



WESTERN RECORDER

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Longtime Baptist missions advocate Hunt dies at 98

By Robert Dillard
Virginia Religious Herald

Roanoke, Va. (ABP)—Alma Hunt, one of Baptists' best-known missions advocates, died June 14 in a Roanoke, Va., hospital. She was 98.



Alma Hunt

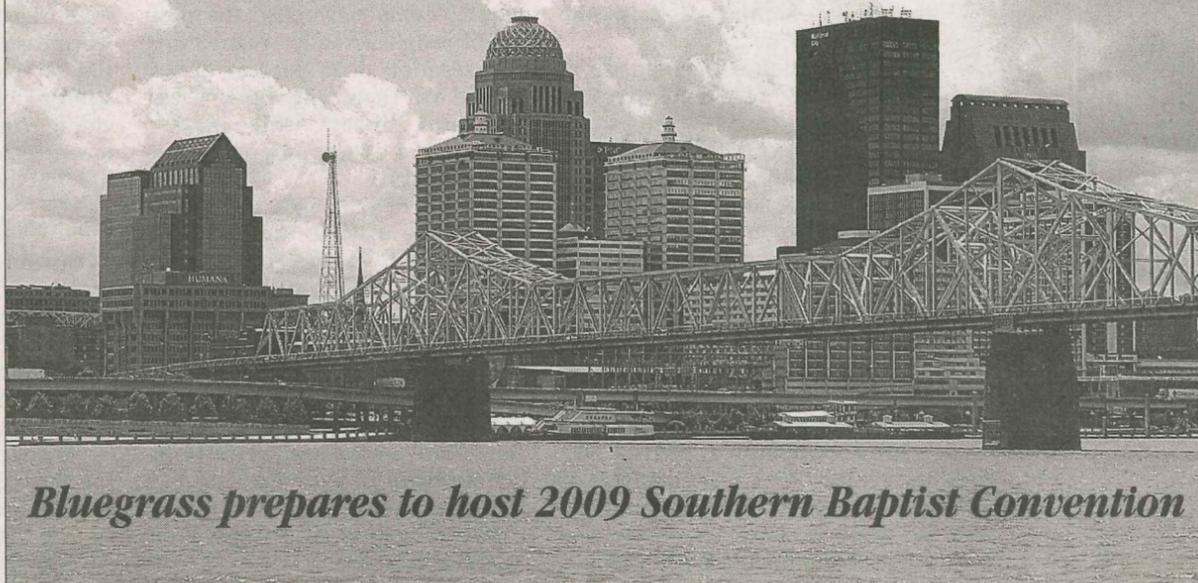
The Virginia native gained national recognition in 1948 when she became executive director of the Birmingham, Ala.-based Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. She led WMU until her retirement in 1974.

Hunt's influence remained profound over the next 34 years as a volunteer worker with the Baptist World Alliance, the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign (now International) Mission Board, Global Women and numerous Virginia Baptist organizations.

Hunt "heralded the cause of missions straight from her heart," said John Upton, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. "She has been a bold and influential leader not only for women, but also for all Baptists around the world."

□ See Hunt remembered ... Page 2

Next stop: Louisville



Bluegrass prepares to host 2009 Southern Baptist Convention

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—The 2008 edition of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting is now in the books. With several issues settled or delegated to the proper committees, as well as a new president elected, messengers have returned home giving little thought to next year's agenda.

But a small group of people have already set their sights on Louisville—host city of the SBC annual meeting June 23-24, 2009. And while the Indianapolis meeting is now his-

tory, the Louisville gathering will primarily focus on history.

According to convention manager R. Clark Logan, vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee, the Southern Baptist Convention is coming to the Bluegrass State to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of its oldest institution—Louisville's Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In fact, the last time the SBC's annual meeting was held in Louisville was 1959, when the school turned 100 years old.

"It was time to have it back and we could make the logistics of that work," Logan noted.

And with only 52 weeks to go before thousands of Southern Baptists descend on the River City, there is plenty of work to be done—both for the convention planners and Southern Seminary.

"This is a huge event for Kentucky and for Louisville," said Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "It really is meaningful to have the convention." □ See Next stop: Louisville ... Page 3

Poll indicates Americans split on whether homosexuality is sin

Nashville (BP)—Americans hold differing opinions on the issue of homosexuality, including whether homosexual behavior is sinful. A similar percentage of Americans consider homosexual behavior sinful to those who do not, and neither view gains a majority, according to a new study by LifeWay Research. The study also found that Americans' views of homosexuality affects their openness to participation in a church.

A survey conducted in April revealed that 48 percent of those polled believe homosexual behavior is sinful, while 45 percent believe it is not sinful, nearly a statistical tie when considering the margin of error.

The percentage varies slightly when the respondent indicates he or she knows someone with same-sex attraction, with 49 percent indicating it is not sinful. Among those who have a religious affiliation, 55 percent of Catholics and 31 percent of Protestants said they do not believe homosexual behavior is sinful. That number dropped to 17 percent among born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Protestants.

Holding opposing views, 39 percent of Catholics, 61 percent of

Protestants and 79 percent of born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Protestants said they do believe homosexual behavior is sinful.

Twenty-nine percent of Americans said their decision to visit or join a church would be positively affected if that congregation taught homosexual behavior is a sin. Among Catholics, that number dropped to 23 percent. Thirty-eight percent of Protestants and 50 percent of born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Protestants said they would be more likely to visit or join a church if it taught homosexual behavior is sinful.

Thirty-two percent of Americans—almost one in three—said their decision to visit or join a church would be negatively affected if that congregation taught homosexual behavior is sinful. Among Catholics and Protestants, that number is 27 percent. It dropped further to 21 percent among born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Protestants. Among those who do not attend a place of worship, 49 percent said this teaching would negatively affect their decision to visit or join a church.

Those statistics should give church leaders pause and lead them

to strike an important but delicate balance between demonstrating Christ's love for all people while still presenting a biblical teaching about homosexual behavior, according to LifeWay Research director Ed Stetzer.

"It's surprising to see how many Catholics disagree with the clear teaching of their church or, for that matter, the percentage of Protestants who consider themselves born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist who do not believe homosexuality is a sin," Stetzer observed. "Seventeen percent in that latter category may seem low compared to the others, but considering these people consider themselves born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist, it reminds us of the need for clear biblical teaching on the issue in our community."

The trajectory in Western culture is toward greater acceptance of homosexuality, Stetzer noted, but evangelical Christians cannot base their convictions about homosexuality on what polls say or the values portrayed in the media.

"We did not develop our views of sexuality because we flipped a coin or took a poll," he emphasized. "We

believe the teaching of Scripture is clear that monogamous, heterosexual marriage is God's best for people, culture and society."

Stetzer also pointed to the challenge in the data. "Almost a third of Americans and almost half of those who do not attend a place of worship—the people we are trying to reach—say our view of sexual morality would negatively impact their decision to visit our churches," he said. "It's clear we have a challenging but essential task. We need to strive to show the love of Christ, while upholding the standard of Scripture, to those who struggle with same-sex attraction."

The survey also asked participants which factors they thought contributed to same-sex attraction and gave them six options: choice, determined at birth (inevitable), influenced at birth (but not inevitable), childhood abuse, lack of bonding with parent and lack of same-sex parent role modeling.

Among the sample of Americans, 51 percent selected choice. Fifty-three percent of Catholics and Protestants and 60 percent of born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Protestants also chose that option.

Expert suggests 'too much has been made' of SBC decline

Tharp: SBC reality more complex than overall membership

By Mark Kelly
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Making a big issue of a one-year decline in the Southern Baptist Convention's total membership number focuses too much on one number—and misses the complexity of what is going on in Southern Baptist life, according to one leading Southern Baptist statistician.

"Too much has been made of the 2007 drop in total membership (.24 percent, from 16,306,246 to 16,266,920)," said Cliff Tharp, who coordinates collection of the SBC's Annual Church Profile statistics for LifeWay Christian Resources. "One year does not a trend make. It's a complex reality with numerous factors at work. They interact with each other. It's simplistic, to grab onto one and say, 'This is it.'"

Many factors at work

In a complicated setting like 21st-century America, many trends in the larger society—changing ethnic makeup, family mobility, the aging of the population, urbanization, resistance to Christianity—affect membership and attendance in

churches, Tharp noted. Even what seems to be straightforward analysis of plain numbers may not capture the complexities of what is really going on.

"Besides the total membership number, we also report resident membership and average primary worship attendance. People can choose the ones they feel best reflect the reality," Tharp indicated. "But when you start trying to interpret numbers, things get complicated."

For example, average attendance may not completely reflect the number of people actually involved in a congregation if 25 percent of the people are there only on the first and third Sundays, while another 25 percent are there only on the second and fourth.

On top of that, in a highly mobile society like the United States, members who move and join another congregation may be double counted if that second church does not inform the original church of the change.

Is it dishonest for the Southern Baptist Convention to report it has 16 million members when the number of active Southern Baptists may be much lower?

No, according to Tharp—for at least two reasons.

First, the SBC merely reports the statistics submitted by local church-

es.

"The churches manage their own membership," Tharp explained. "The total membership number probably is inflated, but when all is said and done that is a congregational issue. A grassroots change has to come about."

Second, the total membership number cannot simply be abandoned because it plays a vital role in several areas: determining the number of messengers a congregation can have at an annual meeting, providing a means of comparison with other religious groups that use similar measures, offering a measure of the "corporate size" and thus the strength of a church body, and providing continuity with historical measurements of Southern Baptist life that date back to 1845.

Other statistics

Instead of focusing on total membership as an indicator of the Southern Baptist Convention's health, other statistics might be more helpful—and provide plenty of cause for concern themselves, Tharp pointed out.

"It concerns me that since 1950 the annual rate of growth of Southern Baptist churches has been declining," he said. "In 1950, we had an annual growth rate of 4.5 percent; it's less than .5 percent today."

"When you get down to a growth

rate that low, almost anything that happens can take you down for a loss in the total membership number," he added.

Another valuable number is the percentage of churches that are growing, Tharp emphasized. Only about 30 percent of Southern Baptist congregations are growing; that means about 70 percent are declining. A growing church is one with an increase in total membership of 10 percent or more over the past five years; a declining church is one with a decrease in total membership of 10 percent or more over the past five years; plateaued are those in between.

Of course, for a group that sees evangelism as a defining characteristic of its identity, baptisms are an important indicator, Tharp noted. In 2007, the number of reported baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention dropped nearly 5.5 percent, from 364,826 in 2006 to 345,941.

While the number of baptisms reported each year since 1950 have bounced back and forth between 350,000 and 450,000, the overall trend line is flat, Tharp pointed out.

"We have made effort after effort to increase baptisms, but we haven't seen any real change in 57 years," he noted. "That ought to be as much a concern to us as anything."

Hunt remembered as long-time advocate of Baptist missions

Continued from page 1

Born in Roanoke in 1909, Hunt grew up at First Baptist Church of Roanoke and was baptized at age 10. She left briefly to earn a degree at Longwood College in Farmville, Va., but returned to teach in Roanoke's public schools. In 1943, pastor of First Baptist, Roanoke, Walter Pope Binns, assumed the presidency of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., and the next year he asked Hunt to become the school's dean of women. She held that post for four years—while also earning a master's degree in student-personnel administration at Columbia University—when she was elected WMU executive director.

During her tenure, WMU's membership grew to an all-time high of 1.5 million and its publishing arm expanded. Hunt led the organization to help form the Baptist World Alliance's women's division and the North American Baptist Women's Union, which she served as president from 1964-67. She was vice president of the BWA from 1970-75.

After retiring in 1974, she joined the staff of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., as an unpaid volunteer, traveling to 45 countries as a consultant for women's missions work.

In 1985, she returned to Roanoke to care for her mother, while continuing to speak and write around the country. In 1995, she was the only woman invited as a featured speaker at the 150th anniversary celebration of the Southern Baptist Convention. "Missions is what makes me get up in the morning," she said at the time.

In the 1990s, additional recognitions came her way with the naming of WMU's Hunt Library and Archives and of its Alma Hunt Museum on missions education; of Hunt Hall at Virginia WMU's retreat center; of the Alma Hunt Cottage to house adults with developmental disabilities at Hope-Tree Family Services (formerly Virginia Baptist Children's Home); and of the Alma Hunt Theological Library at the John Leland Center for Theological Studies in Arlington, Va.

In 1998, Virginia Baptists' 106-year-old state missions of fering was named for her.

Hunt, who never married, is survived by a nephew, William Roe Jr. of Roanoke; niece, Mary Anna Hunt of Indianapolis, Ind.; and by seven great-nephews and -nieces.

Funeral services were held June 18 at Rosalind Hills Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va., which she joined in 2003.

New SBC entity trustees reflect Page's priorities

Indianapolis (BP)—More than 90 percent of the newly elected trustees of Southern Baptist Convention entities have never before served on an SBC board.

Messengers to the convention's annual meeting approved 145 nominees June 10 from the Committee on Nominations, 71 of whom were eligible for second terms and agreed to serve.

Of the remaining 76, committee chairman David Hill pointed out that the overwhelming majority have not previously served on a denominational board.

"It really speaks highly of (former SBC President) Dr. (Frank) Page and his tenure as our president for the past couple of years," Hill said. "His focus has been on really broadening the outreach to every area of the convention, not only ethnically, but small churches, large churches,

regionally. So we worked very hard at really bringing everyone to the table."

Of the nominees, 59 were laypeople and their churches gave an average of 9.2 percent through Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program missions and ministry support channel.

Hill, senior pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Springfield, Ohio, noted that the nominees come from a diverse array of churches, ranging in attendance from several dozen to several thousand.

"The diversity was really exciting because we had people from very large churches—thousands of members—all the way down to people who were in very small churches. We had denominational workers (and individuals from) every ethnic group that you can imagine. It was a great diversity in those nom-

inees."

Ethnic diversity was of particular concern in the selection process for boards and committees, Hill explained.

"We actually had people from various state conventions on the committee that voluntarily gave up their nominations for at-large positions so that minorities from other states could actually serve in those positions," he noted.

Hill emphasized that Southern Baptists should be pleased both with the quality of the newly elected trustees and the quality of the Committee on Nominations. He added that every decision of the committee was unanimous.

"The committee was absolutely incredible to work with," he said. "I have never worked with a group of people that were more gracious. They were so unified."

Texas WMU seeks healing with interim director

Dallas (ABP)—The Woman's Missionary Union of Texas board of directors has granted its intentional interim executive director broad powers as members seek healing for the troubled missions organization.

On the first day of their June 16-17 board meeting, directors learned the organization's executive committee had hired Nelda Seal, former executive director of Louisiana WMU, for the post 11 days earlier.

On June 17, members introduced a bylaws revision to give the chief executive authority to hire, fire and supervise all personnel. Under current bylaws, she holds that authority only over personnel not directly elected by the board—meaning only over mid- and lower-level em-

ployees.

Directors are expected to vote on the amendment within 30 days.

The board also approved a recommendation to allow the interim executive "to evaluate and restructure the staff as may be deemed necessary and appropriate."

Nina Pinkston had been named the interim executive after former exec Carolyn Porterfield unexpectedly resigned last October. Last month, the executive committee abruptly dismissed Pinkston from the post.

After her dismissal, Pinkston publicly acknowledged deep division within the Texas WMU staff.

The board spent part of its meeting in executive session, where

members developed a public statement: "Recently, the board of directors of WMU of Texas met in Dallas for its regular summer meeting and board training. In recent days, its foundation has been shaken," the statement said.

"One board member stated, 'We came confused and left united.' As a result of training ... the board clarified its roles and responsibilities. The first step taken was the hiring of an intentional interim executive director-treasurer, Nelda Seal, a former executive director of Louisiana WMU for 15 years.

"WMU of Texas has moved forward on its firm foundation of reaching, teaching (and) discipling Texas and the world."

Next stop: Louisville

Southern Seminary's sesquicentennial brings SBC to Louisville

Continued from page 1

tion coming back. ... It is a wonderful opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to tell the story and to welcome the entire Southern Baptist Convention to Louisville."

Logan indicated that preliminary arrangements have already begun. This includes obtaining signed contracts with both the convention site and hotel. Those two factors will give Louisville a distinctive feel compared to past host cities like Indianapolis and San Antonio, he noted.

"The convention's going to be different for our messengers than they've had it in the past," he said.

Louisville logistics

According to Logan, with the need for at least 350,000 square feet of floor space to host an SBC annual meeting, the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center—commonly referred to as the fairgrounds—was the only choice as a convention site in Louisville.

Although the location provides ample space for the meeting, exhibit hall and breakout rooms, the sprawling layout of the fairgrounds poses a challenge for convention organizers.

The main challenge: shuttles—a lot of them.

"We always run shuttles in a city. We did in Indianapolis, even though many of the hotels were (within) walking distance," Logan recalled. "But in Louisville, we're going to have to shuttle pretty much all hotels."

That includes the convention hotel, the Executive West, which despite its location, "you still have to go across four lanes of traffic and ... the parking lot," Logan observed.

Initially, the Executive West was to share convention hotel duties with its neighbor, the Executive Inn. That all changed when plans were announced last year to demol-

ish the Executive Inn and renovate the Executive West, rebranding it as a Crowne Plaza Hotel. The work is expected to be completed well ahead of next year's June meeting. However, Logan said, the project takes a huge bite out of the number of hotel rooms available near the convention site, meaning many messengers may be forced to stay in hotels as far away as 10 miles.

Yet another logistical headache—which was certainly not an issue in Indianapolis—is the scarcity of restaurants within reasonable distance of the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, Logan noted.

"We're going to have to do our best to give them food options there in the convention hall so maybe they'll stay," he explained. "You always run the danger (of) if they leave, they may not come back."

Regardless of the logistical issues, Logan said that convention planning teams are moving forward and a chairman for the local arrangements committee—which coordinates and oversees many of the volunteers at the annual meeting—has been chosen.

Daniel Hatfield, vice president for student services and accreditation at Southern Seminary, will handle those duties for the Louisville gathering. He said his most important role is staffing the numerous subcommittees and enlisting as many as 400 volunteers to work throughout the two-day annual meeting.

"There are no innovations that I have to develop or anything quirky to Louisville, but rather to fill those slots," Hatfield noted.

Logan pointed out that by the time October rolls around, the local arrangements committee will begin reaching out to churches in the Louisville area to fill subcommittees ranging from ushers to transportation to child care. By January 2009, those groups will begin enlisting vol-

unteers, which according to Logan, numbered more than 900 for this year's meeting in Indianapolis.

Hatfield said he intends to recruit a lot of Southern Seminary students to serve on the local arrangements subcommittees as a way for them to participate in a "singular opportunity during their studies." He also called the annual meeting a "historic moment" for the seminary.

"It's a unique privilege for us to showcase our contribution to denominational life and we want to seize the moment and bring people to campus," Hatfield explained.

Campus renovations

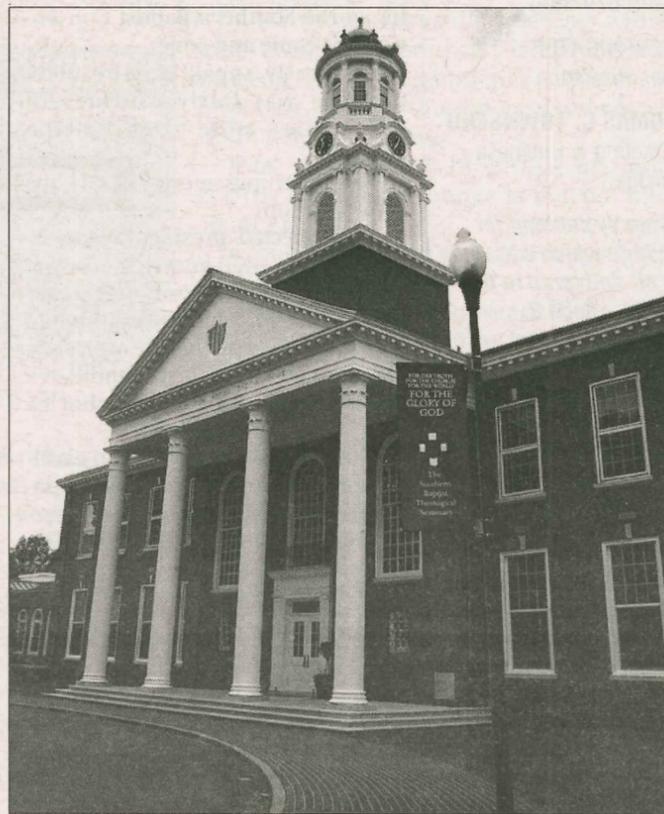
According to Mohler, inviting Southern Baptists to the Southern Seminary campus has prompted a \$6 million improvement project which includes a 14,000-square-foot pavilion "that will become the new front door for the seminary," he said.

In addition to the pavilion, the school is designing a new gated main entrance onto campus; an expansion of the seminary's Founder's Café; a new commons area to be named in honor of former seminary president Edgar Young Mullins; and improved signage on campus.

"All across campus you see major renovation, beautification and historic preservation projects going on," Mohler said. "This campus is a jewel. Very few theological institutions have anything like the campus that Southern Seminary enjoys."

Part of the festivities honoring Southern's sesquicentennial during the SBC annual meeting will include an open house on campus during the Wednesday afternoon break. The next day, after the annual meeting has adjourned, the school will host a "major reunion for alumni and friends ... to celebrate the seminary and its history," Mohler noted.

The Southern president might even have had the opportunity to



pull double duty at next year's SBC annual meeting—both as convention president and head of the seminary. Health issues derailed that plan earlier this year after doctors found a tumor in Mohler's colon. Doctors later removed it and found it not to be cancerous.

Becoming SBC president this year would have given Mohler the opportunity to preside over next year's Louisville gathering. While he admitted a "tinge of disappointment" in not fulfilling that role, Mohler acknowledged relief that health issues likely kept him from taking on too much responsibility.

"In retrospect, God's timing—which is always perfect—I now understand to have prevented me from being in a situation which I might not have been able to do all the things I would want to do for the seminary during those days," he said.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Norton Hall on the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary campus recently received a face lift as part of the school's \$6 million campus improvement project. The seminary will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year with help from the Southern Baptist Convention.

WKU students, churches bond to remember China's quake victims

By Jim Gaines
Bowling Green Daily News

Bowling Green—About 50 people gathered June 12 in the Baptist Campus Ministry Student Center on the Western Kentucky University campus in Bowling Green at a candlelight memorial vigil for victims of the massive May 12 earthquake in Sichuan, China.

Qian Yuan, chairman of the Chinese ministry at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, read out names of the dead—but only a few.

"That list goes on and on, containing more than 77,000 names," he said.

Living Hope is donating \$10,000 to relief efforts and is collecting donations for more, Yuan noted. Another \$15,000 is coming from Baptist Global Response, he added.

The crowd gathered in a room lit by a slide projector and, later, by candles that formed a cross within a heart on the floor. They joined in prayers, Bible readings and hymns in English and Chinese.

The service was organized by Chinese students at Western Kentucky

University and Living Hope's ministry, according to Yuan.

Jason Lin, president of Chinese Student Scholars Association, said the students wanted to hold a service to mark the one-month anniversary of the quake. He is not from the devastated area, and is not sure if any of the Western students had friends or family there, but said they all felt the tragedy deeply.

Lin was pleased at the response, and expressed thanks for those who came; he saw students from Saudi Arabia, Japan and Korea there as well, he noted.

"It's not an issue just for Chinese people," Lin acknowledged. "The earthquake affects people from all areas of the world."

Western Kentucky students Li Ping Cai and Haley Middleton, and recent graduate Torrey Rogers, sang hymns, while Eric Baker, young adult minister at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, led prayers and delivered a short sermon.

"We can have sorrow for the loss of the people, but we cannot lose our hope," he urged.



CANDLELIGHT VIGIL Chinese students from Shenyang, China, (from left) Xiao Wa Jia, Li Zhao and Li Ping Cai hold candles during a June 12 service remembering the Chinese earthquake victims at Western Kentucky University's Baptist Campus Ministry student center in Bowling Green. (Photo by David Smith/Bowling Green Daily News)

Numbers as large as the earthquake's toll are hard to comprehend, unless someone you know was involved, said Scott Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church.

"It is this 'one' we must speak of, because there were 70,000 'ones'

out there," he said. "Each one was mourned."

Ushers lit a few of the crowd's candles, and they lit their neighbors', then all knelt to light the design on the floor.

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

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Is SBC addressing correct problem?

By **Lonnie Wilkey**

Nashville—Another annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention has come and gone.

Generally speaking, the 2008 meeting was fairly routine—no major issues arose to disrupt the sessions.

Several things merit consideration.

Hunt elected president. Messengers elected well-known conservative pastor Johnny Hunt on the first ballot. That may have been the biggest surprise—not that he won, but that an election with six candidates did not require a run-off ballot as many observers predicted.

Hunt, by all accounts, is an excellent preacher of the Word. His popularity exceeds his home state of Georgia. He is closely identified with the conservative shift, but then all six candidates were strong conservatives.

Some question the fact that Hunt's church, First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., gave only 2.2 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program. In his nomination speech for Hunt, Florida pastor Ted Traylor focused not on CP giving, but the \$3.3 million the church has given for SBC missions, which includes CP, contributions to the two mission boards, and the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Remember that two years ago Frank Page was elected on the basis of his church's strong support of the Cooperative Program. Let's hope Hunt's election does not send a signal that giving through the Cooperative Program is not important. Without all churches giving together through CP, there would be no national convention.

Registration. One distressing thing about the convention is that attendance continues to decrease. Messenger registration was the lowest since the convention met in Phoenix in 2003.

Not only did the 7,277 total fall way short of the 8,630 who attended in San Antonio last year, it was about

1,400 below the registration when the convention met in Indianapolis just four years ago.

In fairness, there was terrible weather in the Midwest, but did it really keep that many messengers away? If anything affected the attendance, my guess would be the cost of gasoline which in some places exceeded \$4 per gallon.

Keep in mind that this was an election year for the presidency and there were six announced candidates. If that was not an incentive for messengers to attend, what will it take?

I have written this before and will continue to do so. Convention leadership needs to seriously consider an annual meeting every two years. It would not take away from the election of a president. Most presidents are re-elected for a second term. If for some reason, the president did not want to serve the second term, the vice president could move up and take over the helm for that second year.

Several millions of dollars would be saved, not just money from messengers who attend, but the money that would be saved by the convention itself and all the institutions that send employees to staff exhibits and hold alumni gatherings. Money saved every other year could be directed to missions causes.

If gasoline prices continue to soar, attendance will do nothing but continue its downward spiral. As it is now, our business is being decided by a small fraction of the membership. Having the annual meeting every two years could increase the number of messengers who attend.

The wrong issue? One of the most talked about subjects at the annual meeting and at the Pastors Conference which preceded the annual meeting was the fact that baptisms in the convention are continuing a downward spiral.

Messengers also tackled the topic of "regenerate membership" by adopting a resolution encouraging

churches to tighten up the church rolls.

Quite frankly, churches should do a better job of keeping their membership rolls updated. It would not surprise me to find that members who have been dead for years are still listed on membership rolls of Southern Baptist churches.

But before we do a purging of the lists, let's consider this statistic I heard. The number was tossed out that the SBC has a membership of 16 million people but on any given Sunday, only six million are in church.

That is astounding to me. When 37.5 percent of our membership does not attend church, it suggests that our real problem may not be evangelism. There appears to be a serious discipleship problem.

When I was a kid, Southern Baptists had a strong "Training Union," in which adults and children were taught doctrine and other aspects of what it meant to be a Christian and a Southern Baptist. Even as a child, I knew what the Cooperative Program was. Today, many Southern Baptist adults have no clue as to what it is and why it is important.

If we were able to find just half of the 10 million on our rolls who do not attend, get them back into church and disciple them, evangelism would take care of itself. Our number of baptisms would increase each year instead of decrease or just "hold steady."

Maybe it is time the Southern Baptist Convention made an all-out effort not just to evangelize but to go that extra mile and disciple those who make decisions.

Keep in mind that the Great Commission instructs us to "make disciples" and that involves more than baptizing and adding numbers to a church roll.

Lonnie Wilkey is editor of the *Tennessee Baptist & Reflector*

What are you thinking?

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

Father's Day at South Jefferson Baptist

Father's Day was a special celebration at South Jefferson Baptist Church in Louisville. The music, children's sermon, special recognitions and the message all gave attention to the important role of fathers.

The pastor, Thomas (T.J.) Francis, was on vacation with his family that Sunday, but he represents young pastors who are proclaiming God's Word, learning to lead God's people and caring for the people of God. It was privilege to worship with this vibrant church.

The church's Sunday school enrollment has balance among all age groups. Seven of the church's 17 baptisms in 2007 were of people 18 years of age or older.

The church also has an excellent ministry to youth. Twenty-five middle school youth from the church will participate in Crossings at the Cedarmore Conference Center this summer.

A teenage girl confessed her faith

during the invitation. A friend who is active in the youth ministry accompanied her.

In addition to supporting the missions offerings, South Jefferson also gives 10 percent to missions through the Cooperative Program. The church will reach the \$1 million mark in cumulative CP gifts in about two years.

During the service, the church had a recognition of all fathers in attendance and presented special gifts to the oldest and youngest. I was impressed with the number of men who were present with their families and especially the number of young couples with children.

The church also received a special offering for the Donald Coleman Scholarship Fund at Oneida Baptist Institute. Coleman, a former pastor of the church, was a graduate of Oneida.

Becki McBroom, the church's part-time youth minister gave the children's sermon. She shared that

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

CHURCH

Giving to the Lord can be done for all the wrong reasons

By **Doug Strader**

I sometimes think I've heard all of the reasons why one should give to the Lord's work, as well as all the reasons not to give. Most of the time I write about positive things related

to financial stewardship. But this week, I am writing about some of the wrong reasons to give to the Lord through the church.

■ Some people give out of a sense of guilt. However, guilt is never a good reason to give one's tithes and offerings.

■ Others give because they feel that as Christians they have to give, instead of having a sense that as Christians, they have the opportunity to partner with God in giving tithes and offerings.

■ Believe it or not, there are some people who give to impress others and even boast about how much they give to the Lord through the church.

■ Some church members give because they can use their gifts as a tax deduction each year when they file their taxes with the federal and state governments.

■ Some individuals feel that their tithes and offerings are necessary to do the work of God and His church. They fail to realize that everything in the world belongs to God. He wants His people to give out of a sense of their need to give, not His need to get.

■ Others feel that if they do not give their tithes and offerings to God, He will cause them to suffer a financial loss or other tragedies.

■ Some Christians believe that God will give them more money if they are faithful to tithe. It is true that if Christians are faithful to give their tithes and offerings to God, He will bless them—but not necessarily with more money.

■ Some Christians think that if they give their tithes and offerings to God then they are not expected to use their other spiritual gifts in service for the Lord and His church.

■ Finally, some people believe that they should give their tithes and offerings if they attend the worship service. If they miss the worship service, however, then they see no reason to give their tithes and offerings.

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



Marriage experts taking new approach to helping couples

Q: My marriage is in serious trouble and I don't think we're going to make it. Reading a marriage book is not going to fix it and we've tried counseling. Is there anything that could make a difference at this point?

For many struggling couples, marriage counseling once a week for 50 minutes does not come close to providing the help needed. Couples may barely scratch the surface of the issues they are facing, much less begin the skill building and education necessary to change the direction of their marriage. This process can become frustrating and discouraging.

MARRIAGE

Some marriage education experts are taking a different approach. Combining the expertise of marriage educators and counselors, organizations are offering multiple-day marriage intensives for couples in crisis. Taking the couple out of their routine and placing them in a focused setting can provide much-needed help. Some available options include:

- Intensive marriage counseling programs through the National Institute of Marriage. www.NationalMarriage.com.
- Retrouvaille. www.Retrouvaille.org. (800) 470-2230.
- Marriage Restoration Intensives. www.GoSmalley.com. (866) 581-0687.
- A New Beginning. www.SaveMyMarriage.com. (800) 650-9995.

When a marriage is in trouble, a more intense and focused approach may be best to help redirect the relationship. There are several marriage intensives available across the country. Consider these and others you may find through a minister, family, friend or the Internet.—Valerie Vincent

Q: As a single person, what options do I have for taking vacations this summer?

I refer you to Cameron Conant's article in the May 2008 issue of Christian Single magazine. He recommends Marlee LaDai's book, "Go, Girl: Finding Adventure Wherever It Leads." LaDai points out that it is easier to meet people when you are traveling alone, and that the people you meet are going to be interesting. This is because you meet others who have the gumption to get out and go places and people with interesting experiences to share.

Conant outlines six ways to go about the joyful journey of traveling alone:

- Get on the Internet. Sites he recommends are Contiki.com, GoAbroad.com, GoNomad.com, Hostelworld.com, HostelBookers.com, Idealist.org, 10Best.com and Virtual Tourist.com.
- Book in advance. The hostel sites listed above include both affordable hostels and more expensive bed and breakfasts.
- Vacation with a purpose. Idealist.org and GoAbroad.com listed above offer such opportunities. Allow God to speak to you and through you as you travel on these experiences.
- Travel light. No matter how long your trip, one week's worth of clothes, soap, clothesline and clothespins should suffice. Be flexible.
- Look for ways to save. Free walking tours of cities are often offered in English. Local markets can be cheap, healthy and culturally unique. Remember to take in plenty of water while traveling.
- Get out of your comfort zone. When things happen for which you did not plan, that's when God has a special opportunity to work—and when you have a special privilege to learn.
- Enjoy your own company. LaDai says remember to be "with yourself" rather than "by yourself." A solo retreat can be a spiritually enriching experience.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@earthlink.net.



Reasons to join in Crossover Louisville '09

I know what you're thinking: "Why should I participate in the Southern Baptist Convention's Crossover 2009 in Louisville? Is it just another event to add to my already busy calendar? Can I really make a difference? What's in it for me? I only want to invest my time and resources in things that I can measure in a visible return."

Stop. Let me challenge you to be a part of something with eternal consequences and is an eternal investment. From my personal experience of Crossover involvement, I can convince you that it is not a waste of your time. Here's why:

Lives will be saved. Two weeks ago in Indianapolis, approximately 500 volunteers participated in Crossover 2008. Their work resulted in 759 salvations—what a return on their investment.

Communities will be engaged. In two days of relationship-building activities, personal bonds are formed between believers and their communities. When those relationships are continued and strengthened, individuals are more open to receive the gospel.

You will be personally renewed. I guarantee that if you participate in Crossover 2009, you will experience spiritual renewal.

For those of you who will be first-time Crossover participants, let me describe this opportunity for you.

What? Crossover is an evangelistic event that offers opportunities for individuals and church groups to engage their communities with the gospel.

There are several ways to get involved. You can:

- Host a block party, a car and bike show, an arts and crafts fair, a 5K walk/run, etc. The possibilities are endless—be creative.
- Become a prayer warrior by praying for the volunteer teams, evangelistic events and/or prayerwalk designated communities.
- Get trained and participate in door-to-door surveys and personal evangelism.
- Be a servant. Many opportunities for service to

the community will be made available to demonstrate compassion in a tangible way.

When? The Crossover Louisville weekend will be June 19-20, 2009, prior to the SBC's annual meeting. However, additional activities can be planned at your convenience in the weeks leading up to Crossover.

How? Get involved by getting informed. Use the following resources to find out more about Crossover:

- Long Run Baptist Association, (502) 635-2601, www.lrbba.org.
- Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 489-3576, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3576, www.KyBaptist.org.
- Crossover Louisville '09, www.CrossoverLouisville.com.

There are people all around you who are lost without a relationship with Jesus Christ. They need you to tell them. In his book, "3:16 The Numbers of Hope," author Max Lucado shares a memoir that describes the "whoever" mentioned in John 3:16. He writes:

"I love to hear my wife say 'whoever.' Sometimes I detect my favorite fragrance wafting from the kitchen: strawberry cake. I follow the smell like a bird dog follows a trail until I'm standing over the just-baked, just-iced pan of pure pleasure. Yet I've learned to still my fork until Denalyn gives clearance.

"Who is it for?" I ask.

"She might break my heart. 'It's for a birthday party, Max. Don't touch it.' Or, 'For a friend. Stay away.' Or she might throw open the door of delight, 'Whoever.' And since I qualify as a 'whoever,' I say 'yes.'"

"I hope you will too. Not to the cake, but to God. No status too low. No hour too late. No place too far. However. Whenever. Wherever. Whoever includes you ... forever."

Don't miss the opportunity.

Ross Bauscher is evangelism growth team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GUEST EDITORIAL



Ross Bauscher

California threatens marriage nationwide

By Penna Dexter

Dallas (BP)—The California Supreme Court's decision legalizing gay marriage prompted the American Civil Liberties Union to send an e-mail blast to supporters. It read:

"We won the marriage case in California." It continued: "... this is big." And the final message: "This was a prize of inestimable value."

They're not kidding. The California ruling is a greater threat to marriage than the one more than four years ago in Massachusetts because, unlike Massachusetts, California has no prohibition against marrying same-sex couples from other states where gay marriage is illegal. If this decision stands, couples will travel to California to marry and return home to challenge the marriage laws and amendments in their home states, unleashing legal chaos and forcing gay marriage on states that have not amended their constitutions to prevent it.

The decision did not surprise some Californians who support traditional marriage. Months ago, they began and have now succeeded in gathering more than enough signatures to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot. That amendment, if approved by a majority of voters, will place in the state constitution the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. This is an important vote because, not only will Californians decide the future of marriage in their state, they will also send a message regarding whether they are

willing to be ruled by judges who think it is their role to impose their will despite the clear wishes of the people on a matter.

Homosexuals seeking marriage say it is their "right." But as homosexuals attain the "right" to marriage, the institution itself loses its distinctive definition as the union between one man and one woman. And, in bestowing marriage on same-sex couples, the court has created other losers, in particular any children of those couples.

Additional losers are:

The family. Gay marriage in European countries shows us the redefinition of marriage will weaken the family structure.

The taxpayers. We will subsidize the fallout from family disintegration.

Democracy. Same-sex marriage comes to California and beyond because of a court decree, not the vote of a legislature or the people.

The church and free exercise of religion. I believe churches that refuse to marry same-sex couples or who preach that homosexuality is immoral eventually will lose their tax-exempt status—or worse.

Same-sex couples want equality and have gone after it in California by arguing that having all of the legal benefits of marriage under the state's domestic partnership law does not provide them with equality. So the same-sex adults get what they are after—marriage. But their kids suffer. They will be deprived of something that has historical

ly served children well: a mom and a dad.

Instead, the ruling strips these children of the right to be raised by a mother and father. Practically, it is two moms or two dads.

The decision makes possible a new type of "family" that goes outside of the bounds of biology, not to mention outside of God's plan. The language in the decision refers to parents as either "opposite-sex couples" or "same-sex couples." If this decision stands, then we can disregard history, cultural norms and religious practice. Just like that. Some people call this enlightened. Or progress. But it's not.

We need a national conversation and plan of action to prevent the spread of same-sex marriage to states where the citizens do not want it. A Los Angeles Times poll showed Californians rejecting the Supreme Court decision affirming gay marriage by a bare majority. They also, by a bare majority, back the amendment protecting marriage that will be on their ballot in November.

Californians are not ready for gay marriage. But there is more to this poll. More than half of those responding said same-sex relationships are not morally wrong and that gender does not matter in a relationship. The demographics are worrisome.

In states like California the people are on the verge of changing their collective mind. Before they do, the country should begin work on a federal marriage amendment.

Penna Dexter is a consultant for KMA Direct Communications in Plano, Texas, and co-host of the "Jerry Johnson Live" radio program

Statewide prayer gatherings focused on spiritual renewal

"It is significant when we pray knowing that other churches are also gathering on the same day to pray about the same things."

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists across the state are being called to prayer on Sept. 10 to ask God to bring spiritual awakening and renewal to the commonwealth.

Using the theme "With One Voice," the prayer services will be held at Baptist churches all across Kentucky. Hundreds of churches are expected to participate.

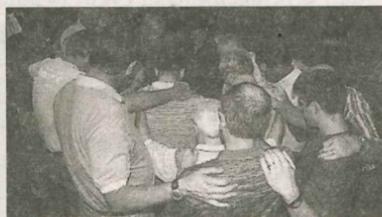
The prayer gatherings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

At each location, Baptists and other Christians will gather for approximately one hour of concerted prayer. In most locations, the prayer time will be introduced with a brief service of welcome and worship, but the vast majority of the time will be dedicated to praying, both corporately and in small groups.

"We will pray for people we know who do not yet know Jesus, for spiritual awakening in our community, for a movement of God in each church and for Kentucky Baptist ministries across the commonwealth," said Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Sept. 10 prayer services will mark the fourth consecutive year that the KBC has promoted a special time of united prayer. Last year, Kentucky Baptists gathered in local groups and churches for similar simultaneous prayer events.

The previous two years, a team of KBC leaders traveled the state to lead prayer gatherings. In 2005, the team traveled the perimeter of the state, making more than 30 stops



JOINING VOICES A group of men pray together at First Baptist Church of New Castle during last year's "With One Voice" prayer emphasis sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This year's simultaneous prayer events at churches across the state will be held Sept. 10.

with groups of Kentucky Baptists. In 2006, the leaders' travels focused on the interior of the state.

It is hoped that this year's prayer emphasis will spark large numbers of Christians to participate.

"Baptists are a people of prayer so it is certainly not something out of the ordinary for us to come together to pray," Mackey noted. "But I do believe it helps us all to focus in on the importance of prayer and on the importance of the issues we are praying about when we come together with a special emphasis like this."

"It is significant when we pray knowing that other churches are also gathering on the same day to pray about the same things."

For more information about the prayer gatherings, visit www.kybaptist.org/onevoice. Church leaders also can download materials from the Web site that can be used in promoting a particular prayer gathering.

Campbellsville's LINC program eases students into college life

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University was a little more like home for more than 135 students who attended the school's LINC orientation session June 5-6. The program offers incoming students the opportunity to experience what college life will be like when they arrive in the fall.

"LINC was a true eye opener to all the hardcore facts about student life," said Allison Medders, an incoming freshman from Campbellsville. "They did an awesome job of breaking the ice immediately and providing efficient information in a fun way. I met many people that I have already sparked a friendship with even before classes begin."

Medders' mother, Denise, said she was pleased that her daughter was able to spend time with her roommate and make several new friends. "She is excited and ready to attend CU and we feel comfortable with the decision she has made," Mrs. Medders noted.

Incoming freshman Sarah Smedley of Nashville, Tenn., admitted she had some stress heading into the LINC session, but afterward she found the program "very informational." "It put me at ease and made my college 'pre-stress' go away," she noted.

Campbellsville's Dean of Students Josh Anderson called LINC a

way to help new students "feel connected and a part of something great—the Campbellsville University family." He added that the two-day events are times for the students to get involved with the current students, faculty and staff and learn all they can about CU.

While the new families are on campus, Anderson said, "We provide them with information on student life, financial aid, business services, academic life and academic advising."

"We believe that if we can get these families comfortable and connected to the people of CU, they will feel comfortable with coming to us to help them make the transition to college life and to have a successful career at CU," he added.

This year's LINC orientation team is made up of "15 outstanding current CU students from every facet of CU—music, art, education, science, athletics, band members, etc.," Anderson noted. "These kids are fantastic at relating to students and getting them connected to CU and helping them build their excitement for the coming semester."

Two LINC orientation sessions remain for this summer on June 27-28 and July 17-18. For more information on the program, contact Campbellsville University's office of student services at (270) 789-5005.

KBC's All-State Youth Choir, Orchestra to tour June 25-29

Louisville—Nearly 60 young people from Baptist churches across Kentucky have been selected to perform June 25-29 as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2008 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra.

The group is scheduled to perform five concerts at five different locations throughout the state. Concerts will be held at the following locations:

■ Wednesday, June 25, 6:30 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Murray.

■ Thursday, June 26, 7 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

■ Saturday, June 28, 7 p.m., at Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.

■ Sunday, June 29, 10:30 a.m., at Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

■ Sunday, June 29, 3 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

The choir—made up of students in grades 9 through 12 selected through a series of auditions in the spring—is under the direction of Mickey Ballard, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Richmond, and Sue Ellen Ballard, director of choral activities for Eastern Kentucky University. The orchestra is under the direction of Steve Dunn, minister of instrumental music at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. The tour is sponsored by the KBC's worship and music department.

All-State Youth Choir:

Allan Amburn, Hurstbourne Baptist Church of Louisville.

Thomas Amburn, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Rebekah Bess, First Baptist Church of Owenton.

Chad Blackwell, First Baptist Church of Danville.

Phillip Brewer*, Robinson Creek Baptist Church in London.

Blake Cox, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.

Capria Crouch, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Brandi Cunningham, Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

Christopher Deaton, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Matthew Fackler, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.

Emily Hardin-Lynch, Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg.

Holly Hardwick*, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

Jessica Harris, Hillsdale Baptist Church in Louisville.

Sarah Harrison, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

Jordan Herget, First Baptist Church of Fisherville.

Christina Johnson, First Baptist Church of Owenton.

Katherine Kelley*, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

Christian Kinman, Versailles Baptist Church.

Stacie Lawless, Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

Stephanie Lawless, Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

Leslie Leach*, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

Nicholas Miller, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Colton New, First Baptist Church of Owenton.

Rebecca Oliver*, Scottsville Baptist Church.

Katelyn Pardue*, Scottsville Baptist Church.

Megan Posey, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Mark Reeves, Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville.

Amanda Rice, Willow Grove Baptist Church in Danville.

Kate Sanders*, Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Erin Shields, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.

Jeff Stelly, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Kelsey Stillwell, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

Mallory Taylor*, Canton Baptist Church in Cadiz.

Melina Taylor*, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.

Emma Turpin*, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Jessica Waters, First Baptist Church of Fisherville.

*indicates student also is a member of the orchestra

All-State Youth Orchestra:

James Addington, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

Kinly Bertram, First Baptist Church of Monticello.

Lindsey Byrd, Calvary Baptist Church in Princeton.

Miles Cary, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Kailyn Conner, First Baptist Church of Albany.

Zach Cox, Fairview Baptist Church in Mannsville.

Kelly Ford, Nortonville Baptist Church.

Michael Frederick, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

Randa Hankins, Calvary Baptist Church in Princeton.

Jenna Haynes, Raymond Baptist Church in Webster.

Blake Herron, Palestine Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

Ben Hussung, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

James McCullough, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

John Mitchell, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Natalie Olp, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

Justin Pigram, DeHaven Baptist Church in LaGrange.

J.D. Robinson, First Baptist Church of Fulton.

Georgia Sams, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Joel Sams, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Caleb Stacy, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Somerset.

Ashley Stearns, First Baptist Church of Albany.

Fern Thomas, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

Samuel Yates, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

Another faith-healing death brings church more scrutiny

Portland, Ore. (RNS)—The painful and apparently preventable faith-healing death of a 16-year-old Oregon boy June 17 brings the secretive Followers of Christ Church back under legal scrutiny, just four months after the boy's infant niece died in similar circumstances.

But unlike the girl's death, which resulted in criminal mistreatment and manslaughter charges against her parents, state law may protect the boy's parents since under state statute he was old enough to make his own medical decisions.

Neil Jeffrey Beagley died at his grandmother's home in Gladstone, Ore., a week after first complaining of stomach pain and shortness of breath. As Beagley's family and several dozen church members prayed for what they call spiritual healing, the teenager deteriorated and died, according to police and medical investigators.

Cliff Nelson, Oregon deputy state medical examiner, said that an autopsy determined Beagley died of complications from a constriction where his bladder empties into his urethra. The boy became unable to urinate, an intensely painful condition that caused his kidneys to stop extracting urea from his bloodstream and triggered heart failure.

Nelson said the blockage, which may have been congenital, easily

could have been treated. He added the autopsy indicated that Beagley had suffered repeated episodes of blockage and pain, probably throughout his life, with no apparent medical intervention.

As his condition worsened, the boy was taken to the home of his grandmother. Neighbors and police said more than 60 members of the Followers of Christ Church gathered there to attempt faith healing, which includes anointing the body in oil, "laying on hands" and praying for a cure.

Gladstone police spokeswoman Sgt. Lynne Benton said a church leader called the medical examiner's office about 5:30 p.m. on June 17 and reported that the teen had died about an hour before. Benton said investigators then detained church and family members for interviews. She noted that all members indicated Beagley refused medical treatment.

In March, the church made headlines when Beagley's 15-month-old niece, Ava Worthington, died at home from bronchial pneumonia and a blood infection. Medical experts deemed both conditions treatable with antibiotics.

The infant's parents, Carl and Raylene Worthington, have since pleaded not guilty to manslaughter and criminal mistreatment.

NATIONAL NOTES

Faith-based groups lose tax-exempt status. The Internal Revenue Service has revoked the tax-exempt status of two small faith-based organizations in Utah and Missouri. Prayer Works, of Branson, Mo., and America's Faith Centered Education Foundation, Inc., of Huntsville, Utah, will no longer be listed as non-profit charities, according to a recent IRS announcement. Pastor Howard Boyd, who headed Prayer Works, said his organization will no longer operate and will not fight the IRS ruling. Working with local banks and real estate agents, Boyd said Prayer Works helped 185 families in southwest Missouri buy homes. Glenn Kimber, a Utah educator familiar with America's Faith Centered Education, said that organization raised funds for students "to be educated in an environment where Judeo-Christian values are integrated into the learning process."

School settles commencement suit. School officials in Newark, N.J., have settled a lawsuit filed on behalf of a former Muslim student who was forced to skip his graduation two years ago because it was held in the sanctuary of a Baptist church. As a Muslim, Bilal Shareef's faith prohibited him from entering a building with religious icons, according to the suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union-New Jersey. The suit claimed when West Side High School held its graduation at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark two years ago, the district violated the state Constitution by forcing people to attend a place of worship contrary to their faith and discriminated because of religious principles. The district has since agreed not to sponsor or promote religious events and to stop using religious buildings or places of worship for school events.

Habitat drops deal with Planned Parenthood. An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity has decided to nix a deal with Planned Parenthood. The housing ministry's board of directors in Sarasota, Fla., has voted to refuse the local Planned Parenthood affiliate's offer to sell land for \$10 on which three Habitat homes were to have been built. The arrangement would have enabled Planned Parenthood to meet a city occupancy requirement that buildings be constructed on the property between the clinic's parking lot and a street, according to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. The Habitat affiliate backed out of the agreement June 3 in response to pressure from donors and not because of a philosophical disagreement with Planned Parenthood, the Herald-Tribune reported. American Life League led the effort to convince Habitat to reject Planned Parenthood's offer.

Evolution alternatives bill advances in La. The Louisiana House of Representatives has approved a science education bill that one prominent church-state group predicts could yield a lawsuit over teaching religion in public schools. The bill would allow science teachers to use supplemental materials when teaching subjects such as evolution, global warming, cloning and the origin of life. The House passed the bill June 11 and sent it to the state Senate. It would then go to Gov. Bobby Jindal, who has publicly expressed his support for teaching alternatives to evolution. Supporters say the measure will encourage honest discussions about controversial topics, with teachers using the most up-to-date research that sometimes is not included in textbooks. The bill includes a clause stating that the intent is neither to promote nor discriminate against any religious doctrine.

Plan NOW to attend the **171st KBC Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, November 11, 2008*

Immanuel Baptist Church
3100 Tates Creek Road
Lexington, Kentucky

*NEW one-day format. The Pastors' Conference, Mission Board meeting, and other affiliated conferences meet on Monday, November 10.

Lexington Accommodations

Rates do not include the current Lexington 13.4% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates.

Crowne Plaza Lexington
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1375 South Broadway
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250 guest rooms in KBC block
\$89 (1-4 guests per room)
•Non-smoking rooms
•On-site restaurant and café
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Limited # of rooms in KBC block
\$95 (1-4 guests per room)
•On-site restaurant
•High-speed Internet access
•Fitness center and pool
Reservation deadline: 10/22

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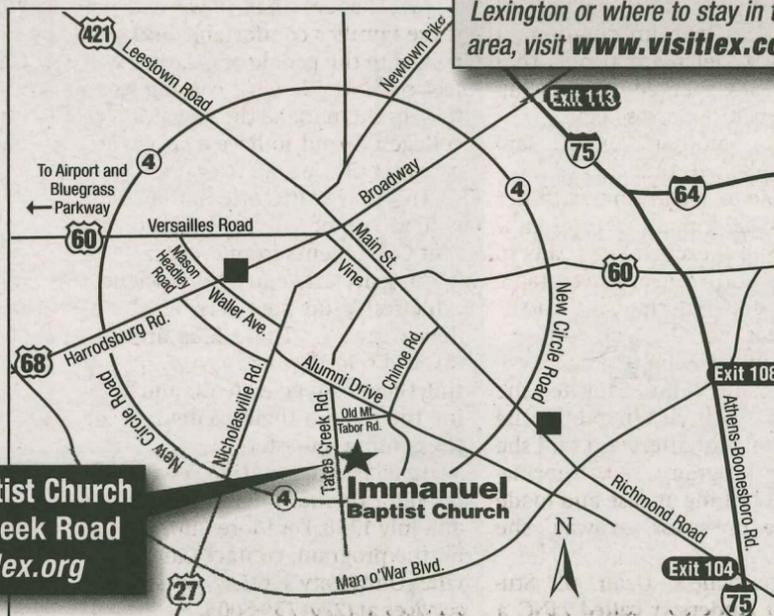
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Midwestern floods trigger multiple-state relief efforts

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Midwesterners impacted by the historic flooding in the region are calling the disaster "our Katrina" and, as in the hurricane's aftermath, Southern Baptists are quickly mobilizing to feed thousands displaced by the floodwaters.

Mickey Caison, operations manager for the North American Mission Board's disaster operations center in Alpharetta, Ga., said the Midwestern floods have been designated as a "multi-state event" and that the center's staff—already working 16-hour days—is ready to shift to around-the-clock mode.

For Iowa alone, Caison noted that the NAMB disaster relief center fielded a request from June 17 FEMA and the American Red Cross to prepare, cook and distribute 100,000 meals.

Six Southern Baptist feeding units with supporting staff have been deployed to Iowa, the hardest hit area in the Midwest so far, and those units will be preparing the meals. They are located in Cedar Falls, Wapello, Davenport, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. Also deployed to the Iowa cities are shower units for both flood victims and volunteers.

"We're hearing from our affected state disaster relief directors that the floodwaters are already worse than the 1993 floods in Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin," Caison indicated. Those were described as "500-year" floods at the time.

"Folks affected in the Midwest have told me this is their Hurricane Katrina," he added. "The number of states, counties and people affected is growing every day."

Terry Henderson, NAMB's national disaster relief director, said the flood area is larger than that caused by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in August 2005.

"In the last 500 years, water had never flooded Des Moines, yet Des Moines had eight inches of water in the downtown area," he noted, adding that 66 counties have flooded in Iowa and another 44 in Indiana.

According to FEMA, an estimated 11 million Midwesterners have been or will be impacted by the flooding and the tornadoes that have accompanied the storms.

Some 9,000-10,000 residents of Davenport, Iowa, were scheduled to be evacuated June 16 as floodwaters continued to flow southward toward Missouri, Henderson said.

Another 500 to 600 homes have already been ordered to evacuate in Cedar Rapids. Dave Miller, administrator of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, told CNN that in all, some 36,000 Iowans, mostly in Cedar Rapids, have evacuated their homes.

Meanwhile, the flooding in Central Indiana below Indianapolis two weeks ago was that state's worst since 1913, according to reports.

While feeding operations continue in Indiana, mud-out operations have been fewer than anticipated because local citizens have done much of their own mud-out work, Caison indicated.

But mud-out operations are not under way in Iowa yet because the water either has crested or continues to rise in various parts of the state, he noted.

"Historically, for every day the water comes in and the floodwaters rise, it takes two days for it to go down," Caison explained. "So we

Kentucky relief teams 'on alert'

Franklin, Ind.—As Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams continue providing aid to flood-stricken areas in Indiana, volunteers remain "on alert" while historic flooding continues to devastate much of Iowa, according to Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief associate Coy Webb.

Two Kentucky teams arrived in Indiana last weekend to assist with mud-out efforts. A team of six volunteers from Elizabethtown will serve until June 27, and six volunteers from Christian County will serve until June 28.

The KBC had recently sent 19 volunteers to Franklin, Ind., Webb said, but those teams are now finished.

"We are being asked to continue serving in Indiana, but we'll be ready to help in Iowa once the water begins to recede," Webb noted, adding that NAMB is sending volunteers from other states to provide immediate relief in Iowa.

"There are going to be tremendous needs in Iowa," he emphasized.

Webb said he has heard estimates that as much as 83 percent of Iowa is flooded. Officials from NAMB predicted that it could be as long as two weeks before the floodwaters recede.

At that time, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams likely will be called upon to do mud-out work, staff feeding teams and kitchen and shower units, as well as provide chaplaincy support, Webb indicated.

Meanwhile, a shower unit belonging to Christian County Baptist Association was destroyed June 15 while en route to Iowa. Two volunteers from Hopkinsville were pulling the unit in a trailer along an Illinois highway when high winds from a thunderstorm spun the truck around, dislodging the trailer and sending it rolling. The men were not injured in the accident, but the shower unit was totaled.

Webb said that while crews are not needed on site just yet, churches and individuals can still help with financial gifts given through NAMB or the KBC.

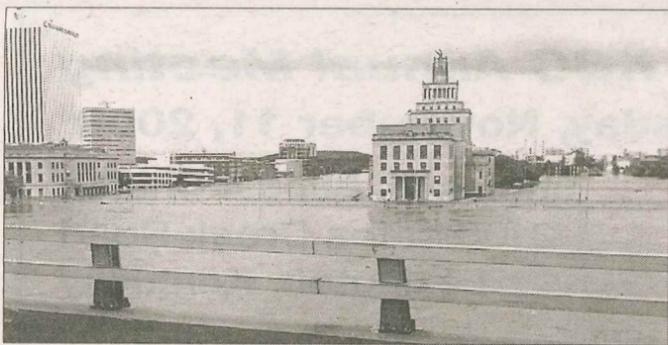
"They're saying that the damage is (Hurricane) Katrina-like and financial needs are going to be similar to Katrina," he added.

In the meantime, he urged trained disaster relief volunteers to be ready to help when the time comes.

"We are on alert and we are anticipating Kentucky teams to be needed in the coming weeks."

HIGH-WATER MARK

The city hall and county courthouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, were under water June 13 after the nearby Cedar River overflowed its banks. The flood has displaced thousands of residents throughout Iowa and officials expect flood levels to reach or exceed the historic 1993 flood. (BP photo by Jeff Wheeler)



S. Carolina lawmakers permit new 'I Believe' license plates

Columbia, S.C. (RNS)—Without the approval of the governor, the state of South Carolina will now permit drivers to put "I Believe" license plates on their vehicles.

The legislation, which was passed unanimously by the General Assembly late last month, calls for the plate to contain the words "I Believe" as well as a cross superimposed on a stained glass window.

Gov. Mark Sanford, a Republican, said in a June 5 letter that he allowed the bill to become law without his signature, which is permitted under the state constitution.

"While I do, in fact, 'believe'—it is my personal view that the largest proclamation of one's faith ought to be in how one lives one's life," the governor wrote in a letter to Glenn McConnell, president pro tem of the South Carolina Senate.

Marc Stern, general counsel for the American Jewish Congress, has written Sanford, arguing that the bill is unconstitutional: "The Establishment Clause's most basic precept is that the states may not favor one faith over another."

State Sen. Lawrence Grooms, who co-sponsored the bill, said he did not think the bill caused constitutional problems, The New York Times reported.

"We have other plates with religious symbols on them and phrases like 'In God We Trust,'" Grooms said. "Just because it's a cross, some very closed-minded people don't believe it should be on a plate."

The Times reported that the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union are considering lawsuits.

have to wait for the water to come in and go down before we can begin to get mud-out units in.

"Because of the levees breaking in Iowa, we're also moving into areas that were not expected to be flooded. So the needs and where we need to be are changing every hour," he added.

Like the Southern Baptist response in New Orleans—which still continues—Henderson said the response by Baptist mud-out and

chainsaw teams in Iowa could span many months. "It's going to be a long-term process," he said.

According to NAMB's disaster relief center, feeding, shower, and recovery units are located in the Indiana cities of Terre Haute, West Terre Haute, Franklin, New Whiteland and Bloomfield.

Disaster units (feeding, recovery, shower and chaplains) in Wisconsin include those in Reedsburg, Gays Mills and Muscoda.

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Baptist volunteers 'weirdest group' at Bonnaroo festival

By Erin Edgemon
Murfreesboro (Tenn.) Post

Manchester, Tenn.—Bonnaroo is more than music.

Volunteers from area churches have turned the annual Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival into a mission field.

"Instead of going away somewhere we thought why not meet the needs here," said Kerry Walker, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Manchester, Tenn.

"Music is great," he continued later, "but we want them to know there is more."

More than 100 volunteers from Manchester, Murfreesboro and all across Tennessee spent the four-day festival getting to know the "Roonies" camping around them by giving out free water, lemonade, bananas and other refreshments.

The seventh annual Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival kicked off June 12 and ended June 15.

"We are probably the weirdest group at Bonnaroo," said Bill Handy of Murfreesboro, who volunteered for the first time this year. "We are weird because we don't charge for anything."

Instead, they try to get to know concert goers and try to make a connection. Once that connection is made, Walker said they will usually let volunteers tell them their story.

"We don't try to push them farther than they are," he assured.

If they are willing, the volunteers will share their message of salvation and pray with those who visit their tent.

"Our ultimate goal is to have people come to know Christ," Walker acknowledged.

Few people accepted Christ during the festival, he said, but he believes the volunteers planted seeds that could bear fruit in the months and years to come.

"Our goal is to love people and in doing so, have the right to tell them the truth," Walker noted.

Others groups near the festival grounds wore or carried signs telling festival goers they are going to hell.

"What they are saying is correct," Walker acknowledged. "What I tell them (the volunteers) is speak what the Bible says in love. We don't condemn them (the concert goers) for what they do."

"Not the enemy"

Volunteers receive training on what they may see at the festival and how to approach participants.

"We train them not to be judgmental," Walker noted. "These kids are not the enemy, Satan is. They are the battleground."

For the last four years, the volunteers, led by Walker, have set up a tent in the yard of a New Bushy Branch Road home. They lease the space for \$1,000.

The group's "More than Music"

tent was situated between food vendors and hundreds of campsites. A team of college students from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Tennessee Tech in Cookeville and University of Tennessee at Martin on their summer mission trip kept the tent open 24 hours a day by working the night shift.

By Thursday afternoon, Walker said the tent already had more visitors than during last year's festival.

Several of the scantily clad visitors spent time under the tent getting some relief from the hot sun, drinking a cool cup of water and checking their e-mail. They appreciated the kindness of the church volunteers.

"It is a nice little oasis," Kelly Sciallis of Minnesota said as she and her friends were trying to adjust to the Tennessee heat. "Charity is just part of the Christian world so it is fitting that they do this."

Rob Campbell of Kentucky thanked the volunteers for the positive message they were spreading about Christianity.

"If more people would take heed of what is going on here, it would be a much better festival," he acknowledged. "Sometimes you don't have to look for God. He will find you."

Walker said like most everyone in Manchester, his church was caught off guard by the first Bonnaroo festival, which caused massive traffic jams throughout the city and on



Interstate 24.

The next year, Trinity Baptist Church started its ministry by passing out water to motorists waiting in line to get into the festival grounds. The following year, the church had portable toilets set up along the road leading into the festival.

The ministry has only continued to grow.

This year's Bonnaroo ministry was funded in part by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's evangelism fund, which donated \$6,000.

New Vision Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., supplied the fruit given away throughout the festival. First Baptist Church of Tullahoma, Tenn., provided shuttle service for volunteers and assembled gift bags for festival attendees.

Reprinted with permission of the Murfreesboro (Tenn.) Post

REACHING 'ROONIES'

The Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival attracts as many as 80,000 people to Manchester, Tenn., for four days of music. Baptist churches in the area are using the festival as a way of reaching out to the "Roonies" by offering free water and refreshments. (Photo by Shawn Mariani)

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Even as Kenya fighting eases, refugees continue to struggle

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

Limuru, Kenya (BP)—A 1-year-old girl died of pneumonia in May at a refugee camp on the grounds of Word of Faith Church in Limuru, Kenya, northwest of Nairobi.

Despite the shortage of firewood for heating and cooking, carpenter John Kimani—himself a camp resident and survivor of the post-election violence in Kenya—built a coffin for the child. The small, rough-hewn box sat awaiting her body as several Southern Baptist relief workers visited the IDP (internally displaced persons) camp.

The child's death made no headlines inside or outside Kenya. Months have passed since the disputed Kenyan presidential election on Dec. 27 unleashed weeks of frenzied political and tribal violence, killing more than 1,000 people and driving at least 300,000 from their homes.

The political powder keg that threatened to explode into civil war in once-stable Kenya was defused—at least for the moment—when President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga struck a power-sharing deal in February. Kibaki retained his presidential post; Odinga became prime minister in April. By late May, the government and the Kenya Red Cross Society claimed that up to 250,000 displaced Kenyans had returned to their homes with the promise of police protection and security.

But many thousands of Kenyans driven from their houses, farms and businesses fear going home—or have no home to return to. Undercurrents of ethnic hatred, economic resentment and longstanding disputes over land ownership burst into the open in the election's aftermath. Towns and districts where different groups once lived and worked side by side may never return to peaceful coexistence.

"I'm not sure how many people are going to be able to go back," said Southern Baptist missionary Doug Lee.

Lee recently completed a trip to survey churches sheltering displaced people in the vast Rift Valley, site of some of the worst "skirmishes," as the political-tribal clashes are called. The churches received food and other aid from Baptist Global Response.

New "police stations"—often, tents manned by three or four men—dot the area. Other returning refugees pool their savings and hire private security guards to accompany them to farm fields during the day. But those measures won't solve the real problem, Lee noted.

"I'm sure there are a lot of places where the violence was not that intense and people just left in fear," he said. "They can go back. But the people who were really affected, whose houses were stolen and burned, there is no peace for them. The people (who drove them out) still feel like, 'You're on our land.' ... The government has done a good job identifying the problem, but they're not going to solve it by pushing them back home. It's going to



LITTLE VICTIMS Children eat from plastic bowls at a camp for internal refugees in Limuru, Kenya. Five months after a disputed election unleashed weeks of frenzied political and tribal violence, thousands of displaced people continue to fear returning home—or have no home to return to. (IMB photo by Roy Burroughs)

re-emerge."

Hunger is making the situation even worse. Kenya, like many other countries, has seen the price of staple food items double and triple, in recent months. Fertilizer and fuel prices have soared with the cost of oil. The violence prevented the planting of crops in many areas.

So, thousands of homeless people remain in IDP centers like the Word of Faith camp in Limuru, which continues to shelter about 500 people. Nearly 500 more come daily from temporary dwellings nearby for food.

One of the displaced families is led by Kimani, builder of the child's coffin. A Kikuyu, he fled with his wife, mother and three young children from Eldoret, site of perhaps the most notorious atrocity of the post-election violence: The New Year's Day burning of a church with terrified men, women and children inside. Dozens of people died in the flames, including Kimani's father-in-law. His wife, Mary, escaped from the fire with burns from her shoulders to her heels.

Food, medicine and other supplies from the government and major aid agencies have slowed to a trickle inside the camp. But local Christians and other community members continue to help however they can, assisted by missionaries and groups such as BGR, which has delivered food, water and other aid.

"These disasters are kind of cyclical, where at the beginning you get a lot of interest, especially from the outside, so you get a lot of aid coming in," said BGR Africa coordinator Mark Hatfield. "But then the world gets tired of it after awhile, the aid stops coming and the whole process slows down."

Camp warden Joseph Njoroge welcomed Hatfield and his wife Susan during their recent camp visit. He was worried about the threat of disease. It's just one of the many concerns he has dealt with since frightened and hungry people first arrived at the church a few days after the election.

Many Kenyans, galvanized by what they witnessed during the worst of the violence, have demonstrated the same commitment to helping their neighbors, regardless of tribe. But they are also searching for answers that will last longer than emergency food and shelter.

*Name changed for security reasons

Christian missionaries accused of hate crime in Muslim neighborhood

London (RNS)—Two U.S. Christian missionaries have claimed that they were accused by police of a hate crime after they handed out evangelical tracts on the streets of a predominantly Muslim area in Britain.

The men, Arthur Cunningham and Joseph Abraham, complained to police in Birmingham that a Muslim community police officer told them, "If you come back here and get beat up, well, you have been warned."

Cunningham and Abraham, backed by the activist group Christian Institute, recalled that Officer Naem Nagutheny stopped them in a predominantly Muslim neighborhood, told them they could not preach there and accused them of committing a hate crime by trying to convert Muslims to Christianity.

"He was very intimidating and it concerns me that somebody holding his views can become a police officer, albeit at PCSO level," Abraham said. A PCSO is a police constable support officer, a relatively low-level member of the police force recruited to help author-

ities patrol communities.

Abraham was born a Muslim in Egypt but became a Christian after he gained U.S. citizenship. Cunningham was identified as an American Baptist missionary. Nagutheny joined the West Midlands Police after eight months on unemployment rolls.

West Midlands Police authorities in Birmingham released a statement saying that the officer "has been offered guidance about what constitutes a hate crime and advice on communications style," although they insisted that he had acted "with the best of intentions."

Cunningham, however, said he was "dumbfounded that the police seem so nonchalant ... This is a free country, and to suggest that we were guilty of a hate crime for spreading God's Word is outrageous."

According to the London Daily Mail, the missionaries claim that their treatment violates the Human Rights Act, which guarantees freedom of religious expression, and have threatened a lawsuit if an apology is not issued.



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For information, brochure & letter from Rev. Williams call:

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Crossings' missions emphasis

From overseas partnerships come life-altering decisions

Camp is in full swing and students are crossing from death to life daily.

We are about to finish the second week of Crossings at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek and I could not be more pleased with what is happening. God has blessed us in numerous ways and the stories of students giving their hearts to Christ and giving of their resources to missions is overwhelming.

Last week, we had 38 church groups attending Crossings. Two groups reported that they had 22 students accept Christ. I am anxiously awaiting the results of the other 36 churches.

Not only are students accepting Christ, but they are developing a passion for reaching the world. We have two overseas partnerships that are funded by Crossings. One is a school/care center for orphans in Kitwe, Zambia, and the other is two youth camps in Moldova through the Eurasian Baptist Mission.

Over the past four years, we have been involved with the Moldovan camps. By the end of this

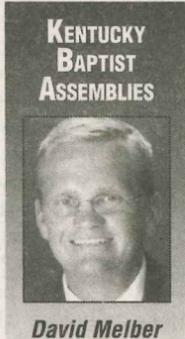
summer, God will have used the partnership to allow us to send more than 20,000 youth to camp. Of that number, we project approximately 7,000 Moldovan youth are, or will become, new believers because of their response to the gospel while at camp.

The changes are not just significant in Moldova, but here as well. This week we were told of students who made life-altering decisions because of the partnership. We have one student who has made the decision to become a missionary in Moldova.

As a result of the awareness from camp last year, one student saved money from birthday and Christmas gifts all year long and gave nearly \$500 last week to support missions. What an amazing story of a student proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ to the world.

I am so thankful for what God is doing in the lives of campers. Thank you for your prayers. We continue to ask that you pray for us as we seek to see students and adults reached with the gospel.

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



David Melber

A quick response to crisis

Sunrise staff members help point Katie in new direction

Since Sunrise Children's Services acquired the Woodlawn Center in Danville seven months ago, we have witnessed how children in crisis situations are guided to a better, healthier way of life.

The results the Woodlawn Center staff members achieve with kids who face serious challenges are remarkable, especially when quick intervention is imperative.

The Sanders Crisis and Stabilization Center, one of Woodlawn's programs, is a short-term residential treatment facility helping at-risk children avoid hospitalization or out-of-home placement. Katie came to the Sanders Center after suffering abandonment by her mother and abuse by her father, a registered sex offender. Katie ran from that dangerous living situation into another one—moving in with a much older boyfriend who was allegedly dealing drugs.

An anonymous call to Kentucky child welfare officials brought Katie under the state's care.

Arriving at the Sanders Center, Katie was one month shy of turning 18 years old. She alternated

between threatening suicide and vowing to return to her boyfriend.

Workers knew something bad would happen to Katie if she left Sunrise's care still in crisis.

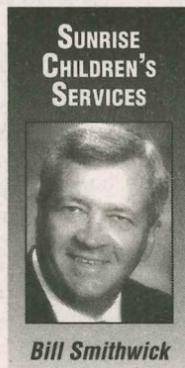
The intervention of the staff eventually paid off, as Katie's view of herself began to shift from self-doubt to self-worth. As she transferred to a foster home, Katie was reminded by her therapist that she needed to focus on herself and making decisions that would give her a better future.

Katie flourished in foster care and decided to remain under the state's care after she turned 18, allowing her to stay with her foster family and make plans to attend college this fall.

Because of the guidance and support she received from the Sanders Center and her foster family, Katie is entering adulthood on the right path. Returning to her old life would have only led to more pain and hopelessness.

Sunrise is thankful that we can minister to these vulnerable children, lifting them out of crisis and pointing them in a new direction.

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



Bill Smithwick

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Cry
- 4 Dream or organ
- 8 ___ team
- 12 Mouth (pl)
- 13 "The children of ___ of Hezekiah, ninety and eight" (Ezra 2:16)
- 14 Jewelry setting, with no metal showing
- 15 By means of
- 16 Nurture
- 17 Great Lake
- 18 Masculine name that is an amalgam of Abraham and Noah
- 20 Make ___
- 22 Prim and proper
- 24 In Arthurian legend, the wife of Geraint
- 25 Writing ___ (what Zacharias asked for in Luke 1)
- 26 "___ thou not unto his (God's) words" (Proverbs 30:6)
- 27 Gazelle
- 30 Biblical exclamation
- 31 Possessive pronoun
- 32 "Thou hast enlarged my steps that my feet did not ___" (Psalm 18:36)
- 33 Affirmative
- 34 Compass pt
- 35 Obeys, to an AKC member
- 36 He was a prisoner on Patmos
- 37 Obliterate
- 38 Stick
- 41 Mentally acute
- 42 Not present and unaccounted for (abbr., pl.)
- 43 What commandos do

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16				17				
		18	19			20	21				
22	23				24						
25					26			27	28	29	
30					31		32				
33			34				35				
		36					37				
38	39	40				41					
42					43	44			45	46	47
48					49				50		
51					52				53		

- 45 Anger
- 48 Parchment shade
- 49 "He saw others standing ___ in the marketplace" (Matthew 20:3)
- 50 Not (prefix)
- 51 "And they straightway left their ___, and followed him" (Matthew 4:20)
- 52 Minister to
- 53 Our Father

Down

- 1 Absorb
- 2 Crude metal
- 3 He accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey
- 4 Procession
- 5 Article on a list
- 6 Legume
- 7 Missions
- 8 ___ trap
- 9 Give notice
- 10 Like many golfers?
- 11 What to wear when golfing? (pl.)
- 19 Nard, olive, et al
- 21 Word that precedes day or air
- 22 Between check-in and check-out

- 23 "We spend our years as a ___ that is told" (Psalm 90:9)
- 24 All gone!
- 27 "Yet ___ grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree" (Isaiah 17:6)
- 28 Sesame, canola, et al
- 29 Usually the east end of a church
- 31 "For such as be blessed of him shall ___ the earth" (Psalm 37:22)
- 32 Arid
- 34 Conjunction
- 35 Noticed
- 36 "Even so, come, Lord ___" (Revelation 22:20)
- 38 So be it
- 39 Prepare vegetables for cooking
- 40 "As the ___ panteth after the water" (Psalm 42:1)
- 41 Oven
- 44 Fruit drink
- 46 One of Pooh's pals
- 47 "And then shall the ___ come" (Matthew 24:14)

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
L	O	P	E	L	I	E	L	S	O	D
A	B	I	M	A	T	T	E	H	A	Y
M	A	A	P	S	E	B	R	A	K	E
P	L	A	N	T	S	S	A	U	L	
W	A	Y	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	
E	D	E	N	T	R	U	T	H	E	D
L	O	D	M	O	R	E	H	B	A	G
A	R	M	E	D	A	D	L	I	F	E
N	A	M	E	D	A	Y	P	O	T	
I	D	L	Y	P	A	R	E	N	T	
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E	A	T	Y	E	A	R	N	D	O	E
A	S	H	S	A	T	E	S	O	N	E

Same-sex couples in California now permitted to marry

San Francisco (BP)—With “party A” and “party B” replacing the traditional “bride” and “groom” on the licenses, California officially became the second state in the nation June 16 to allow homosexual couples to marry.

The California Supreme Court’s controversial ruling took effect at 5 p.m. local time, and some county clerk offices, including those in Sonoma County and San Francisco, stayed open late to allow same-sex couples to get married without waiting until the next day.

Salvador Valles and Dean Jansen traveled from New York City to California to pick up a marriage license. Unlike Massachusetts—the only other state to allow same-sex marriage—California has no residency requirements, so any couple can fly in and get married even if their home state will not recognize the license.

“I can’t wait to introduce him to others as my husband,” Jansen said, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The ceremonies set up a dramatic vote in November on a proposed constitutional marriage amendment which would reverse the court’s ruling and protect the natural definition of marriage. At least three public opinion polls have been conducted on the amendment since the court’s decision was issued, and each has showed a different result. One showed a majority supporting the amendment, a second one showed a majority opposing it and a third one—released June 9 by SurveyUSA—showed a plurality, 44 percent, supporting it, while 38 percent were opposed and 18 percent undecided.



MARRIAGE SHOWDOWN Carolyn Harvey (right) kisses her partner of 23 years, Mona Harvey, after Mona proposed to her in front of San Francisco City Hall on June 17, as the first public same-sex marriage ceremonies go on inside. A proposed constitutional amendment is on the table for the November elections in California that, if passed, would reverse the same-sex marriage ruling and protect the traditional definition of marriage. (BP photo by Kat Wade)

However, that same SurveyUSA poll showed 56 percent supporting same-sex marriage in California—even though they supposedly favor the amendment. It was a conflict within the poll that even the pollsters could not explain.

The fact that licenses are being issued before voters consider the amendment can both help and hurt the proposal’s chances, according to Chris Clark, pastor of East Clairemont Southern Baptist Church in San Diego.

“The other side is going to portray this as being something that is harmless—that it did not affect anybody else,” he told Baptist Press. “They’ll say, ‘Look, all these loving

couples were able to get married and civilization as we know it did not end.”

But Clark explained that amendment supporters will counter by arguing that the court’s decision invalidated a law known as Proposition 22 that was approved by 61 percent of voters in 2000. The amendment, in essence, would write the language of Proposition 22 into the state constitution.

“What I think a lot of people are going to see is the fact that their vote did not count as a direct result of four people who decided to make new law where there was no law and who ruled the vote of the people unconstitutional,” Clark noted.

If California is like Massachusetts, then it will initially see a large influx of same-sex marriages followed by a steep decline. In Massachusetts, 6,121 couples married in the final seven and a half months of 2004 after it was legalized. In 2005, that number dropped to 2,060, and in 2006 to 1,442, according to The New York Times. In the first eight months of 2007, only 867 couples were married.

Meanwhile, a new poll by the Pew Research Center shows that gay marriage could be a prominent issue in the election and even rival its importance to voters when compared to 2004.

The poll, conducted in May, showed that 49 percent of white evangelicals say the issue will be very important to their voting decisions—the same percentage as was recorded in October 2004. For Catholics, the percentage is 25 percent, up from 19 percent in October 2004. Forty-one percent of Republicans, an increase from 39 percent in ’04, say it will be very important. For Democrats (22 percent compared to 27 percent) and independents (23 percent compared to 29 percent), the percentages fell.

Clark said the reaction to the proposed amendment has been “tremendous.” This week, he and other pastors will host a conference call with pastors across the state to drum up support for the proposal. The call, he noted, will concentrate on two goals: getting people registered and getting them out to vote.

“There is a groundswell of support and we just need to keep this momentum going,” he added.

We have much to be thankful for

Tough economic times are reminder to be grateful for OBI’s faithful donors

It would be hard to believe that anyone reading this article has not been affected by the increases in energy and food costs during the past year. With few expectations for things to change anytime soon, about the only thing one can do is hunker down and prepare for the worst.

If you think the costs you incur to feed your family have increased significantly, imagine my sticker shock when I pay the milkman or the bread-delivery person. Feeding some 500 people three times a day, 45,000 meals a month, can really test a food budget. I can’t ask my students to eat less cereal or drink less milk because the price has nearly doubled in the past 12 months. The one thing we can do, and have done for many decades, is make sure there is as little waste as possible.

Our students, staff and guests are going to eat just as much and just as well as we did before the big increase in the cost of food. In times such as these, we are especially grateful for friends in the business of processing or distributing food.

We don’t get far down the buffet line before we can tell guests that the chicken they are eating was donated from a chicken-processing plant. And those vegetables were provided by a wholesaler who also donated the orange juice we enjoyed at breakfast. And did I mention that the yogurt and ice cream we had for dessert was donated by a wonderful friend in the food distribution business?

Certainly we don’t receive all of our food free. In fact, our food costs represent the fourth largest expense in our operating budget. And remember,

we raise nearly all of our own beef and pork.

Oneida has been blessed for 109 years to have friends from many different backgrounds. When budgets aren’t as tight as they have been lately, there’s a temptation to value these donations less than when it seems there is plenty of food to go around. It wasn’t until the Israelites ran out of food and water in the desert that they turned to Moses in desperation.

However, this ministry learned long ago never to take God’s gifts lightly. There are times when we are given very short notice to pick up a truckload of donated food products. Nearly without fail, we make every effort to pick them up at the donor’s convenience. Not to brag but often than means the president—in suit and tie—must drive the truck. We never want to pass up the opportunity for God to provide a blessing.

I am sure many of our regular donors of food are bombarded with requests for products they give us. Frequently I will ask them why they continue to single us out when there are others asking for the same items. The most common answer is that even “when times are good” Oneida comes when called and we rarely turn anything down.

If we can be thankful and appreciative for gifts when things are less challenging, just imagine how thankful we are during difficult times such as those we face today. God has been good to us. We are thankful for the many ways He chooses to meet our needs day in and day out, year in and year out.

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



W.F. Underwood

Following God’s call

Risner is obedient to God no matter where He leads

“I knew that God was calling me to the mission field since I was 16 years old,” said new graduate Joy Risner. “I came to Clear Creek because I also knew that in order for me to serve God effectively in His calling, I had to prepare myself.”

After graduation, Joy headed to Ohio to help with a new church. “The experience will help prepare me for my time overseas where I will be involved in some of the very same things associated with church planting.”

Soon Joy will begin her studies at the International Learning Center for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va. “I will be involved in some very intensive training for two months in language and cultural adaptation to prepare me for my time overseas.”

Joy will learn a language specific to residents of the Southern Asia country in which she will serve. Each day’s study begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m.

Joy is beginning her mission service in the IMB’s Journeyman program that requires an initial two-year commitment.

After training, she will spend a

week with her family before heading overseas. After two years, she said she plans to enroll in seminary to complete a master’s degree, a “must” if she decides to be a career missionary. Joy comes from a family that has greatly influenced her calling to Kingdom work. “I have older brothers who are a deacon, a youth minister and an associate pastor,” she said. “I have two younger sisters who are also considering a calling to missions. One of my younger sisters will probably be enrolling at Clear Creek in January.”

Joy said she is thankful for how her time at Clear Creek has equipped her for God’s calling to missions. “Some of my favorite classes were philosophy and apologetics,” she recalled. “I loved the idea of logical reasoning and coming to conclusions. My apologetics classes taught me how to share a defense of my faith. I know all of that training will help me to serve as an effective missionary.”

And we know Joy will serve obediently wherever that calling may take her.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

Riding for the gospel

Spike in motorcycle sales creates exciting outreach opportunities on the open road

By Mark Kelly
Baptist Press

Ridgecrest, N.C.—Motorcycle sales, like gas prices, are soaring—and in the process churches and believers are discovering exciting opportunities to reach out in witness and ministry.

While gasoline prices have jumped above \$4 per gallon in most states, motorcycle dealers say sales have spiked as well—anywhere from 20 percent at a Triumph motorcycle dealership in Anchorage, Alaska, to 27 percent at a Harley-Davidson shop in East Hartford, Conn. Motorcycle enthusiasts today include not only Hells Angels and wheelie-popping sport bikers, but also middle-aged recreational riders and businessmen who ride motorcycles to work.

At the same time, chapters of the F.A.I.T.H. Riders motorcycle ministry are popping up all over the country.

"It's incredible the number of motorcycles you see on the road this year, and God has just been phenomenal in the way He is orchestrating the growth of F.A.I.T.H. Riders," said Danny Moats, national chaplain for the ministry based out of First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla. "Oklahoma has just blown wide open. We'll probably have 14 chapters there before the end of the summer."

Excitement about motorcycle ministries was reflected in this year's Rally to Ridgecrest motorcycle rally, which drew 319 participants—a 50 percent jump over the inaugural rally just 18 months earlier. Under the banner "Eternal Vigilance," bikers from 14 states gathered over Memorial Day weekend at the LifeWay conference center in North Carolina for worship, workshops and exhilarating rides through the Blue Ridge Mountains.

A F.A.I.T.H. Riders chapter gives congregations an excellent oppor-

tunity to involve more people in witness and ministry and, at the same time, engage lost men and women with the gospel, noted Ron Pratt, national event planner for LifeWay Conference Centers.

"There are a lot of people who enjoy riding motorcycles and a lot of churches have connected that passion to local church motorcycle riding groups, as well as many state conventions that have motorcycle ministries that seek to reach both believers and unbelievers," Pratt said.

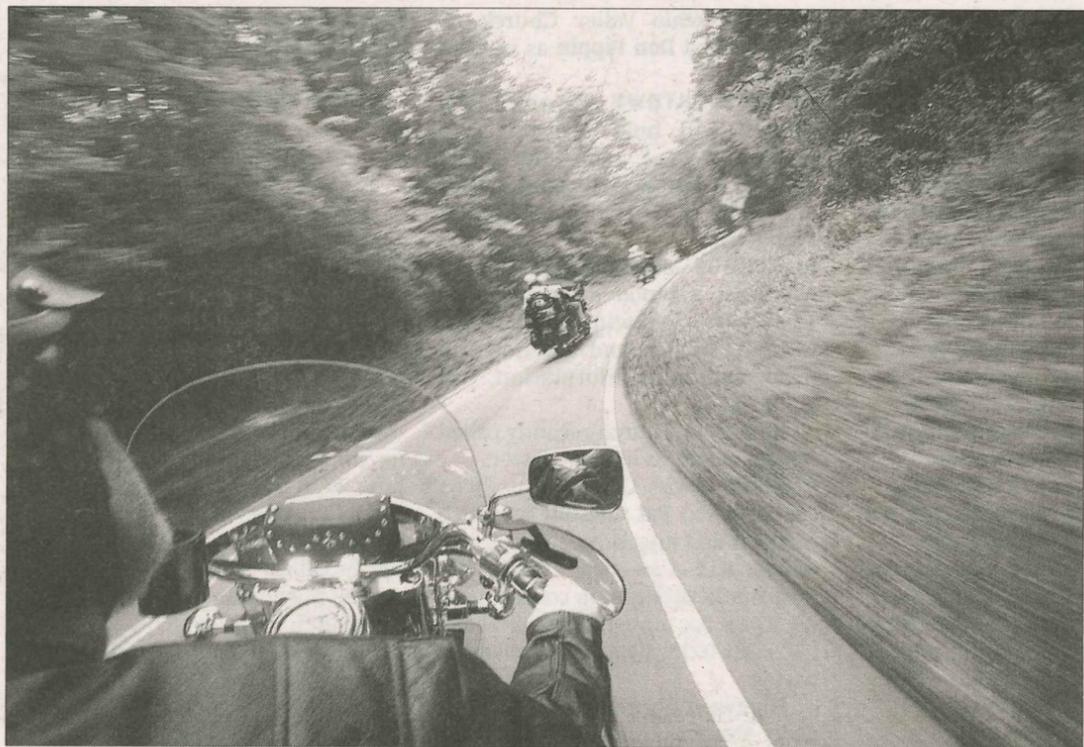
"An event like Rally to Ridgecrest affords a believer an opportunity to bring someone with them, to laugh, to ride, to hear the gospel and encounter other believers who also love to ride," he added. "So there is an affinity through which people are encouraged in their faith and can learn ways to share their faith with unbelievers."

The sudden increase in the popularity of motorcycle ministries reflects a broader realization by church leaders that men are more interested in church when the church is more interested in doing things men enjoy, according to Gene Williams, men's ministry consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"A lot of churches are figuring out that if they want men to come to church, they have to do man things," he said. "If you wrap a Kingdom agenda around things men want to do, men will come to church."

"Evangelism is more than sharing the plan of salvation," Williams explained. "It's building relationships that earn you the right to share the plan of salvation."

Relationships like that bore fruit Saturday evening, May 24, as Dave Burton, evangelism director for the Florida Baptist Convention, challenged rally participants to lead lives of significance by letting Jesus take

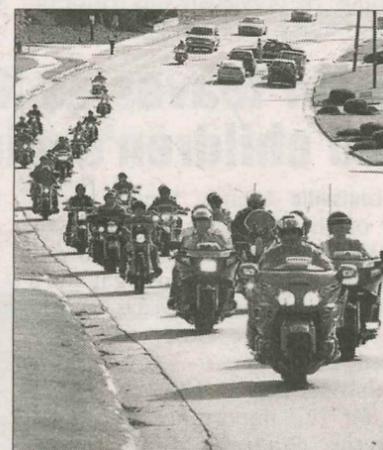


charge. Men and women crowded to the front of the auditorium—seven of them inviting Christ into their hearts for the first time. One of them was there with a friend who purchased his motorcycle five years ago for the express purpose of sharing Christ with this individual.

Riding a motorcycle opens doors for witness in ways almost impossible to believe, explained Robert Warren, a lifelong motorcycle enthusiast from Epps, La.

"You get opportunities to meet people and talk to people you wouldn't have any other way," he said. "We can stop somewhere and get gas and someone in a car will pull up and say, 'Hey, you ride a bike,' and you get to talking about motorcycles. It is a wonderful tool. You just strike up a conversation and one thing leads to another."

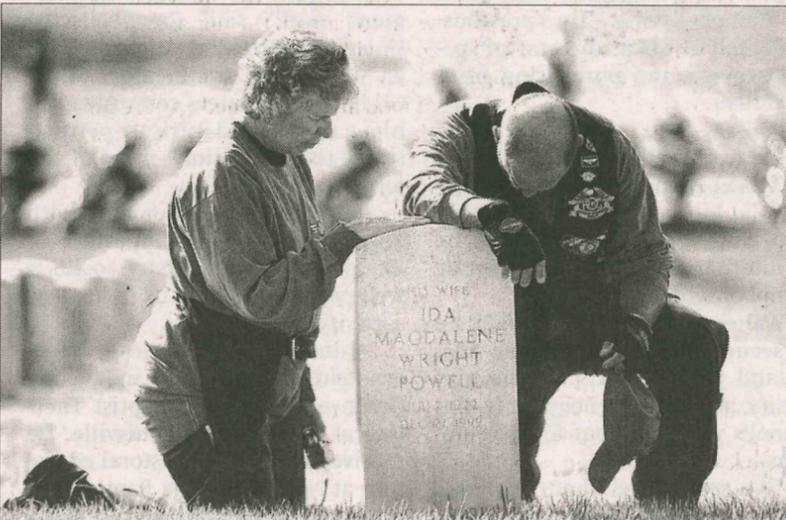
Sammy Gilbreath, evangelism director for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, recalled standing outside a biker bar in Madison County that had an unsavory reputation as a center of drug and illegal alcohol sales. Because Gilbreath rode in on a motorcycle, he had an opportunity to engage the bar owner in conversation—and lead him to Christ. Then, as they stood outside the bar, a car pulled up. The driver needed directions and was obviously fright-



ened by the sight of Gilbreath standing there by his bike, clad in leather from head to toe.

"After I told him where to find Country Club Drive, I said, 'You see this Harley? I'm getting ready to ride from here to Montgomery, Ala., and I could get killed before I get there,'" Gilbreath recalled. "I said, 'If you get killed before you get back home, do you know where you are going to spend eternity?' He said 'No sir. I've never been to church before.' So I shared the gospel with him and he knelt on that blacktop parking lot and invited Christ into his heart."

"That came about because of that motorcycle and it happens over and over and over."



A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE Following a memorial service at the veteran's cemetery in Black Mountain, the more than 300 participants of the Rally to Ridgecrest were encouraged to fan out across the cemetery and pray for the families of deceased soldiers.

SCENIC RIDES Above: More than 300 motorcycle enthusiasts attended the third annual Rally to Ridgecrest over Memorial Day weekend. Between challenging speakers and workshops, riders enjoyed day rides on North Carolina's scenic Blue Ridge Parkway. Left: The highlight of this year's event was a motorcycle procession through Black Mountain, N.C., to the Western Carolina veteran's cemetery for a memorial service. (Photos by James Yates)

F.A.I.T.H. Riders impact grows

Lakeland, Fla.—Launched in February 2002 at First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla., F.A.I.T.H. Riders has grown to 54 chapters in 10 states, according to Buddy Newsome, a retired police officer who now works full time on that church's staff to promote church-based motorcycle ministry across the country. Five Baptist state conventions have added F.A.I.T.H. Riders to their programs, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., is training students to use motorcycles as a tool for witness and ministry.

Motorcycle rallies draw astonishing numbers of participants, giving churches an almost unlimited opportunity for outreach, Newsome said. The Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Florence Ala., draws some 130,000 bikers. The motorcycle rally in Sturgis, S.D., swells that town's population of 6,600

to more than 500,000 for a week in August each year. In 2007, 150 volunteers shared the gospel 4,677 times at Sturgis, and 870 bikers made professions of faith.

"I don't know about you, but I want to be where God's at," Newsome said. "And there ain't no doubt that God's in the house at Sturgis."

The point, however, is not riding motorcycles and having fun, Newsome added.

"God doesn't need another riding club. There are plenty of those," he explained. "God needs people to put feet to the gospel and share Christ with folks. Motorcycle ministry is merely a tool that has been given to us by God to allow us to act out our obedience to Him."

"Your passion could be a motorcycle, a fishing rod, a golf club or a sewing ministry," he added. "Whatever it is, you need to be using it to honor the Lord."

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Crossroads Community Garden ministry of New Life Baptist Church in Owensboro. Teams of adults from the church and neighborhood work with teenagers to build raised beds, plant vegetables and maintain the garden. The intergenerational and cross-cultural interaction provides food for needy families and creates fertile ground for sharing the love of God. Pray that authentic relationships between young and old will develop. Pray that lost community members will come to know Christ through the garden and the church's benevolent ministry.

MSC missionaries Jamie and Rachel Reynolds of Blackey. The Reynoldses direct Camp Calvary in Letcher County. They coordinate volunteers who minister through home repair, Bible clubs, sports camps and special evangelistic ministries. Their ministry is expanding to include continuing education and retreats for pastors and an equestrian ministry. Pray that groups assisting them this summer will exercise boldness and discernment when sharing Christ in the community. Pray that God will provide another missionary couple to assist the Reynoldses in the ministry.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

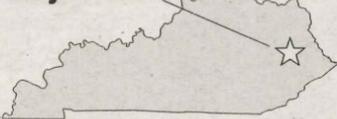
■ **BARLOW**—Ohio Valley Church recently called **Don Pippin** as interim pastor.
 ■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Tunnel Hill Church will hold revival services June 27-28, 7 p.m.; June 29, 11 a.m., with **Nathan Whisnant**, pastor of Airline Church in Henderson, as evangelist.
 ■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will host a blood drive June 29, 12:30 p.m., following the 11 a.m. worship service and a fellowship meal. For more information, call (859) 263-5466.

Rosemont Church recently called **Dwight Moody** as interim pastor.
 ■ **LONDON**—Swiss Colony Church recently called **Pat Chesnut** as youth minister and music director.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **Southern Sound** in concert June 29, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Highview Church recently called **Corey Abney** as lead pastor of its east campus. He previously was pastor of Kings Church in Mount Washington.

Spotlight on ...

Salyersville



First Church will host The Door youth revival June 27, 7 p.m. The group Sacred will provide special music. **Matthew Gullion** is pastor.

Ormsby Heights Church will hold its 7th annual Freedom Celebration June 29, 6 p.m., featuring free food and a fireworks display.

■ **MARION**—Deer Creek Church recently called **Marty Brown** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Oscar Church in LaCenter.

■ **PADUCAH**—Oaklawn Church recently called **Michael Barnes** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Calvary Church in Berea.

■ **ROCKHOLDS**—**Earl Tye** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

Dever leaves as KBC preschool and children's ministry director

Louisville—Wendy Dever, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's preschool and children's ministry department, has left the staff after 10 years of service to be closer to family in Florida.

Calling her a "champion for the importance of effective children's ministries in the church," church development team leader Alan Witham said Dever was known for her passion for children and children's ministry.

"She has reflected the spirit and example of Jesus who valued children and welcomed the opportunity to spend time with them," Witham noted.

During her time with the KBC's Mission Board staff, Dever was instrumental in assisting churches across the state in strengthening preschool and children's ministries. A statewide preschool/children's ministry meeting, held every January, was started under her leadership.



Wendy Dever

She also provided training for numerous church and associational workers in conducting and leading meaningful Sunday school and vacation Bible school experiences, Witham said.

Walters named CU campaign officer

Campbellsville—Joe Walters has been named senior campaign officer in the Campbellsville University's office of development effective July 1.

Walters had served since 2004 as a commercial loan operator and lender with Community Trust Bank in Campbellsville. He previously worked at CU as director of special projects and purchasing from 1996-1999.

Walters also served as pastor of Catawba Valley Baptist Church in Catawba, Va., and as a chaplain with a local hospital there. His wife, Susan, previously worked as an international student advisor at Campbellsville.

Walters primary duties will be to secure additional annual, major and planned gifts for the university, according to Benji Kelly, the school's vice president for development.

"We are excited about Joe joining our development staff," Kelly added. "We look forward to him helping us reach our fundraising goals in the future."

Walters currently is serving a term as an associate member of Campbellsville's board of trustees. He had served two consecutive four-year terms as a trustee from 2000-2007.

"We are very pleased to have Mr. Walters join our Office of Development staff," said Campbellsville University President Michael Carter. "His service as a member of the CU board of trustees certainly gives him a unique and intricate perspective of the institution's mission and forward progress."

"Mr. Walters is acquainted with many friends and supporters of Campbellsville University so he is well prepared to help us in his new capacity."

Walters is a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He received his clinical pastoral education at North Carolina Baptist Hospital and also has received training on strategy planning with PACT Consultant Basic Training Seminars.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

27-28 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

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

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

July

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

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

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

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

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

28-30 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.

August

16 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

21 Understanding Other Beliefs, First Baptist Church, Pikeville.

23 Super Saturday, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

30-9/1 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

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

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: Full-time pastor for Frenchburg Southern Baptist Church, Frenchburg, Ky. Please send resumé, DVD, CD or tape of recent sermons to: Pastor Search Committee, Frenchburg Baptist Church, 298 Hwy. 36, Frenchburg, KY 40322-8118.

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

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time 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: 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@rosehillsland.com. Rose Hill Baptist Church, 1001 Winslow Road, Ashland, KY 41102. (606) 329-2821.

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

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

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

SERVICES: Relocating? Let the professionals at Apex & Robert E. Lee take care of the move for you. Call (800) 766-1902; or e-mail janet.jones@apex-moving.net

Daily walk with God guides Hochevar on mound, in life

By Lee Warren
Baptist Press

Kansas City, Mo. (BP)—When pitcher Luke Hochevar was chosen by the Kansas City Royals as the first overall pick in the 2006 draft, he had no problems letting his faith guide his answers to the questions the local media asked him.

In his initial teleconference with the media, he spoke about praying on the day of the draft and he told them that God had a plan for him and the way things worked out for him to come to Kansas City.

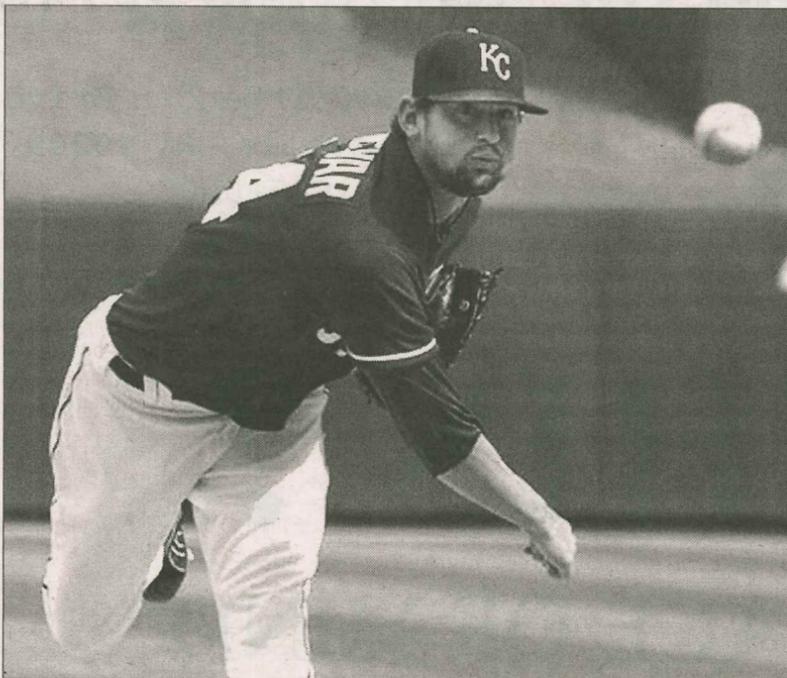
The Los Angeles Dodgers originally drafted Hochevar in 2005 out of the University of Tennessee, where the first team All-American posted an impressive 25-10 record and a 3.05 ERA in 51 career appearances. But after the Dodgers and Hochevar's agent were unable to negotiate a contract, Hochevar spent the remainder of 2005 pitching in an independent league with the intention of staying sharp for the 2006 draft.

Kansas City drafted Hochevar the next year and signed him. He spent all of 2006 and most of 2007 in the Royals' minor league system and he opened the 2008 season with Triple-A Omaha.

By late April, after going 1-1 in three starts with a 2.60 ERA in Omaha, the Royals were convinced that Hochevar deserved a shot at the big leagues. The major league club called him up and he has been part of the starting rotation ever since.

Two years after being drafted, Hochevar is just as open about his faith as he was when the Royals first signed him.

"It's really our purpose to spread the Word and open the truth to others," Hochevar said. "That's why I'm on this earth. So really I feel no shame. The trust I have in Him is re-



YOUNG HURLER Kansas City Royals pitcher Luke Hochevar is not reluctant to talk about his faith. The 24-year-old has become a fixture in the Royals' starting rotation after being selected No. 1 overall in the 2006 Major League Baseball draft. (Photo courtesy of Kansas City Royals)

ally why I'm here."

The 24-year-old, who is known for a strong work ethic, sometimes leaning toward perfectionism, speaks with gentle conviction—almost as if his relationship with God has been settled for many years. But that is not the case.

Hochevar grew up in a Christian home and went to church often, but recalled that he did not really understand what it meant to walk with God every day or even to experience the peace of knowing that he would spend eternity in heaven. During his sophomore year at Tennessee, he was hit in the head with a ball during batting practice and ended up in a neurological intensive care

unit for a week. The blow could have been fatal—but God used it to catch Hochevar's attention.

He was able to finish the season and later was chosen to play for Team USA at the World University Championships. During a conversation with the team chaplain about his brush with death, the chaplain asked Hochevar a question that gave him a jolt and changed him.

"He hit me with the question, 'If you would have died, would you have gone to heaven?'" Hochevar recalled. "I didn't have that 100 percent feeling that I was going to heaven and it scared me to death. He just walked away and let me chew on that. That's pretty big to chew on."

Former big leaguer Sanderson now models Christ as player agent

By Joshua Cooley
Baptist Press

Lake Forest, Ill. (BP)—You'd think a longtime major league pitcher—especially one who made millions of dollars as a 19-year veteran and former All-Star—would kick back and relax after retiring.

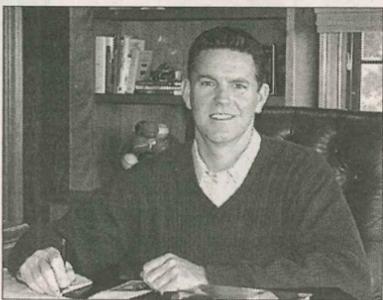
Not Scott Sanderson.

"I took three weeks off after my last game and then started representing players," he recalled.

Sanderson, 51, is a partner at Moye Sports Associates, based out of Suwanee, Ga. He met MSA president Mike Moye during his playing career when both men were on the board of directors of the Christian ministry, Professional Athletes Outreach.

"I knew ... that when I finished playing, I wanted to represent players," Sanderson said. "It seemed like there were so few former players doing it. As much as there's a need for legal help and advice, it didn't seem like there was a great wealth of baseball advice."

That is a subject on which Sanderson is an expert. After three stellar years at Vanderbilt University, the Dearborn, Mich., native was selected by the Montreal Expos in the third round of the 1977 draft. A year later, Sanderson broke into the major leagues and put together a solid career that lasted until 1996.



Scott Sanderson

The 6-foot-5 right-hander earned an All-Star selection in 1991 and finished with a 163-143 record, a 3.84 ERA and 1,611 strikeouts with seven different teams. Despite his prowess and longevity, Sanderson always seemed to be undercard to the main event wherever he pitched. He typically toiled in the shadows of star pitchers like Greg Maddux, Rick Sutcliffe, Dave Stewart, Bob Welch, Jack McDowell and Chuck Finley.

Sanderson did, however, play for some of the best teams of his generation, including the 1984 and '89 Chicago Cubs, the '94 Chicago White Sox and the '90 Oakland Athletics—all of which won their respective divisions.

"That's a real luxury I had: great teams and really great players—Hall of Fame players—and I got to watch them go about their careers," he re-

called. "It's not an overstatement to say I had an unbelievable experience to live out a boyhood dream. It's the kind of thing you dream about."

Becoming a sports agent was a natural progression after Sanderson's playing days ended. For 14 years, he served as a player's union representative and contributed to three different Major League Baseball collective bargaining agreements.

Sanderson and Moye represent mostly baseball players—including stars like pitcher Josh Beckett and first basemen Lance Berkman and Todd Helton—although the firm also counts Detroit Lions quarterback Jon Kitna and U.S. Olympic sprinter Allyson Felix among its clients.

In a profession where materialism and greed are prevalent, Sanderson said he and Moye consider their job an opportunity to model Christ. And with his vast first-hand knowledge, Sanderson noted that he relishes the opportunity to counsel his clients in a broad range of issues like handling success and failure on the field, dealing with a difficult manager and playing through injuries.

"There's a lot of teaching that goes on, whether we mean it or not," he said. "It's great to have a baseball ministry."

While he knew that his salvation had nothing to do with his performance, Hochevar also knew that his lack of commitment to God meant that his heart was not right.

"I broke down in tears and really, from that time on, I made a commitment to myself and to God that every day I was going to walk with Him," Hochevar said.

The young pitcher and his wife, Ashley, work through a daily devotional together. He said they try to stay "locked into the Word." He also places a high priority on studying the Bible and spending time with God on his own.

"My alone time—when I'm able to get away and pray on my own and have that personal time with God is very key," Hochevar said. "You have to have it every day. I feel as a Christian it's very important and that's how I find my peace and that's where I find my rest."

Now that Hochevar has signed a big league contract, he wants to make sure he's doing the right things with his money. During spring training, he read Randy Alcorn's book, "Money, Possessions, and Eternity." Hochevar said it challenged him.

"Doing the right things financially has been a big key for me lately," he acknowledged. "I'm really praying about financial decisions—obviously tithing, but doing what God wants me to do with what He has blessed me with. That's been something that has been weighing on me quite a bit."

With such a deep concern for honoring God in all that he does and for giving God all the credit for his circumstances, Hochevar is giving evidence that he is well on his way to honoring his commitment to walk with God on a daily basis.

"It's really our purpose to spread the Word and open the truth to others. That's why I'm on this earth. So really I feel no shame. The trust I have in Him is really why I'm here."

Kansas City Royals pitcher Luke Hochevar

Sanderson grew up in a church-going home, but it wasn't until his freshman year at Vanderbilt that he trusted in Christ for salvation. When two of his senior teammates invited him to attend a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, he jumped at the opportunity.

"I'm the youngest of five children. I'm not impulsive," he noted. "I don't react quickly to things I don't investigate. I did some investigative journalism and found out that the claims Jesus Christ made were correct. Shortly thereafter, I asked Christ to come into my life."

He also is involved in Unlimited Potential Inc., a baseball ministry that shares the gospel through clinics and Bible studies worldwide. He and his wife, Cathleen, have been married for 28 years and have a son in college and a daughter in high school.

Life is exciting for Sanderson, he admitted, even if the thrill of taking the mound every fifth day is now a distant memory.

"God blessed me to stay in baseball and have such a wonderful opportunity with Mike to mentor players," he said. "It's a great joy to watch these players mature as men and players with their families. It's a neat opportunity to take faith into the workplace."

Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems

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THIS ?



*PEACE OF MIND

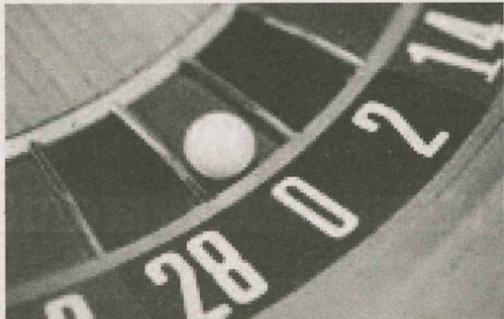
*PROSPERING

*FAMILY Living

*HAPPINESS

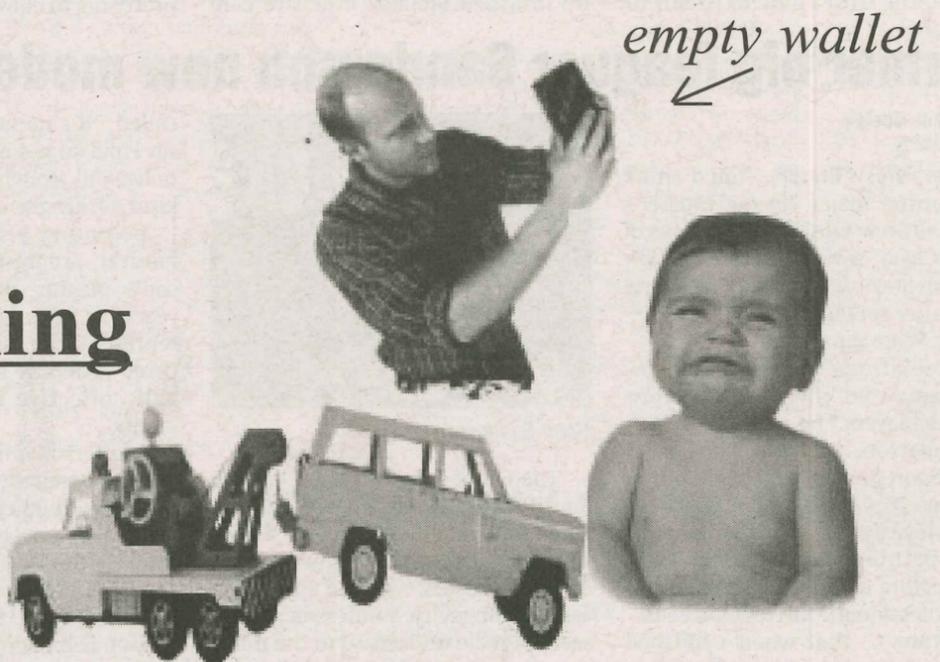
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The effects of Gambling

- * ADDICTION
- * POVERTY
- * BANKRUPTCY
- * LONELINESS
- * SHAME



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