acknowledged.

The first ballot for second vice president eliminated two other nominees. Brian Fossett, an evangelist from Dalton, Ga., received 582 votes (28.89 percent), and Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention, garnered 381 votes (14.98 percent).

In the runoff, Newland received 470 votes (58.24 percent), defeating Mulkey, who garnered 332 votes (41.3 percent).

Hunt: 'Radical change' needed to stop decline

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Indianapolis—Newly elected Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt said "radical change" is needed to stop the decline in membership of the 16 million-member denomination.

During a press conference following his election on first ballot over five other candidates, Hunt said the change is needed to stop the tide of decline.

"We've been declining as a denomination, and you can't turn something around until you stop the tide and direction it is going," he explained.

Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., said he hopes to have the opportunity to speak throughout the denomination and share "what has made our denomination great." He added that he also wanted to "inspire the younger generation of pastors" to "buy in" to that vision and to "step up to the plate to support it."

In response to a question as to how he can unite the convention, Hunt replied that he wants to hold high "the flags of what really represent Southern Baptists."

Those flags include "being a

people of the Book," missions and church planting.

He encouraged Southern Baptists not to dwell on what has divided the convention in the past. "If we keep our hearts on what has united us it will lead us to our best days in the Southern Baptist Convention," he predicted.

But Southern Baptists must be realistic, Hunt continued, noting that last year the convention baptized fewer people with a membership of 16 million than the convention did in 1950 with 6 million members. "What's wrong with this picture? We have a larger army (today). We ought to be taking more territory."

When asked why the convention is showing a decline, Hunt said pastors must step to the plate and take responsibility. "We can't blame God. We can't blame our denominational leaders. What we (pastors) find important, our people find important," he observed.

Hunt also stressed the need to reach out to the younger generation. "They are not our problem. They are our future," he declared.

Noting he has been connecting with younger pastors over the past 15 years through personal contacts

and a ministry to reach younger pastors sponsored by his church, Hunt said: "I connect with the younger generation. I think we will see a number of them come back to the convention."

"I am going to make myself available (to the younger generation) and I am going to hear their hearts," he pledged.

Part of what is needed to reach the younger generation is to stop talking about giving through the Cooperative Program, but instead showing them what is accomplished because Southern Baptists give through cooperative giving, he said.

"We try to get the offering before we get the story," Hunt noted. "We need to show what is happening overseas, who is being helped and show who is being cared for."

In his closing remarks, Hunt acknowledged that everyone does not have to agree with him theologically. Hunt said he hopes to show there is room "under the Southern Baptist umbrella" to those with the passion to take the gospel "down the street and around the world."

With additional reporting by Jennifer Davis
Rash of The Alabama Baptist

SBC OFFICERS

Convention officers for 2008-2009 are (from left) Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., president; Bill Henard, senior pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, first vice president; John Newland, senior pastor of Fall Creek Baptist Church in Indianapolis, second vice president; John Yeats, director of communications for Louisiana Baptist Convention, recording secretary; and Jim Wells, director of missions for Tri-County Baptist Association in Nixa, Mo., registration secretary. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)



Executive Committee says no to idea of sex offender database

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Indianapolis—Recognizing Southern Baptists' "belief in the autonomy of each local church," Morris Chapman announced that the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee would not support the creation of a database of sexual offenders in SBC churches.

"Southern Baptists believe that the local church in New Testament times was autonomous, and thus our local churches are autonomous," the president of the SBC Executive Committee said in his address to messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis.

The matter of a sex offender database was referred to the committee at last year's meeting in San Antonio. Oklahoma pastor and former International Mission Board trustee Wade Bursleson requested a feasibility study for such a registry "in order to assist in preventing any fur-

ther sexual abuse or harassment" in Southern Baptist churches, as stated in the motion.

However, in its report to messengers, the Executive Committee noted, "it would be impossible to assure that all convicted sexual predators who ever had a connection with a Baptist church would be discoverable for inclusion on such a list." The report also stated that a Baptist-only database would likely omit sexual offenders coming to SBC churches from other denominations.

The committee recommended SBC churches access the U.S. Department of Justice's national sex offender database, calling it the best resource for protecting congregations against employing known sex offenders.

By and large, the Executive Committee stood on the position that the autonomy of the local church superseded any jurisdictional authority the convention may have to cre-

ate a sex offender database, explaining that there are numerous SBC entities and resources already in place to assist churches.

"The convention's role is to encourage, empower and educate local churches as to how to best do their local work to protect our precious children," Chapman said.

The committee's action comes nearly a month after a Prestonwood Baptist Church minister was arrested and forced to resign over his alleged involvement in an online underage sex sting. Chapman referred to the incident and applauded Pastor Jack Graham's swift action.

Likewise responding to critics who suggest that the Executive Committee's action on the sex offender database is insufficient, Chapman cited SBC resolutions passed in 2002 and 2007 supporting thorough punishment of sexual predators.

"Never let it be said ... that we are anemic in the fight against sexual

abuse," Chapman noted.

Messengers also approved a spate of recommendations from the Executive Committee. They include:

- A 2008-2009 SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$205,716,834.

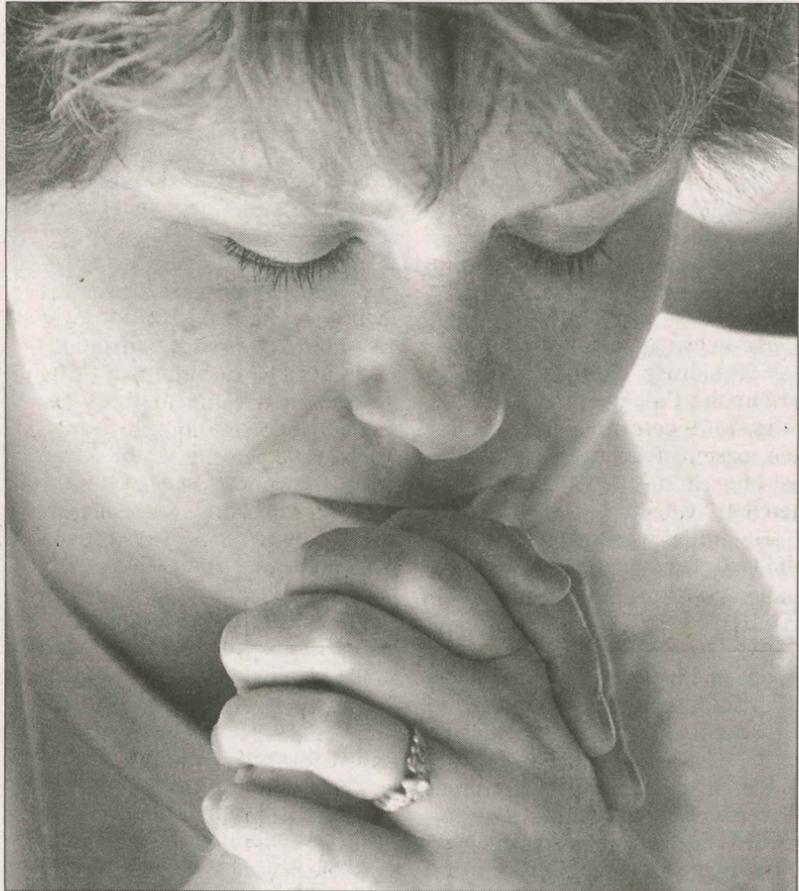
- Encouragement for "all SBC entities, churches and new church plants to intentionally involve people with disabilities in ministries, create appropriate new ministries in which they can participate, and remove as many impediments as possible to fully engage people with disabilities."

- The 2008-2009 SBC operating budget of \$9,470,373, which finances the work of the Executive Committee.

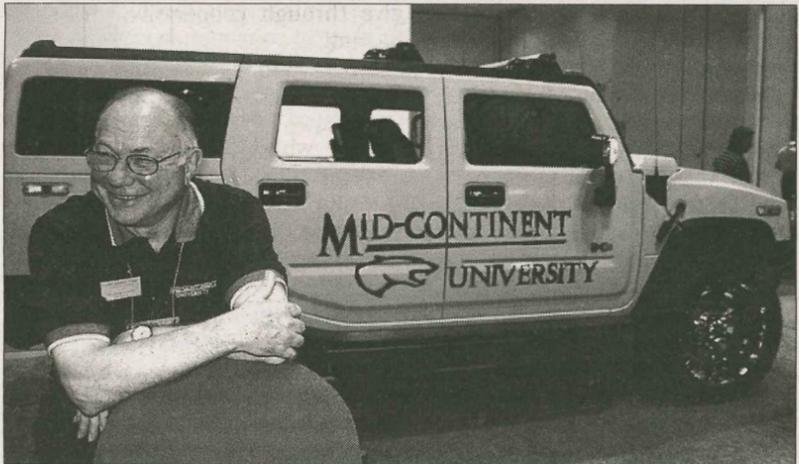
- Locations for future SBC annual meetings, including Nashville, 2013; Baltimore, 2014; and Nashville, 2019.

With additional reporting by Marv Knox of the Texas Baptist Standard

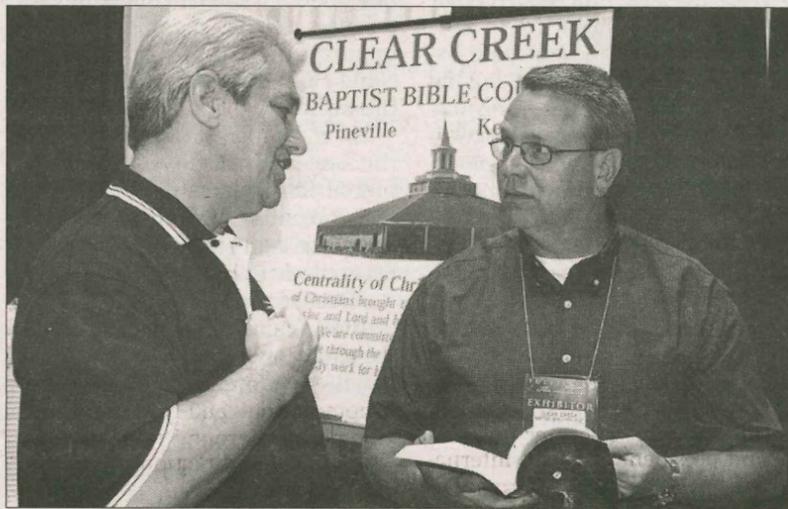
Kentuckians at the SBC



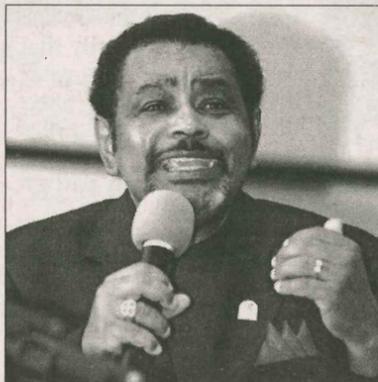
Above: Leah Tipton, whose husband, Terry, is pastor of Spring Bayou Baptist Church in Kevil, bows in prayer as Gary Chapman, author of "The Five Love Languages," leads a prayer at the 2008 Ministers' Wives' Luncheon June 10. (SBC photo by Jonathan Blair) **Below:** Larry Orange, director of the Regional Bivocational Center at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, mans the school's display at the SBC exhibit hall. The Mid-Continent Hummer was a big hit with visitors. Kentucky had the largest representation at this year's meeting with 722 messengers. (Photo by Drew Nichter)



PRAYERFUL MOMENT
Jonathan Cain, a volunteer page from Crittenden Baptist Church prays during the "One" youth evangelistic event prior to last week's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. (SBC photo by Jonathan Blair)



Above: Donnie Fox (right), president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, discusses a new book with John Burkett of Leadership Ministries Worldwide at Clear Creek's booth in the exhibit hall. Campbellsville University also had a booth set up in the SBC exhibit area. (Photo by Drew Nichter) **Left:** T. Vaughn Walker, senior pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville, preaches at the National African American Fellowship worship service. The service kicked off the two-day meeting of NAAF that preceded the annual meeting. (BP photo by Matt Miller)



Children's choir sings of tribe's transformation

Continued from page 1

well as sponsorship for children in the choir and those back in India.

He said that the average family salary in India is around \$600, most of which is spent on food. "There is no money left for education," Esh pointed out.

To combat that problem, Bibles for the World—founded by Hmar tribesman Rochunga Pudaite in 1972—established a monthly sponsorship program that funds the education of a Hmar child at a Christian school in Manipur. Esh noted that the current tour, which began in late January and will conclude in October, has brought in about 1,000 new sponsors.

This year, 22 Hmar children were chosen for the choir out of nearly 1,000 who auditioned, according to Esh. On a given week, the choir will put on as many as six performances with plenty of time spent travelling from town to town on a bus that, as Esh pointed out, is currently with-

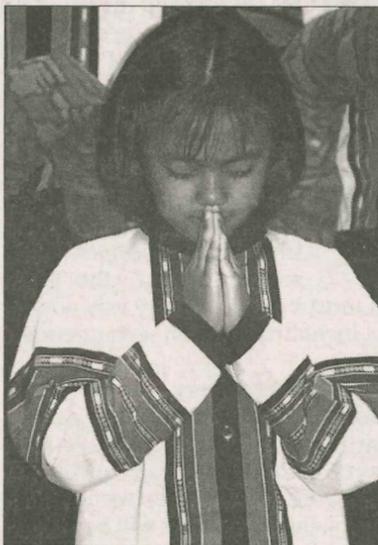
out air conditioning.

After each tour stop, the children spend the night with a host family. They return to the church the next morning where they have school until it is time to hit the road again.

DeHaven Pastor Tommy Purvis recalled seeing the India Children's Choir at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore where he was a doctoral student in the early 1990s. He said he was impressed with their story of transformation and wanted them to share it with his church.

"It is a great story of reaching indigenous people," Purvis noted, adding that the choir's performance gives the congregation an opportunity to experience music, missions and to have a cross-cultural encounter.

Purvis, who described DeHaven as a "new church in an old facility," explained that having the India Children's Choir perform is part of laying the church's Acts 1:8 "ground-work."



CHILD'S PLEA An India Children's Choir member prays for God's safety during the performance of the song "Jungle Prayer," which details the prayers of a child who must get through the jungle past bears, tigers and snakes to get to school. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Giving to Cooperative Program still behind budget through May

Louisville—With three months left in the fiscal year, Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program giving totals remain behind budget by 1.7 percent.

According to Lowell Ashby, business services team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, receipts collected in May fell more than \$227,000 short of the \$2,024,700 needed last month to eliminate the deficit.

Ashby said May CP receipts tallied \$1,797,159. So far this fiscal year, churches have given a total of \$17,698,361 through CP, which leaves total receipts \$301,639 (1.7 percent) behind budget.

"In view of current economic conditions, it is encouraging that we continue receiving strong financial support from our KBC churches," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "I remain hopeful that we can reach our budget goal for this fiscal year."

Ashby noted that \$6,301,639 is needed throughout the remainder of the 2007-2008 fiscal year in order to meet budgeted projections.

While giving is behind budget for the current fiscal year, the \$17,698,361 received year-to-date is \$335,180 (1.9 percent) more than the \$17,363,181 received over the same period in the 2006-2007 fiscal year, Ashby pointed out.

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

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'It's just a walk across the street'

By Tony Kummer

Madison, Ind. (BP)—“Hey Daddy, I have another idea and it's one we can do before school is out.”

It was Wednesday night. My son and I were driving home from church. He is a typical 7-year-old, full of big ideas and the energy to make them happen. We had just been talking about building a new dog house this summer.

“OK David, what's your plan?”
“What if we go and talk to some of our neighbors about Jesus? I could read something from the Bible and you could tell them what it means.”

I paused, not sure what to say. In that moment, I could think of a dozen excuses. Like too many Christians, we do not really know our neighbors. From what we do know, we are not excited about learning more. In fact, the family he wanted to visit is known for their colorful language. What if they slam the door? What will that do to his faith?

I might have believed these excuses if God had not been giving me the same burden. Over the previous week, I had felt a growing conviction to witness to families on our block. How could I claim to love my neighbors if I had never spoken to them?

“OK son, we'll try to go.”
“But when?”
“Maybe tomorrow, after you get home from school.”

“Daddy this is great. It's just a walk across the street and it's kind

of like we're being missionaries.”

So we made our plans, deciding in advance what we would say.

He chose John 3:16-17, then packed his Bible in a book bag. He even made some notes to help me explain. That night, we said a special prayer for our neighbors.

Jesus once told His disciples to become like little children (Matthew 18:1-4). Their humble faith is an example for us all. Kids have not built all the grown-up walls to trusting God. Their world is a simple place. They know they are safe because God made them and takes care of them. When children hear that God loves the world, they believe it. When my son read about the Good News, he wanted to share it.

To my shame, I wanted him to forget about his project. Deep down inside, I did not want the hassle. My heart had become hard toward my neighbors. I wanted to mind my own business when I should have been minding the Lord's business. How could I not care when God so loved the world?

By morning, David was calling this our mission. It was something special for father and son to share. Over breakfast and on the way to school, he kept plotting. After school his excitement had only grown.

“Dad, are we still going?”
It was time. As we walked across the street, my grown-up walls began to fall. After all, this was God's idea

FIRST PERSON

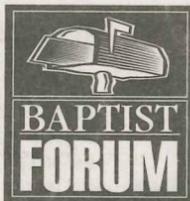
Traditional music

There are two spiritual and cultural situations that I find disturbing. The first is the loss of traditionally sung hymns in church. The second is our youth not learning patriotic songs in school as was once done.

Many traditional hymns are biblically based, taking years to write. Our patriotic songs bring the pride of America to us. Numer-

ous hymns are words of the Lord. Our patriotic songs are frequently a way to recognize the Lord's blessing of America and those who have sacrificed for it. Then there are the hymns that were inspired by tragedy or joy. Our patriotic songs are numerous, whereas few—if any—other countries have as many patriotic songs as America.

Traditional hymns and patriotic songs both reach into my heart,



Evangelism initiative

It was gratifying for me to hear the introduction of a new national evangelism initiative by the North American Mission Board during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis last week.

“Every believer sharing, every person hearing” summarizes well the focus. God has a plan for every person to hear the gospel through every believer sharing.

In North America, we can reach our neighbors and the nations. In fact, the nations have become our neighbors. We have the opportunity to share Christ through our lifestyle contacts and to encourage them to become part of an existing church or new church plant.

God's plan for sharing includes four biblical initiatives:

Praying. Every church praying for lost people (1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4). It would be incredible to see what would happen if church members were continually discovering lost people for whom to pray.

Engaging. Every believer sharing

as a trained witness (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20). Christ followers must be willing to take personal responsibility for sharing Christ if they are to fulfill the Great Commission. This includes small groups for sharing and living with passion for lost people out of the overflow of an intimate walk with God.

Sowing. Every lost person receiving a witness (John 4:37). We must sow among the people groups of North America and identify receptive peoples. In a secular culture, the gos-

pel must be shared every way possible, including through servant evangelism.

Harvesting. Every church harvesting and celebrating every salvation response (John 4:34-36). As believers become personally involved in praying, engaging in witnessing and sowing, the results will be a harvest. If people are to come to Jesus Christ, believers must increase the opportunities for people to respond to the gospel. Churches can plan cutting edge harvest events and ministries for those who have heard the gospel.

and it was up to Him to work it out. Following my son's example, I decided to trust and obey.

I knocked—no answer. I could have given up, but those few steps of faith had filled me with courage. I was not ready to return home defeated. God had given us this mission and we were going to see it through.

“Son, let's keep going and try the other neighbors.”

Over the next 20 minutes, we visited two apartments next door to our house.

“Hello, my name is Tony and this is my son David. We live next door and wanted to talk to you about Jesus. Would that be OK?”

My son read his two Bible verses and then I shared about God's loving plan of salvation. It turned out that both ladies we met were church members who were already believers. Now that we have learned their names, we hope to become their friends.

“Hey Daddy, when do you think we can do this again?”

“I think tomorrow will work, we still have a lot of people left to talk to.”

Like most parents, I learn a great deal from my children. Kids are often the best examples of genuine faith. They are eager to believe the Bible and their small feet are ready to follow after Jesus. May God help us all to become a little more like them.

Tony Kummer is associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Madison, Ind.

touching me, as no other music is able. Granted, some of the hymns are being “jazzed up” (where they can hardly be recognized) to make them fit the contemporary Christian music genre. But the result is almost a rewriting of the song. It is sad and a loss to both our spiritual and cultural history that our children and the children beyond them will have lost the awareness, knowledge and history of both types of music.

Don Helton
Pewee Valley

The results could be as follows:

- Millions of people receiving Christ.
- People changed for eternity; families and communities transformed.
- New small groups started.
- Churches revitalized.
- Churches planting churches.

The plan calls for implementation from 2010-2020, but I hope and pray that Kentucky Baptists will not wait until 2010. People without Jesus Christ are lost now.

Sharing Christ with urgency should be our plan. Consider the following steps:

- Initiate praying for lost people in all church activities.
- Train believers to share their testimony and the gospel.
- Create intentional opportunities to share the gospel with lost people in your community, county, state and across North America.
- Provide additional opportunities for lost people to respond through harvest events and ministries.

Like John the Baptist, prepare the way for Jesus to come to the people of your community.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Giving responsibly requires becoming an informed giver

By Don Spencer

There is never a shortage of charitable organizations seeking your financial support. Your church, parachurch organizations, civic organizations and many other ministries are

always asking for your money. Many of these produce advertisements that can touch the heartstring and subsequently your pocketbook. Consequently, there are some things you should keep in mind when giving to these organizations.

■ Know the ministry and the people leading it. Ask questions—lots of questions. Do not give until you are satisfied with the answers. Effective ministries with nothing to hide will encourage your interest. Those with something to hide will avoid your questions and give you stock answers designed to mislead.

■ As you learn about the ministries, one question to be sure to ask is, “What percentage of the money given goes to fund the costs of raising funds for the ministry?” When this percentage gets too high then most of your money is going to fund their fundraising, not for the ministry's needs. I recently received a request from a ministry where 81 percent of the funds raised go for fundraising expenses—that is way too high. (One of the unique things about Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program is that less than 4 percent of the money contributed goes to costs associated with raising those funds.)

■ Once you have answers to your questions, make sure the ministry or the need coincides with your goals and plans for giving. Do not give impulsively—be a responsible giver. Make sure your giving is compatible with your reasons for doing so.

■ Continue to be a more informed giver. Learn about the ministry's programs, objectives and finances. Solid ministries will encourage this. Reassure yourself that your dollars are being used as intended.

■ Remember, it does not matter whether your contribution is big or small. What counts most is that you are doing it for the right reasons.

■ In most cases, do not give cash and never give your credit card number out over the phone.

■ Keep a record of all donations to document and verify. This may also be useful at tax time.

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



Teenagers need to be reminded Christ's approval matters most

Q: Our teenage daughter struggles with constantly seeking the approval of others—especially her friends—when making any decision. How can we help her move beyond this?

To some extent, the peer group does exert significant influence on most teenagers. Growing beyond the excessive need for approval, however, when dealing with friends or even parents is strongly correlated with the teenager's realization of who he or she is in Christ.

PARENTING

Encourage your daughter to begin to pray about this issue and to meditate on Scripture that will help to "renew her mind" (Romans 12:2) and "set her mind on things above" (Colossians 3:2). Remind her that it is God's desire that she realize the truth of Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, and not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Encourage her to post Scripture in her room, on her bathroom mirror and even in her car that will "wash her in the Word" and remind her that only Christ's approval ultimately matters. As Paul wrote in Galatians 1:10, "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Be aware as a parent that you will need to communicate with your daughter that she does not even need your approval all the time. Remind her that even when you are upset with her about something, it is not the end of the world. Parents who deal equitably and forgive freely typically raise children who are secure and confident.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: It's Sunday morning. Do you know where your children are?

Andy and Missey McMillan are faithful members of my church, St. Matthews Baptist in Louisville. They have three beautiful children, Mary Stuart, Knox and Sarah Elizabeth. Andy and Missey are key leaders in our ministry to children. They are also well connected within our community, especially in their neighborhood and at their kid's school. The children are well liked and have lots of friends. Recently, I discovered a new reason to respect their family.

Like many boys and girls, the McMillan children are often invited to spend the night with friends on Saturday nights. They are allowed to do so, but may not miss Sunday school or church because of spending the night away from home. It works like this: If possible, the McMillans turn the invitation around and invite their friends to spend the night with them. They then take their friends to church with them the next morning. If the children do end up spending the night at a friend's house, Andy picks the kids up on Sunday morning. They have to be ready at 7:30 a.m., and there can be no complaining.

How easy would it be to let Sunday school and church attendance slide on these occasions? But the McMillans understand that doing so sends two messages—both of which are negative. To their children, they would be subtly saying that commitment to church automatically falls by the wayside when other opportunities arise. The second message would be sent to the family of the friends—and it, too, would be a message about priorities.

I am thankful for parents who are teaching their children the importance of regular worship and Bible study. As my former pastor was fond of saying, "May your tribe increase."—*David Garrard*

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Observations of 2008 SBC annual meeting

The final gavel has sounded on the 2008 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Personally, several events occurred that I believe are important milestones for Southern Baptists.

First, the election of Johnny Hunt on the first ballot offered a real surprise. With six candidates nominated, I expected that a runoff was certain. Hunt won decisively, garnering nearly 53 percent of the vote. He has promised to call us to evangelism and church growth. He will do a good job in leading us.

Second, the launching of the National Evangelism Initiative will provide some important training, information and opportunities for all churches. I look forward to the unveiling of this plan and seeing how I can implement its strategy into my church.

Third, the convention approved several important resolutions. One called for churches to maintain a regenerate church membership. Others addressed the issues of Planned Parenthood and California's approval of same-sex marriages. These resolutions will keep us focused on being salt and light in the world. I appreciated the godly manner in which the messengers conducted themselves.

The convention itself experienced low attendance. This continues a trend that started several years ago. No doubt, some negative prognosticators will determine that this decline signals our demise. They also will point out the lack of younger people at the convention. My response is simple: Young pastors have never attended the convention in droves. My first two churches after seminary provided limited convention expense (my first church provided none the first couple of years until I asked for it). Let's admit it: Attending the convention is not cheap. I can remember staying in a Motel 6 with three other guys to save money. But in those days disagreements abounded and every vote mattered.

If Southern Baptists were once again embroiled

in controversy, the numbers would climb significantly. Pastors now have so many opportunities for training and fellowship. If I had to choose between attending a conference on preaching or the annual meeting, and had limited funds, I would be tempted to attend the preaching conference.

I had several friends who did not attend this year's convention, not because they had lost interest, but because other needs were pressing and no real issues were ready to surface. When I attended my first convention 25 years ago, I thought, "Man, look at all the old geezers." Now I am one of them. It's all relative.

Additionally, I am not sure why some people think that we have to fight in order to declare a good convention. It seems like we are admonished to conduct ourselves biblically and ethically except at business meetings, conventions and on blog sites. Personally, I like attending a peaceful convention. It is nice to meet up with friends and not have to worry about missing a vote. I do not long for the days when elections caused knots in my stomach. I think it is a good sign for Southern Baptists.

One thing I did notice was how friendly the people of Indianapolis were and how open they were to a witness. They knew the Baptists were there and it seemed to please them. It is a credit to the behavior of the messengers who conducted themselves in Christ-like ways.

Finally, we still need to get on board with the Great Commission. The International Mission Board report and presentation were moving as always. We were reminded how, within 30 minutes of the presentation, more than 5,000 babies would be born around the world. We need to tell them about Jesus. I plan to. May I encourage you to do the same.

I am proud to serve you. If you need something, I will "go-fer" it.

Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and newly elected SBC first vice president

GUEST EDITORIAL



Bill Henard

The moral influence of a market economy

By David Gushee

Atlanta (ABP)—I was at the Mall of Georgia the other day walking by a brand new car that for some reason was being displayed in the open air, just off the food court. It had one of those information sheets in the window telling the onlooker about its gas mileage and average annual fuel costs.

I have to admit that I don't remember the make or model of the car. But I do remember that it promised 15 whole miles per gallon in the city and 23 on the highway. What I was most struck by was that it calculated average annual fuel costs with gas priced at \$2.80 a gallon. And this was a new car. Was it so recently that gas actually cost \$2.80 a gallon? Oh, the good old days.

For those who wondered just what it would take for Americans to change their conspicuous consumption of gasoline, the answer seems to be a price of \$4 per gallon. From the four corners of society, the news is in—\$4 per gallon demands a lifestyle transformation for all but the richest Americans.

News stories abound with the details: More and more people are unable to fill their tanks when they go to the gas station. Trying to scrape by until the next paycheck, many are running out of gas, their old cars and trucks abandoned by the side of the road. For the first time since the 1970s, gasoline is regularly being siphoned out of cars by thieves. (Remember gas cap locks? They're back.) The poorest are spending as much as

15 percent of their take-home pay on gasoline and are facing choices of gas vs. meat and gas vs. health care.

General Motors is looking to sell off its Hummer unit. No one wants Hummers, that ultimate symbol of conspicuous consumption. SUV sales are plummeting. On the other hand, dealers cannot keep the hybrid Prius in stock. There is a two-month wait to buy a Prius in many locations. GM is rushing to bring the Volt, an electric-powered car, to market by 2010. The use of mass transit is up considerably.

Long-term trends in housing will be affected. In Atlanta, for example, where "the good life" has long been understood to mean a move to the northern suburbs accompanied by a grinding 20-mile commute one way, the combination of gas costs and traffic nightmares demands reconsideration. Some predict the partial or wholesale abandonment of certain exurban neighborhoods, with their long commutes and McMansions, too expensive to maintain. Combined with the problems in the housing market and the rise in foreclosures, in some areas this suburban/exurban collapse is already happening.

What are we to make of all this? Should we be looking for politicians who will promise an end to the pain? What does this mean for stewardship and the life of the church?

One disappointing lesson is that the market often affects behavior a whole lot better than moral suasion. For decades, a number of church

leaders and environmental activists have been calling Christians and other Americans to a simpler lifestyle. But with gas at \$2 a gallon, few cared. People adjusted their "inner attitudes" while driving their Hummers to church. Now smaller cars, less driving, working from home and mass transit look a whole lot more compelling.

The government does have a role to play. It would have been rational government policy to require higher fuel efficiency standards even when gas was \$2. And there are things that government can do now to both ease the burden on the most desperately affected and aid the transition to a radical transformation in our national energy use. But still, nothing focuses the mind like paying \$75 to fill up your car with gas. Some are suggesting that the best thing government can do to change American habits is to ensure that gas never goes below \$4 a gallon again.

Churches and families will get those energy audits, build greener buildings, buy more fuel-efficient vehicles and stay closer to home. The pleasures of a quiet evening around the dinner table or the fellowship hall will be rediscovered. People will turn off lights and stop cooling their buildings to the freezing point in the summer.

It would have been nice if a hundred earnest books and a thousand sermons had triggered these behavioral changes. Necessity seems to work better. I guess human beings really are sinners.

David Gushee is distinguished university professor of Christian ethics at Mercer University in Atlanta

Kentuckians named to SBC Committee on Nominations

Indianapolis—Micah Carter, pastor of Mackville Baptist Church, and Michael Lavender, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, were among individuals elected last week to the 2008-2009 SBC Committee on Nominations.

The 70-member committee is responsible for recommending trustees next year to serve on the boards of Southern Baptist Convention entities.

Kentucky Baptists who served on this year's SBC Committee on Committees that nominated Carter and Lavender were Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, and Ronnie Mayes, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland.

In other business, messengers elected John Marshall, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., to preach next year's convention sermon.

The 2009 SBC annual meeting will be held June 23-24 in Louisville.

Resolution could shrink membership rolls

By Norman Jameson
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Indianapolis—Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention turned back efforts to encourage Christians to remove their children from public schools and asked Congress to defund Planned Parenthood in resolutions passed June 11.

Also among resolutions Southern Baptists passed at the annual meeting in Indianapolis was one that could shrink church membership rolls significantly.

A resolution calling on churches to "lovingly correct wayward members" to secure regenerate church membership was toughened with two amendments that encourage tighter definitions of "member" and was one of nine messengers approved.

Resolutions are simply statements that reflect the sentiment of messengers gathered at a particular annual meeting and have no weight of law for Southern Baptists. As Resolution Committee Chair Darrell Orman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Stuart, Fla., said however, when introducing the resolutions, these statements "speak to the nation."

Other resolutions included:

- Celebrating growing ethnic diversity within the SBC.

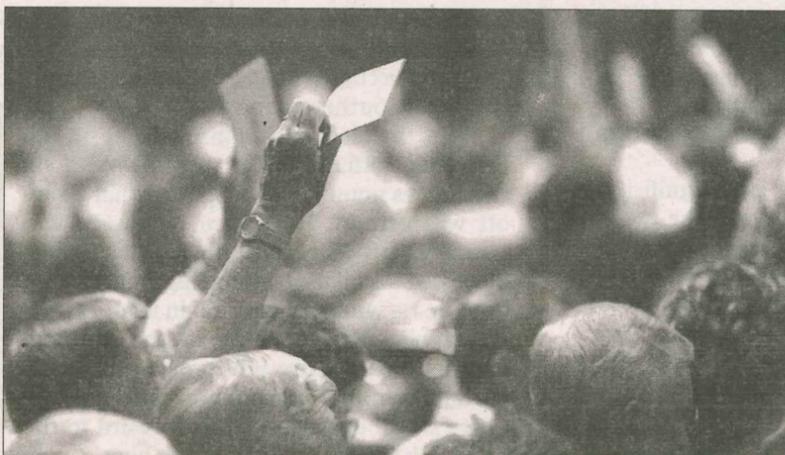
- Encouraging Christians to participate in the secular political process, but warning against "potential problems of politicizing the church and the pulpit."

- Affirming use of the term "Christmas" in public life.

- Offering "wholehearted support" for a petition in California requiring the state to place a referendum on the ballot in November defining marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman.

- Recognizing the centennial anniversary of the boys mission education group Royal Ambassadors.

- The resolution on regenerate church membership drew two amendments that encouraged churches to tighten membership definitions. The original resolution called for "churches to maintain a regenerate membership by acknowledging the necessity of spiritual regeneration of Christ's lordship for



BEING COUNTED Messengers raise their ballots to vote on one of the several issues presented during last week's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. (SBC photo by Jim Yates)

all members" and urged churches to "maintain accurate membership rolls for the purpose of fostering ministry and accountability."

It also urged churches to "restore wayward members."

Amendments adopted

After much discussion, messengers adopted two amendments. The first, offered by Malcolm Yarnell, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, added to the definition of New Testament church. The original included the definition "composed only of those who have been born again by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word, becoming disciples of Jesus Christ, the local church's only Lord, by grace through faith." The amendment added as further definition: "Which church practices believers only baptism by immersion, (Matthew 28:16-20) (and) the Lords' Supper (Matthew 26:26-30)."

Messengers adopted an amendment by Tom Ascol, prominent in the Calvinist Founder's Movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, urging "the churches of the SBC to repent of any failure among us to live up to our professed commitment to regenerate church membership and any failure to obey Jesus Christ in lovingly correcting wayward church members."

The amendment encouraged "denominational servants to support

and encourage any church's efforts to recover and implement this discipline of our Lord Jesus Christ ... even if such efforts result in a reduction in the number of members that are recorded in those churches."

Some messengers tried vigorously to amend the resolution against same-sex marriage to include admonition to withdraw children from public schools. Ron Wilson from Thousand Oaks, Calif., said if the convention was going to pass a resolution opposing same-sex marriage, they ought to encourage families to remove their children from public schools "which are the main training grounds for the teaching of same-sex marriage."

The committee did not "want to dilute the emphasis of this resolution by bringing in the corollary issue of the education system," Orman explained.

The resolution on ethnic diversity encouraged nominating committees to "identify ethnic leadership" for service and encouraged them to "strive toward a balanced representation of our ethnic diversity."

The Resolutions Committee declined to present statements on several submissions—the importance of doctrine for true unity; to encourage and appreciate women serving in SBC churches; Cooperative Program education; opportunities for women in ministry; affirming the Baptist Faith & Message 2000; and support of Baptist schools.

Former BWA president Kim honored as statesman

Indianapolis (BP)—Korean Baptist leader Billy Kim, former president of the Baptist World Alliance, received the Distinguished Baptist Statesman Award from the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee for his lifelong service in global evangelism and leadership among Baptists.

The award was presented by Executive Committee President Morris Chapman during last week's annual meeting. It was accompanied by a resolution of appreciation noting Kim's preaching and broadcasting accomplishments.

In presenting the award, Chapman said the award represented Kim's "global leadership among Baptists and ... witness to corporate executives, presidents of nations and the common man on the street."

Kim thanked Southern Baptists for their global witness and their willingness to assist persecuted Baptists around the world.

"On behalf of all the Baptists in Korea, I want to say thank you for your help," he said. "I want to say thank you for all the Baptists around the world who are struggling to survive in some of the most difficult countries in the world. Because of the Southern Baptist Convention, because of your love and because of your concern, many of them survived and are growing in their numbers."

Kim, who served as BWA president from 2000 to 2005, led the organization when the SBC withdrew from it in 2004. Kim tried to persuade SBC leaders to remain in the Baptist World Alliance but always listened to their concerns and un-

derstood the obstacles they faced, Chapman noted.

Kim was commended for his 50-year ministry, which included service as pastor of the 12,000-plus-member Central Baptist Church in Suwon, South Korea, president of the Far East Broadcasting Company and speaker at evangelistic meetings worldwide, as well as interpreting for Billy Graham during a 1973 evangelistic campaign in Korea. Kim's radio ministry has brought the gospel to closed countries such as China, North Korea, Russia and Japan.

A native of Korea, Kim came to the United States through a relationship he formed with an American soldier during the Korean Conflict. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., and numerous honorary doctorates from schools worldwide.

Welch says global initiative will fulfill Great Commission

Indianapolis (BP)—Evangelicals around the world are welcoming the new Southern Baptist initiative to build relationships with "likeminded brothers and sisters in Christ," Bobby Welch told messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Welch, who was named global evangelical relations strategist for the SBC's Executive Committee in 2007, said he has been moved by the warm reception he has received during travels that have taken him to six continents.

"During this time—it's going to be hard to believe—I have had over 1,000 meetings with people all around the world on this subject of our broadening our commitment to global evangelical relationships," he recalled. "I am more than thrilled to say to you today that, all around the world, (there is) appreciation and thanksgiving for your initiative as Southern Baptists to expand our relationships."

Welch said he had just returned from an "encouragement conference" in Germany in which several Southern Baptist leaders met with evangelical leaders and attended a pastors' conference.

"That is a pattern that will be followed in the days, months and years ahead," he noted. "Southern Baptists are well pleased to be at tables like that around the world, where likeminded brothers and sisters come together for the glory of God, and we are there as agents of global relations and connectivity."

The strategist position Welch holds was created after messengers to the SBC's 2004 annual meeting voted to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance. Funding formerly designated for the BWA was reassigned for the new international initiative and remains within the Southern Baptist Convention operating budget. At the time, critics charged that the withdrawal revealed a spirit of isolationism in the convention.

"We have said it over and over as a convention, that in no way, no form, no fashion is the Southern Baptist Convention entertaining any idea of being isolationist," Welch maintained.

The most important reason for launching the global initiative, Welch acknowledged, is that conditions are optimal around the world for completing Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples of all the world's peoples.

Completing the Great Commission, however, is too large a task for any one group, he noted, and that is why it is so important to connect committed believers so they can work together.



Billy Kim

Messengers refer motion to rejoin Baptist World Alliance

SBC to also consider removing churches with female pastors

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

Indianapolis—The Southern Baptist Convention will consider rejoining the Baptist World Alliance, removing churches that hire women pastors and restricting agency heads from serving as SBC president.

Messengers presented those and 20 other motions during last week's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. Motions request the convention to take action and they typically are referred to various SBC agencies for consideration and report to the following year's annual meeting.

In Indianapolis, messengers referred 10 motions to the Executive Committee, ruled six motions out of order, sent five to various agencies or committees and saw one withdrawn and affirmed.

Motions referred to the Executive Committee included proposals to:

- Reconsider the SBC's 2004 decision to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance, composed of more than 200 Baptist conventions and other organizations around the globe.

At the time, BWA critics charged the worldwide body as being "too liberal," echoing a refrain from the schism that split the SBC in the latter decades of the 20th century. More recently, the SBC has sought to build an organization of conservative groups worldwide, apparently attempting to siphon some Baptist unions, particularly in parts of Eastern Europe and Asia, from the BWA.

Larry Walker, a messenger from First Baptist Church of Dallas, proposed the SBC-BWA reconciliation.

In an interview, Walker stressed that numerous small Baptist con-

ventions and unions—many of them located where Baptists and other Christians face daily persecution—need the support and encouragement of the SBC, the world's largest Baptist convention. And, he noted, the SBC would benefit from relationships with faithful Baptists who bravely and humbly persist in the face of overwhelming odds.

- Amend the SBC's constitution to disallow affiliation by "churches which have female senior pastors."

This proposal would modify the SBC constitution, which regulates convention membership. The convention's Baptist Faith & Message doctrinal statement asserts, "the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

Motion to bar agency heads

- Change SBC bylaws to disqualify presidents of SBC agencies and institutions from serving as president of the convention.

In the early part of the 20th century, agency heads frequently led the convention as president. The only living institutional head who simultaneously served as SBC president is Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and one of the architects of the conservative movement that gained control of the SBC in the 1980s and '90s.

Earlier this year, Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, planned to run for president, but an illness and surgery forced him to withdraw.

- Declare Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, to be not "in friendly cooperation" with the SBC. The church has engaged in a public dispute regarding whether or not homosexual couples could be pictured together as families in the church's directory. The congregation ultimately determined to pub-

lish a historical booklet with directory information, but it would not include photographs of families.

Since the church did not send messengers to the Indianapolis meeting, the order-of-business committee determined the convention did not face a credentials issue. But it suggested compliance with the SBC's policy against affiliating with churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior" merits study.

- Change the terms of service for SBC agency trustees. The proposal would eliminate multiple terms of three and four years, limiting each trustee to a single seven-year term.

- Set new eligibility requirements for service on SBC committees, commissions and boards. Nominees would be required to "give evidence of having received Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior," hold membership in a church that supports the SBC's Cooperative Program, be in good standing with a local church, abstain from using alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs, and "support all the principles" in the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message doctrinal statement.

- Change SBC election procedures so that, if no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the two candidates with the most votes would face each other in a second round. Currently, as many as half the candidates could face off on the second ballot.

- Create a "standardized form" on which the SBC's six seminaries would report their enrollment and other data.

- Amend SBC bylaws to direct convention agencies and institutions to "accommodate other events that support the work and mission of Southern Baptists" during the week in which the annual meeting is held each summer.

- Study how to improve coopera-

tion with other denominations and "work with all men of goodwill to improve society and the establishment of righteousness rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Word."

Messengers referred one motion to all 12 SBC agencies and institutions. It asked the SBC organizations to become "more child-friendly and family-oriented" when they plan events in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting.

Other motions

LifeWay Christian Resources, the convention's publishing house, received two motions. Messengers asked the convention to:

- Print the Baptist Faith & Message in the five most dominant languages represented within the convention.

- Provide technology that will allow churches and associations with the capability to videoconference and/or teleconference through their Web sites "in a secure and Christian environment."

The SBC Committee on Order of Business received two motions. They suggested:

- When a candidate is nominated for SBC office, either the candidate be presented on stage or his picture be shown to messengers on video screens.

- After the SBC president calls the annual meeting to order, the American flag would be posted in the meeting hall, accompanied by an honor guard composed of representatives of the five U.S. armed services.

Messengers agreed with the order-of-business committee and outgoing President Frank Page, declaring six motions out of order. Primarily, these motions failed to pass SBC muster because they sought to instruct convention trustees or other groups—an action beyond the messengers' scope of authority.

Kentuckian withdraws motion for love offering

Indianapolis—At last week's SBC annual meeting, Rick Reeder, director of missions of Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, asked the convention to receive a love offering to support disaster relief efforts provided by the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana in the wake of floods that ravaged central Indiana the weekend before the annual meeting. The order-of-business committee countered that collecting such an offering would be difficult logistically. It also suggested the best method for helping flood victims was being implemented through the North American Mission Board's disaster relief program.

Outgoing President Frank Page urged messengers and other Southern Baptists to support the NAMB disaster relief program by contributing online through the NAMB Web site. Reeder then agreed to withdraw his motion.

Native Americans form affinity group to be 'full partners' in SBC

By Norman Jameson
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Indianapolis—Representatives from about 15 of the largest tribes in the nation created the Fellowship of Native American Christians during a meeting preceding last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Native American leaders initiated the fellowship at the 2007 gathering in San Antonio when they decided to create a group to increase networking, fellowship, leadership and ministry opportunities.

They adopted a constitution June 9 and elected Emerson Falls of the Oklahoma Creek Nation as president. He is pastor of Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Other officers include Donnie Coulter, who works with First Nation's people in Canada, vice president; Lumbee Timmy Chavis, pastor of Bear Swamp Baptist Church in Lumberton, N.C., treasurer; Bruce Plummer of the Assiniboine Nation and a missionary and pastor in Montana, secretary; Gary Hawkins of the Oklahoma Creek Nation, assistant treasurer.

The Native American fellowship will meet in conjunction with the

Southern Baptist Convention meeting each year.

Ledtky McIntosh, national missionary with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, encouraged formation of a Native American fellowship to assist in starting a church planting network among Native Americans.

"We see this fellowship as being broader, including information sharing and fellowship," said Mike Cummings, director of missions of Burnt Swamp Association, a Lumbee Indian association centered in Lumberton, N.C., with churches in several states.

"In creating FONAC, we see it as that place where we all come to find out what the issues are, what the needs are. This will facilitate our coming together as native people and finding out about life in the native community in America."

More directly, the organizers grew from the church planting concept to creating a fellowship "to make some noise about our presence in this denomination," Cummings noted. Too often, Indians are "an invisible people."

One of the loudest noisemakers possible came the day after the Na-

tive American fellowship organized when Johnny Hunt, a Lumbee Indian, was elected SBC president.

There are more than 450 Indian churches nationwide, Plummer said. "We want to be Indians reaching Indians."

To date, Plummer indicated, Southern Baptist efforts have been "relatively ineffective" since less than 1 percent of the Native American population has been reached after 75 years of trying. "We can draw strength from one another and reach Indians rather than white missionaries who traditionally have been doing the work," he said.

The number of identifiable tribes in the United States has dropped from 800 to 500, Plummer noted. There are 6.5 million Indians in the country. As many as 50 million Americans contain a recognizable degree of Indian blood, he added.

Instead of being a part of the mission field, Indians want to be "full partners with you in the mission force," said Larry Locklear, pastor of Island Grove Baptist Church in Lumberton, N.C.

Plummer observed that Indians, particularly in the west, see Christianity as "white man's religion."

"There is only one God," Plummer said. "He died for Indians just like anyone else. But they ask me, 'If God really loved us and wanted to save us, why did it take 1,500 years for Him to come and tell us?' Hearing it from an Indian makes a significant difference."

Burnt Swamp Association has been involved in mission projects across the nation for more than 20 years, Locklear noted. "But a lot of our emphasis has been going to the same places doing the same thing over and over. With a network to better connect resources with needs we could do a better job."

North Carolina's Lumbee worked directly with members of the United Houma Nation to help in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, Chavis recalled.

In American, Indian populations are the "poorest of the poor." They have the highest suicide rates, the highest school dropout rates and live in the toughest social conditions, the new officers explained.

Cummings also pointed out the experience of eastern and western Indians can be vastly different.

"On the east coast we don't know reservation life at all," he said.

Gilbert: SBC must evaluate priorities in 'death check'

By Norman Jameson
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Indianapolis—Just as people facing death evaluate their priorities for what remains of life, it is time for the Southern Baptist Convention to do its own "death check" and become better stewards of "the mysteries" with which they are entrusted, said North Carolina pastor Al Gilbert in the 2008 annual sermon at last week's SBC annual meeting.

Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., and a former administrator at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, faced his own death in recent years with a terminal medical diagnosis that turned out to be "life altering, but not life threatening."

"I went to the bottom and found it was solid," Gilbert declared.

"The denominational doctors have told us we're sick," Gilbert told messengers. "Some said we're dying. ... We cannot do business as usual. We must face how we shall live."

Preaching from 1 Corinthians 4, Gilbert said the Apostle Paul presented some standards on how he wanted to be remembered, and a word to Christians about, "How should I live as though I'm a dying man."

The SBC faces a challenge of evaluating denominational priorities, he added, because just as his generation is about to "pass the baton to the next generation, they're telling me they don't want it."

He encouraged pastors especially to consider themselves as servants in the manner of "under rowers" as Paul pictured them, those chained to the oars in the bowels of a ship. "You're not the slave driver, not the slave master, you are the under rower," he said.

He emphasized Baptists' role as stewards of the "mysteries of God," and reminded the audience of those who went before, whether in a church or those who established the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Don't we realize what we've been given?" he asked. "For what we've been given, we'll have to give an account."

To be good stewards, Southern Baptists may well have to reorder their priorities to include significantly more funding for international missions, he said.

Radical reorganization?

He noted that the 1925 action that created the Cooperative Program method for funding missions intended every church to give a percentage of its receipts to missions through CP and every state Baptist convention to forward 50 percent of those gifts for cooperative work in the United States and among the nations.

Agreeing with a term used recently by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Danny Akin, Gilbert suggested a "bloated" SBC structure creates "bureaucratic barriers" rather than enabling ministry.

"If we were to do a death check, could it be that we would say we must radically reorganize this convention if we are going to win the world for Christ?" he asked.

The most recent reports show Southern Baptists gave \$10.4 billion to their churches, he noted. Those churches claimed to have dedicated \$1.3 billion, or 12 percent, to missions. That included just five percent to support the global mission outreach of their denomination.

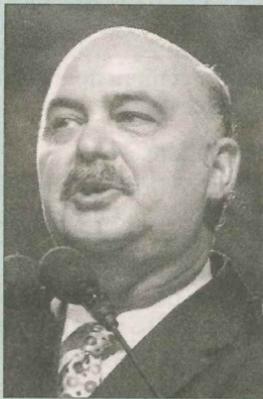
He said it would be "absurd" for him to try to tell a pastor how he is to lead his church to give. Instead, he suggested, "We need to be more efficient and effective so churches would want to give more to the Cooperative Program."

With current standards of giving, Baptists struggle to pay professors and missionaries. "Come on Southern Baptists," he said. "Go back to your state conventions and recognize your stewardship."

He said if Baptists do not make God known among the ethos, the nations, the peoples, "We have no relevance."

The message of Christ "is not just for America," he acknowledged. "We have a global messiah. He deserves to be preached to all the peoples of the world."

To make that world vision possible, Gilbert said, Baptists must move beyond a conservative resurgence to a Great Commission resurgence. To fund that, he insisted, "We must find a better way to fulfill our stewardship."



Al Gilbert

Recognize warning signs, Page urges SBC

By Todd Deaton
South Carolina Baptist Courier

Indianapolis—"Recognize the signs," outgoing Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page challenged messengers during his address to the SBC annual meeting last week in Indianapolis.

Recounting how the natives of the island of Simuelue escaped one of the deadliest and most devastating disasters in history, Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., attributed their vigilant responsiveness to recognizing the tell-tale signs.

Despite having only minutes to prepare for the tsunami on Dec. 26, 2004, which swept away hundreds of thousands of people in the Asian Pacific area, only seven of 78,000 inhabitants of the island died, he noted.

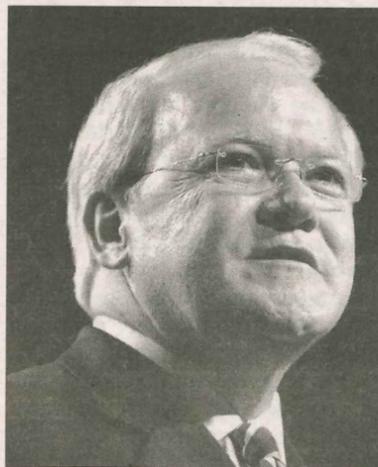
Sensing "something of unusual magnitude" was happening, village elders hurriedly conferred, wondering if what had occurred a century earlier, when the entire island was nearly destroyed, could be happening again, Page recalled. "Erring on the side of caution, they called for residents along the coast to head for high ground."

As a result, the death toll was not nearly as severe as elsewhere. The villagers recognized the danger signs and spread the alarm, saving countless lives that day, while thousands in places much further away from the central point of the quake perished, Page said.

"Will we, as Southern Baptists, recognize the signs of what is happening among us?" he asked. "Will we assiduously impart to those after us the signs that God has set forth for blessing, and the signs that God has set forth for judgment?"

Basing his message on the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, Page observed, "Something occurred in transforming her that needs to occur in transforming us."

Like her, God wants Southern



FINAL ADDRESS Outgoing SBC President Frank Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., delivers the president's address at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

Baptists to "see ourselves as we really are," he asserted.

When confronted by Christ, Page said this woman realized, "He was cognizant of her strengths and weakness. He could see the good and the bad. He knew it all."

When confronted by Christ, he continued, "We are compelled to deal with who we are and to let go of all the false facades that sometimes we place before Him—all the pretenses, all the excuses, all of the outward appearances."

Decrying a tendency to evade real issues and rely on a "substitute righteousness," Page said, "That's the call of cultural Christianity: Keep things on the surface; keep things shallow. Do not deal with reality. Do not deal with what is really going on in your family, in your church, in your life."

Southern Baptists have a tendency to rely on similar avoidance mechanisms, blaming others for what is wrong in the convention or to fault the conservative shift with failing to bring forth a change in the baptis-

mal rate, Page noted. But "the truth is, individuals and churches are the ones who are in decline," he acknowledged.

"We have been ignoring God's call to repentance and failing to be relevant to a culture that sees us as representatives of death, not as representatives of life, Page charged. "Blame the denomination if you wish, but the problem is me. I have not been winning people to Christ as much as I ought."

"If anything comes out of this convention, would you join with me in saying, 'The problem is not somebody else; the problem is me.'"

Christ not only has the ability to see into the depths of the human heart, but also has the ability to transform lives, Page declared. "He is able to see past the hurt, the sin and the failure and to see the person that we can become," he explained.

God's desire is for Southern Baptists to prosper in the Lord's work, Page affirmed.

"I believe that He can see past the hurt and the pain, and He can see a body of believers unified, despite our differences, to see the cause of world evangelization and missions occur in this generation," Page said.

"I believe God looks past the hurt and the pain, and He sees a body of believers who can support the Cooperative Program and win lost for Christ at the same time. They are not mutually exclusive."

Noting that the first instinct of the woman at the well was to share the good news, Page said, "This woman, who had been the talk of the town, now encouraged the town to talk about Jesus. This woman, who had been a source of spiritual failure, now became a source of spiritual good news."

Calling Southern Baptists to join him in being part of a "Great Commission resurgence," Page urged them to "fall in love with Christ all over again."



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GOD'S DIRECTION Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President Geoff Hammond introduced the National Evangelism Initiative—God's Plan for Sharing (GPS)—at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. (BP photo by John Swain)

NAMB to use 'GPS' to help North America find Christ

By Grace Thornton & Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

Indianapolis—Southern Baptist North American Mission Board leaders announced to Southern Baptist Convention messengers their 2020 vision: A complete gospel sweep of North America during the next 12 years.

"Our goal is to have every believer sharing and have every person hearing by the year 2020," NAMB President Geoff Hammond declared.

To that end, Hammond unveiled a new nationwide evangelism initiative during NAMB's report at last week's SBC annual meeting aimed at helping Christians get the gospel to their neighbors.

The GPS—God's Plan for Sharing—initiative will work in rural or urban areas to reach North America for Christ, he explained.

"God positions us every day with opportunities to share the gospel with people who need to hear," Hammond said, noting that God "also helps us get to our destination," which is seeing the lost come into a relationship with Christ.

GPS has four "mileposts" for churches—praying, engaging, sowing and harvesting.

The prayer component of the initiative calls upon Southern Baptists to commit to pray for people who do not have a personal relationship with Christ and includes strategies such as community prayer walking and discovering new lost people for whom to pray.

The initiative will lead Christians to engage in witness training and begin new efforts to reach out to those who do not know Christ. It also will emphasize "sowing" by encouraging Southern Baptists to intentionally share the plan of salvation with the people around them.

"We must sow down North America with the gospel in order to reap a harvest," he explained. "We want believers networking ... and every church celebrating every salvation response."

To help with this, NAMB is releasing radio, television and print ads for churches to use in their communities to show them that Southern Baptists "don't just talk about sharing hope—we reach out our hands to those in need."

The ads, which feature compas-

sionate responses to AIDS and disaster victims and the hungry, are available in four languages.

Noting an increased ethnic diversity on the continent, "North America is truly a missions field," Hammond said. "In order to reach North America, we need to understand who lives in our missions field."

To do that, NAMB maintains a people-group focus, and officials are researching who North Americans are, where they live and what is their worldview.

Missionaries then go to them to jumpstart the spread of the gospel—missionaries like Drew and Pam Crabtree, who are oil-field missionaries.

With the price of gas skyrocketing, drilling rigs are popping up all over the West, and the Crabtrees have dedicated themselves to reaching the men living and working there.

"There has been a boom in exploration of natural gas and oil and Southern Baptists are seizing this opportunity," Hammond noted.

During the report, messengers also heard from missionary Dick May, a church planter in Boston, and Lamar Duke, a missionary in Pittsburgh who says he keeps going because "our Lord invited me to write redemptive history with Him, and I can't quit."

That is the spirit Hammond challenged other Southern Baptists to embrace.

"We are calling on Southern Baptists to pray and give to North American missions like never before. Live with urgency and seize every divine moment."

Even with 2007 reports showing 150,000 long- and short-term missionaries and a record Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions of more than \$59 million, more missions workers are needed, Hammond reported.

As NAMB focuses on three major points—sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries—"we are pushing back the darkness in the United States, Canada and the territories."

"I believe the North American Mission Board is the premiere missions agency for reaching North America for Christ in 21st century."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

"Calling America Back to God"

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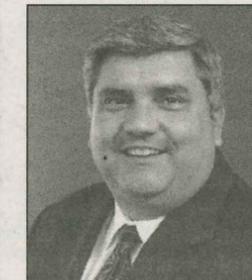
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Evangelist and
Co-Founder of Harvest
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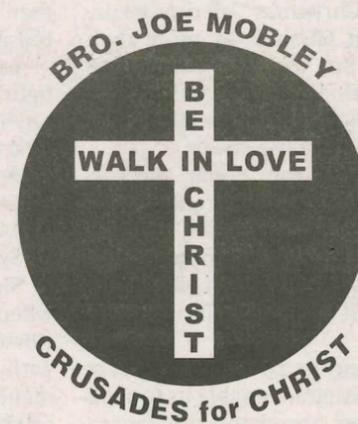
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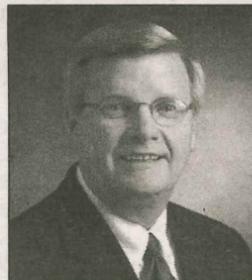
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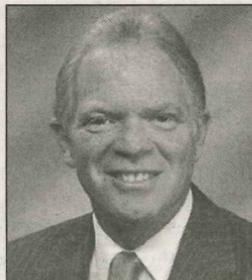
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So. Baptists break missions records, but still struggle

"Multitudes continue to enter eternity never knowing a Savior died for them. ... What about the next generation? Will they have an opportunity to know the story of Jesus?"

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

By Jennifer Davis Rash & Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Indianapolis—When it comes to worldwide missions, Southern Baptists have shattered baptism, church planting and giving records in the past decade, International Mission Board president Jerry Rankin told messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Southern Baptists exceeded the 2007 \$150 million goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions by more than \$400,000. But with the current declining value of the dollar, that amount means a reduction of \$18 million in spending power.

"The American dollar has declined more than 12 percent relative to other global currencies," Rankin noted. "We face a dilemma of whether our giving will reflect the priority of what it means to fulfill our mission."

"Your prayers and gifts to the Cooperative Program enable us to send and support a growing missionary force coming out of your churches, and to expand our witness and impact a lost world like never before."

Noting the growth over the past decade, Rankin said 3,352 new churches were planted in 1997 and 25,497 were planted in 2007 with a total of 132,980 planted overseas from 1997 to 2007.

Baptisms almost doubled from 1997 to 2007 with 308,398 and 609,968 respectively, he pointed out, adding that IMB registered 4.7 million baptisms in that time span. Missionary appointments increased, as well, with a total of 7,311 missionaries appointed from 1997 to 2007.

But even with these increases, a "massive" lostness remains in the world, Rankin warned. "Multitudes continue to enter eternity never knowing a Savior died for them. ... What about the next generation? Will they have an opportunity to know the story of Jesus?"

As one avenue of advancing the gospel, the IMB is tapping into the "phenomenal" resource of a young generation passionate about impacting the world, he said. "We are challenging college students to take a semester or a year out from their studies for the hands-on experience of touching a hurting world."

In addition, growing numbers of graduates find their hearts are stirred toward the two-year Journeyman program, like Bobby Lane's was toward the Extreme Team in Peru.

Lane's Extreme Team "packed light" and hiked to remote villages, relying on the people they met for food and lodging.

As a result of the team's faith, villagers learned to put their trust in a God who provides.

Sylvia was one of those villagers. She was four months pregnant when she met Extreme Team missionary Melissa Smith and shared with her that doctors were recommending an abortion. She had a lemon-sized tumor growing in her abdomen alongside her baby.

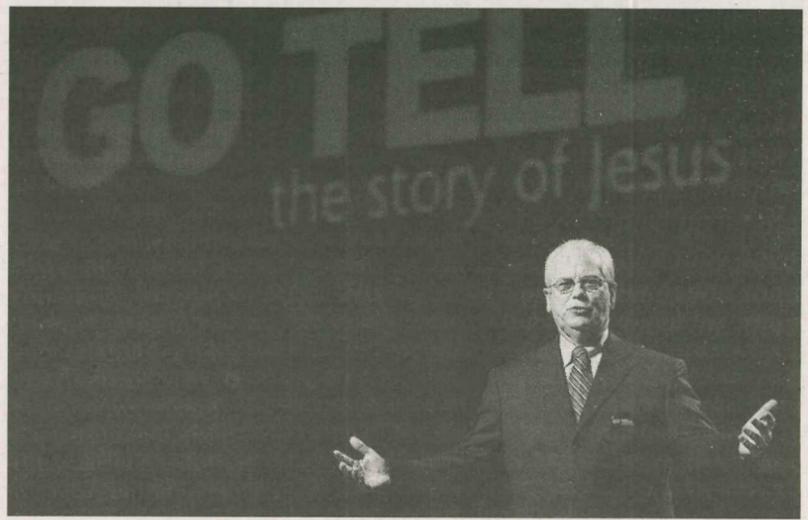
"She believed God would hear our prayers on her behalf," Smith recalled.

And He did. By the time Sylvia gave birth, the tumor had disappeared. She gave her life to Christ "because of churches just like yours who had committed to partner with us in prayer," Smith said. "She began to share the same stories that we had shared with her. There is now a whole group of people who are going to spend eternity with Jesus because you prayed."

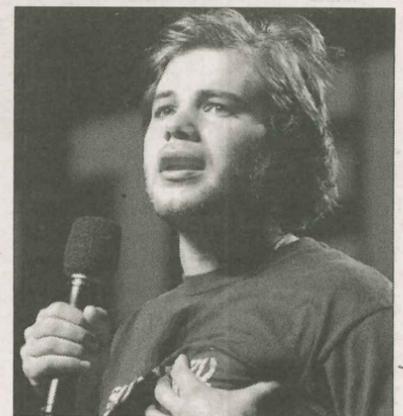
But there are many more left to hear, Smith added. "Who will go tell?" she asked.

Rankin said it is up to Southern Baptists.

"We can't wait while multitudes enter eternity without Christ," he declared. "We have to mobilize members so the world will know Christ died for them."



WORLD IN NEED Above: During the International Mission Board presentation at last week's SBC annual meeting, Jerry Rankin, president of the IMB, said 130 million babies will be born this year. "Will they have an opportunity to know Jesus?" he asked. He encouraged messengers to "Go Tell," the IMB theme for the year. (BP photo) Right: Bobby Lane, a former Xtreme Team missionary with the IMB in the jungles of Peru, told messengers, "It doesn't matter who you are or where you are in life. We're all called to pray, give and come to go." (SBC photo by Jonathan Blair)



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LifeWay reports new worship innovations, online resources

By Jim White
Virginia Religious Herald

Indianapolis—LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer unveiled a new worship project at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Comprised of three resources, the project includes both the Baptist Hymnal, a new edition of which is soon to be released, and the Worship Hymnal. Identical to the Baptist Hymnal but without the denominational reference, it is designed for use in other than Baptist churches.

The third resource is LifewayWorship.com, an online resource of practical tools for today's varied worship needs.

The Web site features songs and readings from the hymnal along with drag and drop features allowing a worship leader to customize services thematically, Rainer noted.

LifeWay employees minister to people in need in many ways and introduce others to Christ, he told messengers.

He confessed his awe of their Christian commitment and repeated the refrain: "Such are the ministries and hearts of the LifeWay employees. I am a man most humble."

Among other examples, Rainer cited the contributions LifeWay employees make to as many as 10 benevolent ministries through payroll deductions.

He singled out Katy's Helping Hands, a ministry to cancer victims and their families. Named for Katy Mitchell, daughter of a LifeWay employee, the ministry provides hot in-room meals for families of hospitalized children.

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Speakers at Pastors Conference issue call for revival

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist and Reflector

Indianapolis—A host of speakers in rain-drenched Indianapolis called for God to “rain down” revival upon America during the 2008 Pastors’ Conference, held prior to last week’s Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Rallying around the theme, “Prepare for Rain,” speakers began by urging pastors to renew their commitment to prayer and get their own spiritual lives in order. Tom Elliff, senior vice president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, used an analogy from the Oklahoma land rush to describe what can happen even to pastors who fail to address sin in their own lives.

In Oklahoma, Sooners looked across the land and thought “instant farm” as they anticipated the rush to stake their claims to the land, Elliff said. But they discovered ground, matted down with prairie grass, so hard it had to be broken up with an ax.

Like Oklahoma sod, the hearts of pastors can be marked by hardness, become impervious to God’s word, show stubborn resistance, be un-

fruitful and remain asleep through every season, Elliff warned.

“A heart like fallow ground will take a lot of effort,” he noted. “What’s God going to have to do to get our attention?”

Nothing short of deliberate, diligent attention can affect that kind of change, he added.

Johnny Hunt, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., noted 90 percent of Southern Baptist Convention churches are in decline.

Hunt, who later was elected SBC president, cited research that suggested 50 percent of SBC churches existing today will have padlocks on their doors by 2030. His own church had declined two years before Hunt took six weeks off for reading and renewal last year, he recalled.

During his time away, Hunt said God repeated three things to him over and over again: “No. 1, you need to go back and pray more aggressively. No. 2, he challenged me to witness more intentionally. I wrote down three names in the front of my Bible” who needed to be won to Christ. “I flat went after them,” Hunt declared.

“No. 3, God challenged me to lead not only by exhortation ... but we are to lead by emulation,” Hunt continued. “I’ve got not only to tell them, I’ve got to show them.

“You know what happened? We increased by 15 percent in Bible study, increased by 15 percent in worship,” he recalled. “There’s only one thing worse than our conven-

tion being on a slide and that is that we don’t give a holy rip. ... We don’t need a better strategy; we need a touch from God.”

Daniel Simmons, senior pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., reminded pastors that God and prayer are the keys to revival.

“Only God can bring revival,” Simmons said. When revival doesn’t come, “the shortage must not be in God; it must be in us.”

God calls and uses broken people for his service, other speakers stressed.

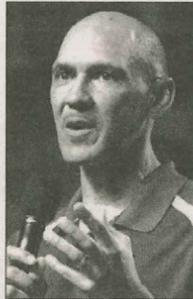
Brokenness is “the recognition of our shattered pride without a need to glue it back together again,” said Ed Litton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of North Mobile in Saraland, Ala.

Litton described losing his wife 10 months ago in a car accident.

“In that instant, my life changed and I began a journey to a place I did not care to go,” he recalled.

When God leads his servants to such a place, he forces them to face their deepest fear, Litton added. But God restores them in ways they cannot imagine to prepare them for significant ministry, he said, preaching from Psalm 23.

“Some of you are facing the worst fear of your life. And some of you are on the verge of the greatest movement of God in the history of your life, your ministry and your church,” he noted. “God doesn’t call complete, fully contained, self-actualized people who have it together. He calls the broken.”



Tony Dungy

Conference participants had an unexpected visit from Tony Dungy, coach of the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League, and author of the book, “Quiet Strength.”

Dungy welcomed his fellow Southern Baptists to the city. He shared how God has opened doors for him to speak to numerous groups since winning the Super Bowl as a coach two years ago and writing a book.

“I realize many of our young people are really, really searching for something. For the most part they are finding those things that are not fulfilling,” the coach observed. “They are still searching for what we know is fulfilling and that is that relationship with Jesus Christ.”

He challenged Baptists to continue to deliver the message of Jesus Christ in different ways. “We are all on the same team. We’re going to work for the Lord and Christ will honor what you do.”

During the business session of the Pastors’ Conference, Ed Litton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of North Mobile, Ala., was elected president, succeeding Michael Catt, senior pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga. Other officers include Bruce Schmidt, pastor of Lamar Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, who was elected vice president, and James Peoples, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights, Fla., who was voted secretary/treasurer.

With additional reporting by Bill Webb of Missouri Word & Way; Jennifer Davis Rash and Grace Thornton of The Alabama Baptist; and Jim White of Virginia Religious Herald

NEWLY ELECTED

Officers for the 2009 Southern Baptist Pastors’ Conference are (from left) Bruce Schmidt, pastor of Lamar Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, vice president; Ed Litton, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Mobile in Saraland, Ala., president; and James Peoples, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights, Fla., secretary/treasurer. (SBC photo by Jonathan Blair)



Overdue recognition for OBI students

Oneida students participate at state level in art and tennis competitions

By Tamara Cochran, OBI publications

Spring is such a busy time of year at Oneida that it is difficult to report on everything as it happens. Please join us for some catch-up news.

The 2008 Bluegrass Regional Art competition was held at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond in March. OBI had 16 entries—seven in graphic arts and nine in fine arts. Four of our students placed at the regionals and three advanced to the Kentucky Art Education Association all-state art show in Lexington.

Junior Pachara Supanprakan took first place in the regional cultural heritage/diversity fine arts category. Pachara used colored pencils and ink pens to create an illustration titled, “Over the River Wat-Phra-Kale Temple,” depicting an ancient Thailand barge carrying a king. At state, Pachara placed third.

Junior Hannah Worcester placed second in the region in the fine arts category of mixed media. She also received the Art Education Student Association award and advanced to state where she placed third. Her project was a four-piece self portrait titled, “Connexion,” incorporating acrylic paints on canvas and other media.

Senior Wayne Hawk placed first in graphic design with his piece called, “Gardening Workshop.” He advanced to the state art show and received an honorable mention.

“All of the Bluegrass entries from Oneida art students expressed a high level of talent and creativity,” said OBI art teacher Sandra Anderson.

“Each year I am impressed by the creativity of my students,” noted commercial art teacher

Sheri Nutter. “This is our seventh year with multiple wins in the top three places at regionals. I’m constantly amazed at how well we fare as a modest-sized school against (larger) schools. For a small student body, we seem to have a large concentration of talent.”

Our student talent does not stop with fine arts, but extends to sports as well. Miriam Waslewski represented the Oneida tennis team at the state tournament at Berea College last month. The sophomore was eliminated after the first round of this year’s state contest but said she was confident she played her best. Miriam was a top seed in the singles draw at the regional tournament where she finished second. This was Miriam’s second year qualifying for state. Last year, she went as part of a doubles team. Miriam said she plans to keep practicing and try to make state again next year.

Tennis coach Ken McCain said he was impressed that Miriam has made it to state twice in both singles and doubles. “You don’t see many kids compete in both. Usually a player is strong in either singles or doubles.”

McCain explained that by qualifying, Miriam was among the top 64 tennis players in the state. The coach credited Miriam’s success to her hard work, love for the sport and character.

“She’s a quality person,” he said. “Miriam is typically very generous to the other opponent. Hard work, good calls and countless hours on the courts, even after the tennis season is over, ... pay dividends in the long run.”

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



W.F. Underwood

Passion for teaching & writing

Profs Gillum and Hughes have new books published

We are blessed to have some of the finest professors in their fields here at Clear Creek. They are passionate about their calling to teach and equip others for their ministry calling. For Clear Creek professors Elli Gillum and Robert Hughes, that passion has resulted in the publishing of new books.

Gillum, an assistant professor of English, has edited and published “Journey: A Christian College Reader,” an anthology put together by choosing the literature one wants in the book. Gillum spent nearly two years putting it together.

“I became interested in creating a book like ‘Journey’ after having to sift through literature in order to find topics appropriate for students in a Christian college,” Gillum recalled. “It’s difficult for us to find good materials to use. A lot of times we have to filter through materials that we think our students would have appreciation for or topics that I may not want to entertain in my classroom.”

Initially, Gillum said she did not feel she had the “credentials” to write such a book because she had never published anything before.

“The publisher called me and said that if I had recognized a need for the book and knew what needed to be in such a book then I should be the one to write it,” she noted.

Professor of missions and evangelism Robert Hughes has published “History: Think for Yourself About What Shaped the Church.”

He chose this topic to write on because “history is fun,” he said. The book notes that “church history is full of unlikely heroes; regular people who saw something lacking in the body of believers and set out to develop it.”

Hughes has authored more than a dozen books ranging from science fiction and fantasy to evan-

gelical non-fiction and church history. One of his books, “Satan’s Whispers,” is used by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

You can obtain more information about the authors and their books through our college bookstore at www.ccbbc.edu, or call toll free at (866) 340-3196.

Information for this article was contributed by the Middlesboro Daily News

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



Donnie Fox

Evangelists induct 30 charter members into Hall of Faith

By Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

Indianapolis—The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists inducted 30 heroes of the faith as the inaugural class of the Evangelists Hall of Faith.

The inductees, 13 of whom are deceased, were elected by their peers after the conference's executive committee voted to launch the Evangelists Hall of Faith this year in conjunction with the group's 50th anniversary.

Among those being honored during a banquet with more than 175 people at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis prior to last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, were Billy Graham, George Beverly Shea, Cliff Barrows and the late T.W. Wilson, all of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

A plaque, trophy, Bible and an attaché case were presented to each living inductee by Brian Fossett, COSBE president, and Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. The families of deceased honorees will receive the plaque and trophy; some family members were on hand to receive them at the banquet.

"This night was incredible," Fossett said. "There was a room full of spiritual giants. They represented sacrificed lives and that which is found in Ephesians 4:11: 'It was he who gave ... some to be evangelists.'



LIFE OF SERVICE Morris Chapman (left), president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, congratulates evangelist Junior Hill, one of 30 people inducted into the Conference of Southern Baptists Evangelists' inaugural Hall of Faith. (BP photo)

"Throughout the night, we heard of so much ministry and so many blessings."

"You've done a great work for God," Fossett told the evangelists attending the banquet. "You're my heroes, each and every one of you. You represent millions of souls in the Kingdom and countless others who have been impacted."

Acknowledging the struggles faced by evangelists, Chapman said, "This is not a day that favors full-time evangelists and I know it is not always easy."

But "the day of the evangelist I believe is going to come back. It has laid low for a while.

"I believe the invitation (the appeal to come to Jesus Christ) is making a comeback in Southern Baptist life," he noted. "I believe that is going to put the evangelists out in front of the parade (because) ... I believe the gift of the evangelists is the gift of the invitation."

"Thank you for your unselfish service to our Lord Jesus Christ and for all you've done and all the ways you make yourselves vulnerable to the Lord."

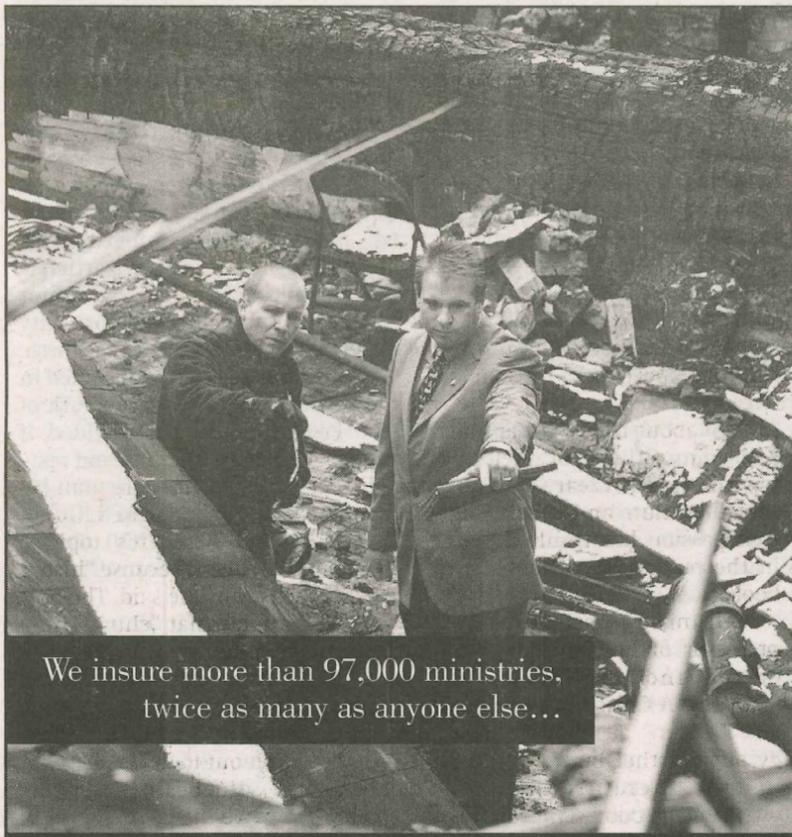
The inaugural Hall of Faith inductees include:

- Hyman Appelman, Missouri.
- Walter Ayers, Texas.
- Cliff Barrows, BGEA.

- Manley Beasley, Texas.
- Wayne Bristow, Oklahoma.
- Sam Cathey, Oklahoma.
- Clyde Chiles, Missouri.
- E.J. Daniels, Florida.
- Ron Dunn, Texas.
- Freddie Gage, Texas.
- Mike Gilchrist, Louisiana.
- Billy Graham, BGEA.
- Vance Havner, North Carolina.
- Jesse Hendley, Georgia.
- Rudy Hernandez, Texas.
- Junior Hill, Alabama.
- Eddie Martin, Pennsylvania.
- Angel Martinez, Arkansas.
- Homer Martinez, Texas.
- George Beverly Shea, BGEA.
- Bailey Smith, Georgia.
- J. Harold Smith, Tennessee.
- Jerry Spencer, Tennessee.
- Bill Stafford, Tennessee.
- Bette Stalnecker-Gibson, Tennessee.
- Jay Strack, Florida.
- Leon Westerhouse, Alabama.
- Gene Williams, Georgia.
- T.W. Wilson, BGEA.
- Don Womack, Tennessee.

During the COSBE business meeting on June 9, the group voted to name two inductees to the Hall of Faith every other year. In other business, Ron Herrod of Tennessee was elected president of the conference.

Johnny Hunt—pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., and a pastor adviser for the conference—delivered the sermon for the event. Alabama ventriloquist Geraldine Ragan and her sidekick, Ricky, provided entertainment.



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WMU celebrates missions at home, abroad

By Charlie Warren, Stella Prather & Lisa Watson
Arkansas Baptist News

Indianapolis—Missionaries serving locations ranging from Yellowstone National Park to the Philippines challenged participants at the 2008 Woman's Missionary Union missions celebration to join them in sharing Christ's love with their communities and around the world.

Brad Lartigue, an 18-year veteran resort missionary with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, described his work in the resort community of Big Sky, Montana, and in Yellowstone.

"God has given us freedom to color outside the lines," Lartigue said, referring to his call to reach people outside the walls of the church. "In this day of extreme recreation and adventure sports, the possibilities are endless."

"I am overwhelmed when I get to be an instrument used of God to help usher someone into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ," he added. "Is God's love contagious in your life? When people see you, are they drawn to our Father God? Do you need to work on being a reflection of Christ?"

Jeff and Kim Cruse, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries to the Philippines, described their work teaching English at a university, training Filipinos as English teachers, providing a coffee shop ministry for young adults, leading a campus Bible study for professors and hosting a house church in their garage.

"We try to meet a need ... (Filipinos) know they have so we can meet a need they don't know they have," Mrs. Cruse said. Twelve professors who participated in their campus Bible study have trusted Christ as Savior and now take turns leading the study, she reported.

Her husband told of their visit with Alan, a Filipino student, while sitting under a covered picnic table on a university campus. "God sent a torrential rain, which stranded him with us for three hours," he recalled.

The missionaries shared the gospel, and the student received Jesus as Savior. Less than a week later, he shared his newfound faith with his friend, Mark, who also became a follower of Christ. Now, Alan is on an international cruise ship, witnessing and discipling others. Mark is in Cypress, sharing the gospel with his co-workers.

Ed Stetzer, LifeWay Christian Resources director of research, speaking from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, said Christ's love should compel Christians to have a new perspective.

"There's something wrong with the Christian faith if it produces unhappy, miserable people who are then sent out to share their faith," he noted. "All of us have to see people ... who are far from Christ and treat them with the love of Christ because something new has come into our own lives."

Christians, sent on a mission of reconciliation, should represent Jesus and His Kingdom because of Christ's sacrifice at Calvary, Stetzer urged.

Charisma, divine presence, preparation and encouragement set the Old Testament figure Nehemiah apart as a missional leader, outgoing SBC President Frank Page told WMU leaders at a banquet during the group's annual meeting. Page's new book, "The Nehemiah Factor: 16 Characteristics of a Missional Leader," was recently released by New Hope Publishers, a WMU subsidiary.

"The charismatic leader is perceived as possessed by a purpose greater than himself or herself, an enthusiasm for life, composure under stress and dedication to the goal of striking blows for the Kingdom," Page said.

During a business session, WMU elected its 2008-2009 officers, approved resolutions of appreciation to NAMB and awarded the annual Martha Myers Girls in Action Alumna of Distinction Award. Kaye Miller, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., was unanimously re-elected as president.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for members of the volunteer teams from Forks of Dix River Baptist Church in Lancaster, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Somerset and Pulaski Baptist Association who will be traveling to Brazil this month.

■ Pray for Jorio Ferreira and his family. Ferreira serves as an on-site coordinator for the KBC's mission partnership with Brazilian Baptists.

■ Pray for the interpreters working in Brazil this summer.

■ Pray for the urgent need for volunteers to serve on missions projects in Maryland/Delaware.

■ Pray for all of the sites preparing to receive KBC missions teams this summer.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALBANY**—Stony Point Church recently ordained **Michael Cummings**, **Johnny DeRossett** and **Lance York** as deacons. **Jim England** is pastor.

■ **BEDFORD**—Union Grove Church recently called **Phillip Bruce** as pastor.

■ **CARLISLE**—Locust Grove Church recently called **Josh Pollitt** as pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Faber Church recently called **Anthony Reeves** as pastor.

■ **FANCY FARM**—**Jason Porter** recently resigned as pastor of Beulah Church to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **FULTON**—**Don Robinson** recently resigned as pastor of Liberty Church.

■ **HENDERSON**—Hyland Church recently called **John Brothers** as minister of music and students. **Don Moore** is pastor.

■ **LOONDON**—**Fontaine Jones** recently resigned as pastor of Long Branch Church.

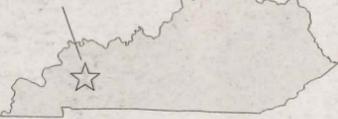
Jason Whicker recently resigned as pastor of Old Salem Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Midlane Park Church will celebrate its 45th anniversary June 22 during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. **Dwayne Ewers** is pastor.

■ **MONTICELLO**—First Church recently called **Chad Fugitt** as pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Manitou



Sam Beeny Sr., pastor of Manitou Church, was commissioned as a chaplain with the North American Mission Board May 19. He serves as a chaplain at Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson.

■ **MYRA**—Faith Church recently ordained **John Doug Hays** to the gospel ministry.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—First Church recently called **Trey Pelz** as minister of students. **Paul Badgett** is pastor.

■ **WHITLEY CITY**—Green Grove Church ordained **Bill Brown** as a deacon June 1. **Danny Staley** is pastor.

■ **WINGO**—**Jesse Alford** recently resigned as pastor of Fellowship Church.

■ **WORTHVILLE**—Worthville Church recently called **Steven Scherer** as pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

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.

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

KBC disaster relief teams in Ind., Iowa

Franklin, Ind.—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has mobilized disaster relief volunteers in response to recent flooding that caused damage in Indiana and Iowa.

According to Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the KBC, volunteers from across the state arrived in Franklin, Ind., last week to serve in the Indiana Baptist disaster relief kitchen. Members of the team are scheduled to serve until June 21.

Meanwhile, two Kentucky Baptist volunteers from Hopkinsville

are joining other Southern Baptists to provide disaster relief in Wapello, Iowa. Webb said they are serving with a shower unit designed to provide showers for other relief workers, as well as laundry facilities.

Additional workers are still needed in Indiana, but not in Iowa, Webb indicated. Trained volunteers interested in helping may contact the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3527, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Used pews seating 300; includes pulpit, communion table and choir chairs. Available in August. First Baptist Church in Russell, Springs. Call Jeff at (270) 866-3447, or Donnie at 866-2675.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music to lead blended worship at Gethsemane Baptist Church, a conservative SBC church in Danville, Ky. For more information, please call the church office at (859) 236-2581, or Mike Gordon at (859) 516-5169. All resumés may be sent to 123 Quisenberry Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

SEEKING: Spirit-led, highly motivated individual for full-time minister of music and education at a growing Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362, Attn: Music Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time chaplains. Marketplace Chaplains USA serves client companies across the nation by assigning a team of ethnically diverse male and female chaplains to visit work sites regularly. We are seeking chaplains in Mayfield, Morehead, Campbellsville, Clay City, Richmond, Paintsville and Bowling Green. E-mail resumé to chrishshort@mchapusa.com. Our Website is www.mchapusa.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to preschoolers to plan and coordinate a comprehensive ministry to preschool children and their families at First Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tenn. Send resumés to Ron Moore, 435 Madison St., Clarksville, TN 37040.

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@fbcriplev.org.

SEEKING: Pastor for a conservative Southern Baptist church in the Somerset, Ky., area. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 808 Bourne Ave., Somerset, KY 42501.

SEEKING: Full-time children's director to work with 200 kids in a healthy, growing church. Send resumé to Vicki Brantly at vnbrantly@hotmail.com; or East Side Baptist Church, 718 E Ninth St., Mountain Home, AR 72653.

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

SEEKING: 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 resumés 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. (205) 822-1360.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/education. Submit resumés to John McGuire at johnmcguire@rosehillashland.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; or mail to PSC, Steve Stone, 808 West Hickory St., Tullahoma, TN 37388.

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.

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 resumés to FLC Search Committee, Marion Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Marion, KY 42064.

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 resumés to Youth Director Search Committee, Buck Creek Baptist Church, 3788 US Highway 431 North, Calhoun, KY 42327; or bcyouth@bellsouth.net. Deadline is June 30.

SEEKING: 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 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. 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.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Gap Creek Baptist Church, a conservative member of the Cumberland Gap Baptist Association in Claiborne County, Tenn. Experience preferred. Gap Creek has an active membership of over 300 and is growing. If possible, send a CD or DVD of your sermon, along with a resumé, to Gap Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Arthur, TN 37707, Attn: Troy Poore. You may e-mail your resumé to trpoore@hotmail.com; or fax to (423) 869-8777.

SEEKING: Full-time 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.

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Bring on the rain

Storms, floods do not dampen the spirit of evangelism at Crossover Indianapolis

By Mickey Noah & Mike Ebert
SBC North American Mission Board

Indianapolis (BP)—Heavy rain, dangerous lightning, tornado warnings and, in some places, flooding buffeted metro Indianapolis during most of Crossover '08, but by afternoon the sun emerged and local and visiting Southern Baptists were out telling others about the Son.

As much as eight inches of rain fell in parts of the Indianapolis area June 7, and it looked like months of preparation for neighborhood block parties, car washes, car shows and concerts might go for naught.

While some Crossover events had to be cancelled, the rain did not dampen the spirits of Baptists gathered for events in Brownsburg, Ind., and at a multi-ethnic church in east-central Indianapolis.

Nearly 500 volunteers—local Baptists and others from across the country—were scheduled for Crossover, which was jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and Crossroads Baptist Association in Indianapolis.

Hope Community Church in Brownsburg, 18 miles west of Indianapolis, hosted a block party attended by 250 people from surrounding

neighborhoods. When the torrential rains hit Saturday morning, organizers moved the event indoors and made the best of the situation.

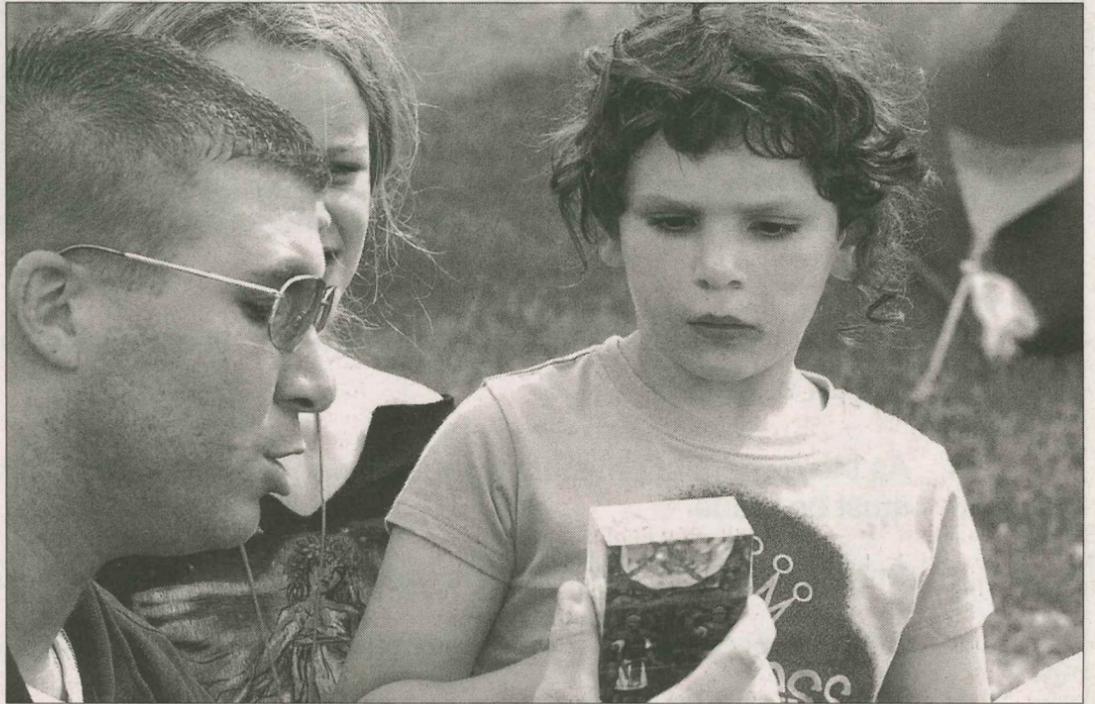
"I was up praying at 6 o'clock this morning, hoping the Lord would change His mind about this, but He didn't and we said rain or shine we are committed to this event," according to Hope Community pastor Jim Bohrer.

Among the 250 on hand, 90 were not regular attendees at Hope. At least five indicated they prayed to receive Christ. Volunteers from Michigan helped train church members for the event and a team of college students from Tennessee was on hand to help.

Frank Page, who closed out his second term as SBC president last week, dropped in on Hope Community's block party after spending two hours sharing Christ door to door in the rain.

"Crossover events are important," Page noted, "because they combine the energies of local people with visitors such as myself in a beautiful partnership, and then the gospel is shared far more than it normally would be. So it's very important and just a great practical way to express the Great Commission."

Beginning each year's convention



with Crossover, Page said, "shows what our priority is. It shows what we really care about is winning people to Christ."

Stephen Davis, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, was encouraged to know that Crossover's impact will last far beyond a weekend event.

"We're doing some other things connected with these events, so it's not just an event but a process," he acknowledged. "It's the beginning of helping us plant nine new churches in the Indianapolis area. And every event is connected to a local church. So we're going to have much better follow up and we should see a much better result coming from this in terms of baptisms and strengthening church membership."

The weekend emphasis also is a healthy reminder for the state's Baptists, Davis said.

"Eighty percent of the people in Indiana do not attend any Christian church on any given Sunday," he explained. "So we have a huge mission field here and ... one of the things we're trying to do is to remind Christians that Indiana is a mission field."

At Eastside Community Baptist Church in east-central Indianapolis, the worst of the storms was over by the time its block party began, with volunteers on hand from Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia and Kansas. Blue skies and sunshine attracted a few hundred people who enjoyed live music, popcorn, cotton candy,



snow cones and a myriad of attractions and games.

Pastor Terry Lewis said the congregation wanted to host the block party because "we are always happy to reach out to anyone. ... If we're not doing ministry, how do we know we have anything?"

Lewis said the church is about 40 percent African-American, 40 percent Anglo and the rest Hispanic, Filipino and Asian. The small church—some 50 people attend each Sunday—is housed in a former Latvian Lutheran church building that dates from 1921, complete with stained-glass windows.

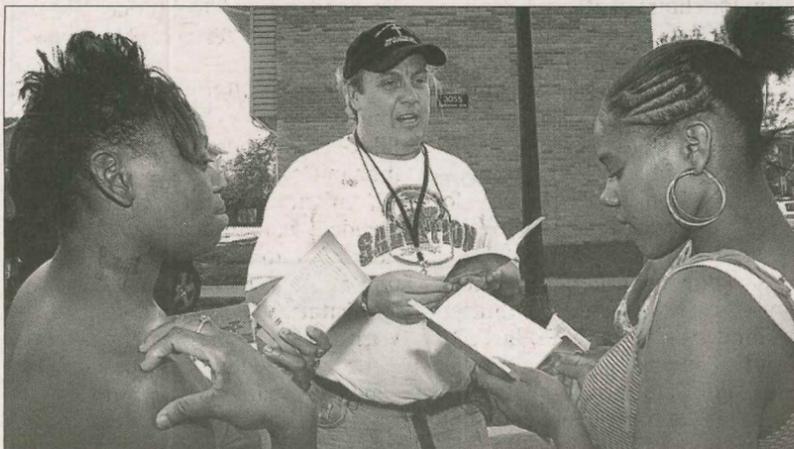
"We've had 130 professions within a mile of the church," Lewis said of the several days of Crossover-related activities, "so it's been a super week for Eastside. Our members are excited and people in the neighborhood we're trying to reach have been excited."

Cowboy preacher Harvey Gates, blacksmith Bobby Truitt and pastor Marcus Redding of Hull's Grove Baptist Church in Vale, N.C., hammered out horseshoes stamped with Bible verses or personalized with names.

"Do you know Jesus?" Gates asked a young boy as he finished a horseshoe for him. "I try to get at the person's spiritual condition before I give them their horseshoe," said Gates, who also pastors Cross Creek Cowboy Church near Vale.

Truitt, who originated the horseshoe ministry a few years ago, said the trio went through 160 horseshoes at an earlier church block party that was moved inside because of the rain. Since launching the ministry, Truitt estimated he's given away 12,000 horseshoes over the past two and a half years.

Above: Ed Goodman, a student at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, shares the plan of salvation with Lillyan Whitlow, 6, using an EvangeCube at a Crossover '08 block party at Cloverleaf Baptist Church in Indianapolis. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair) **Left:** Hannah Polak, 10, clears rainwater from the Metropolitan Baptist Center after a severe storm left several inches around the downtown Indianapolis building June 7. Polak's dad, Tom, who is pastor of the church, delayed a block party scheduled for earlier in the day, but more than 150 people eventually showed up. (BP photo by Matt Miller)



Above: Shawn McClowsky, an Intentional Community Evangelism team member with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, walks two residents of Blackburn Terrace apartments in Indianapolis through Scriptures after handing them their first Bibles. McClowsky, of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., prayed minutes earlier with the women who received Christ. **Below:** Worship leader Gary Geissler leads the closing prayer at a Crossover block party at Hawthorne Baptist Church in Indianapolis where several residents of the community received Christ. (BP photos by Bob Carey)

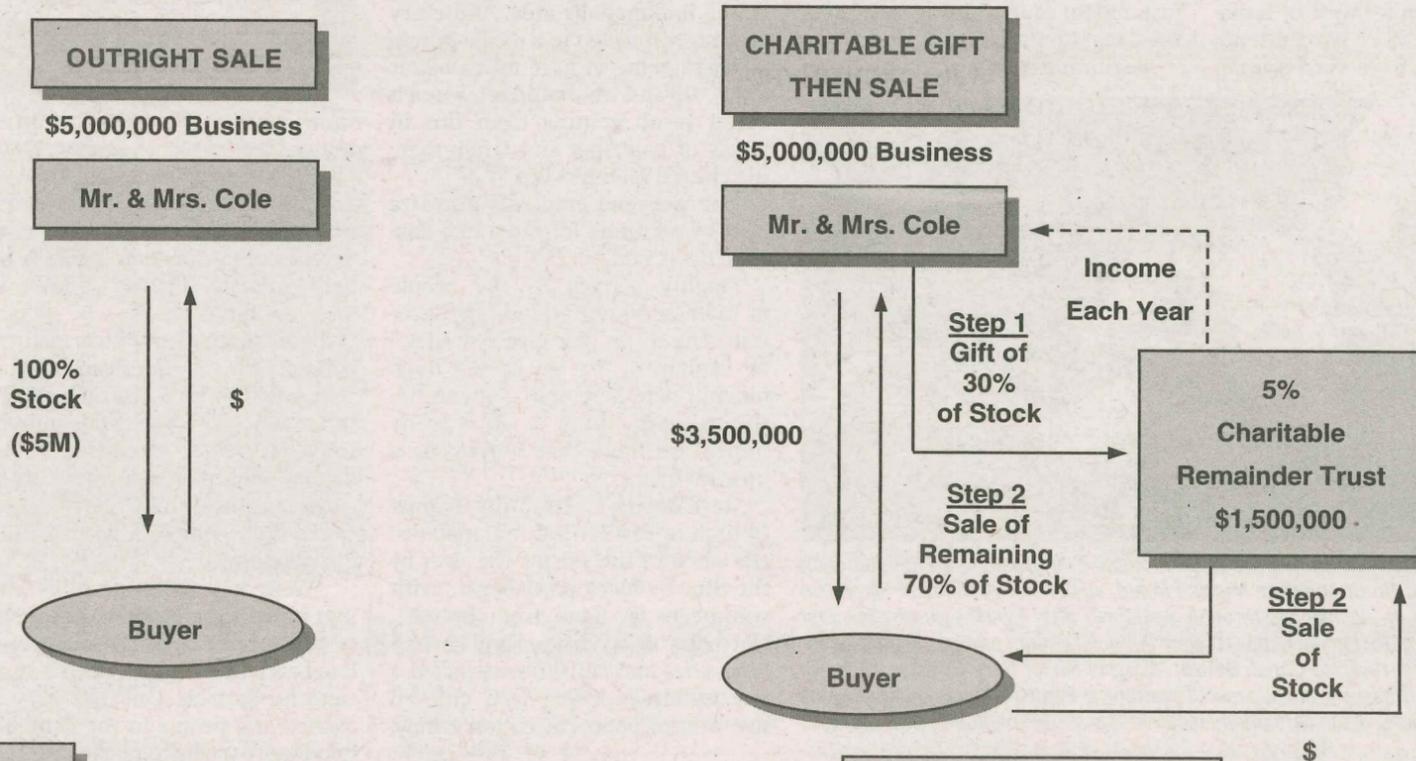


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For more information contact:

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