


PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER

July 1, 2008
Vol. 182, No. 27

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
International Mission Board task force charged with assessing future strategies. *Page 2.*

CBF wrap
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship expands poverty commitment, initiates future direction at General Assembly. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
KBC offers resources for churches in need of a 'comeback.' *Page 3.*

Kentucky
Kentucky Baptist seriously injured in car accident during overseas mission trip. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum
There is real danger in looking around at what others have. *Page 4.*

Guest editorial
What can Christians do in these difficult times. *Page 5.*

Kentucky
Kentucky teenager wins National Bible Drill competition. *Page 6.*

Baptists bringing hope to Midwest

By Adam Miller
On Mission

Winfield, Mo. (BP)—Driving south from Reedsburg, Wis., toward Iowa City, Iowa, and into Winfield, Mo., on the outskirts of St. Louis, there is a sense that you are following a very large, unbreaking wave.

In Reedsburg, the streets and yards were dry, but the water certainly had been there. Silt and sand from the Baraboo River blanketed chain-link fences and the tops of backyard swing sets. Buildings were lined three feet high with yellow waterlines. Sandbag walls still skirted businesses while the smell of raw sewage lingered on many streets.

Though the worst of the floodwater had receded, much of the impact of the disaster was only beginning to overwhelm the people who live there.

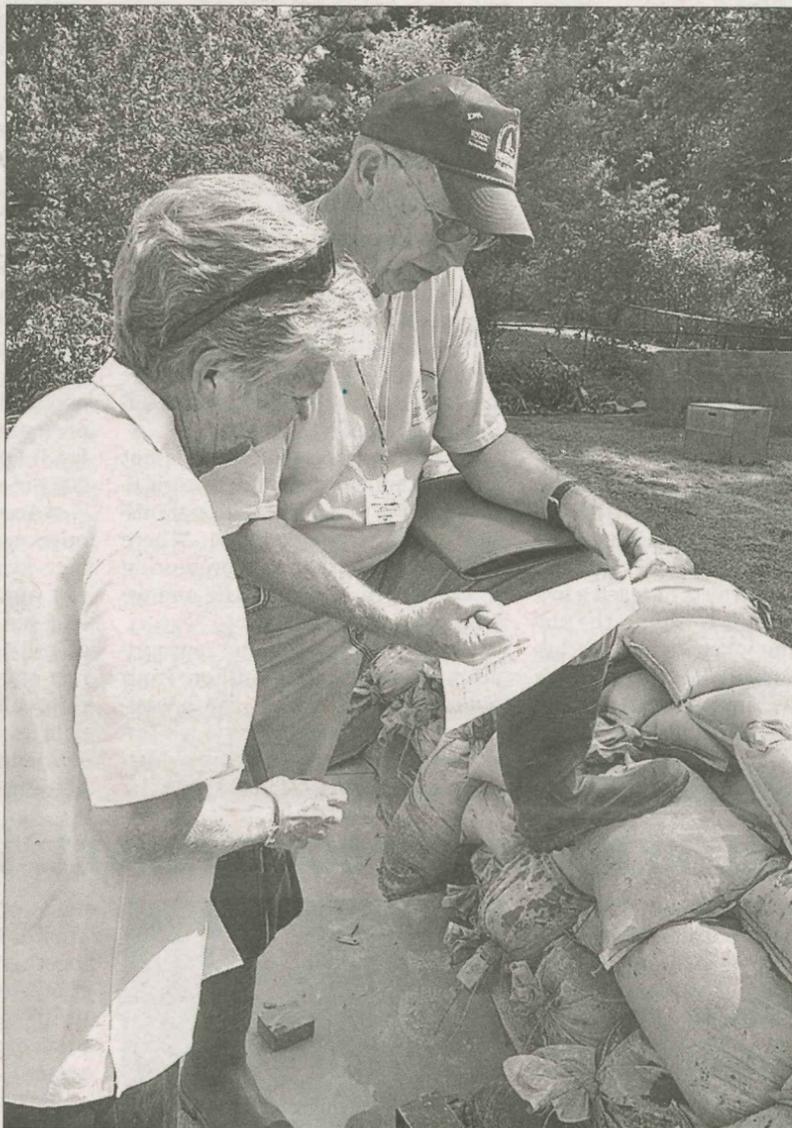
From Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers, Red Cross workers and Reedsburg's Trinity Baptist Church pastor Mike Lopp, one heard that key streets located closer to the Baraboo were the hardest hit.

One Reedsburg resident stood in her front yard on and described how sewage seeped into her home because the town's water treatment facility had reached capacity. This was the case with most affected houses there.

"If I hadn't had a sump pump," she said, "it would've come out through the windows and doors."

On Granite Avenue, a street now dotted with condemned houses, a woman and her husband had just finished remodeling their basement the very day the water started to rise.

□ See Southern Baptists ... *Page 8*



OFFERING HOPE Homeowner Casey Mahone, from Iowa City, Iowa, discusses a recent assessment of her home by Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers. Dozens of teams from several state conventions have put in thousands of volunteer hours in the flooded Midwest areas providing food, showers, mud-out work and chaplaincy services. (BP photo by Jim Whitmer)

Bibles to be made available at 2008 Beijing Olympics

London (RNS)—Despite controversy earlier this year, thousands of Bibles and Gospel booklets will be distributed to athletes and visitors at this summer's Olympic Games in Beijing—with the approval of the Chinese government.

The British-based Bible Society released a statement saying the organization's 180 affiliated branches around the world are jointly funding the project in a country whose Communist government once confiscated all Bibles during the turbulent Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s.

James Catford, the Bible Society's chief executive, said in the statement: "This great sporting event presents a unique opportunity to make the life-changing message of the Bible available to thousands of athletes and visitors from all over China—and all over the world."

The Bible Society noted that some 50,000 booklets with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John published in Chinese and English will be made available at the Athletes' Village in Beijing and five other Olympic cities.

In addition, some 10,000 complete Bibles and 30,000 copies of the New Testament in Chinese and English also will be printed by the China-based Amity Printing Press for the 16,000 athletes and an estimated 2 million visitors expected for the games that open Aug. 8.

Growing Hispanic ministries in Ky. reveal new level of 'maturity'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—Since starting five years ago with about 10 people in their weekly worship service, average Sunday attendance at Senda de Luz (Sending the Light) in Louisville has swelled to 100. That makes it the largest Hispanic congregation in the Kentucky Baptist Convention, even though the group has not officially constituted as a church.

Pastor Yurian Santiesteban is also chaplain at Churchill Downs, where Monday night services attract 100 worshippers, with 30 to 50 coming to Wednesday night Bible studies.

With growth giving them the ability to do more, members of Senda de Luz are helping three other Hispanic churches in the Louisville area and are working to establish eight home Bible studies.

"We call our church a mission church," Santiesteban noted. "We help other people start missions because we know what it's like to start

new and only have 10 to 12 people in the worship service."

The growth of his church and the race track ministry symbolize how Hispanic ministry is maturing in Kentucky, the pastor pointed out.

Almost every Monday night someone at Churchill Downs raises their hand to accept Christ as their personal Savior, he added.

"We have the opportunity to touch many lives," Santiesteban said. "We have planted the seed and now are seeing the response with the numbers of attendance we have."

Central region missionary Job Juarez agreed. Formerly the pastor of the Hispanic mission at Bardstow Baptist Church, Juarez sees many Hispanics moving from salvation to involvement in such practices as Bible study, prayer and tithing.

"We have been able to go full circle with them," the missionary noted. "I'm excited about seeing God work in people's lives."

Numbers are another indicator of

growth. Compiled in late March, the annual report on Hispanic churches showed 62 congregations at the end of 2007. Seven were churches and the rest were missions, with the exception of several seasonal migrant ministries.

Carlos De la Barra, one of the pioneers of this ministry in Kentucky, has his sights set on more than tripling the number to 200 over the next six years.

"It's a really hard goal but we need to do more," said De la Barra, ethnic associate in the KBC's new work and associational missions department. "We are not reaching more than three to five percent of the Hispanic population."

The former pastor has been involved in Hispanic ministry in Kentucky since it began in 1995. Although the roster of churches has not grown as quickly as he would like, De la Barra called Hispanic ministry "healthy."

He noted that when the state con-

vention started reaching out to Hispanics in the mid-1990s, most were single migrant workers. Today, families are settling here, with an estimated 80 percent of Hispanic Baptists full-time residents.

In addition, many existing congregations are moving toward independence, which shows maturity, he added.

One of the keys to growth in recent years has been the 4-year-old Instituto Biblico Bautista Hispano (Hispanic Baptist Bible Institute). With campuses in Louisville, Covington and Bowling Green, the school has graduated more than 75 students.

Statewide last year, Hispanic congregations reported collective membership of 1,041 and average Sunday attendance of 1,387. Sunday school attendance averaged 604 and there were 79 members of Woman's Missionary Union. Total giving to the Cooperative Program, associations and special missions offerings came

□ See Kentucky's Hispanic ... *Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, July 2.

IMB task force to assess future strategies

By Shawn Hendricks
SBC International Mission Board

Rockville, Va. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board created a task force to examine future directions for Southern Baptists' 163-year-old missions enterprise during their June 23-25 meeting at the International Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The trustees also appointed 72 new missionaries and appropriated \$3.2 million from reserve funds to cover expenses not met by last year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

In his report to the trustees, IMB President Jerry Rankin shared some of the challenges missionaries will face and how the IMB must be poised to respond.

"Our society is changing. Our denomination and churches are changing. The world is changing," he said.

Rankin cited global events—natural disasters and conflicts, urbanization, Muslim extremism, diversity within the Southern Baptist Convention, declining values and growing technology—as some of the factors calling for new strategies.

"If we are to stay relevant and effective in our efforts to reach a lost world, we cannot continue the status quo, doing what we have always done," he warned. "We've got to be more creative and more innovative if we're going to fulfill the Great Commission."

Trustees formed a task force to

operate under the charge of "Renewing the Vision" to address these concerns and assess the IMB's structure, strategies and plans for the future.

Not all changes across the world are negative, Rankin added, citing a time of "unprecedented global advance," with 609,000 people baptized and 25,497 new churches reported overseas last year through the work of Southern Baptist missionaries and partners.

Rankin presented specifics on the task force and potential future changes in a closed session with trustees. Details will be available in the coming months.

"Challenging" times

Presiding at his first meeting as trustee chairman, Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, said the new task force will "hit the ground running" and will meet two or three times before the next trustee meeting in September.

"I would agree that there is not a more challenging time, historically speaking, to do international mission work," Chitwood said. "There is likewise no era that is presenting more opportunity than the one we have before us today."

Trustees approved the appropriation of nearly \$3.3 million from board reserves to fund the operating budget not met by last year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which was more than \$231,000 above the

previous year's record but short of the \$165 million goal.

In March, the IMB projected the final amount would top out at \$156 million, IMB treasurer David Steverson noted.

"Everything was on track to meet our projection until about the 10th of April," he reported. "It was like someone turned the spigot to the off position and the funds just sort of trickled in after that date."

Following Steverson's report, one trustee asked about the impact of the declining value of the dollar on missionaries.

"Huge," Steverson said, noting that the impact is felt not only on basic missionary expenses but on other overseas budget needs.

In other business, trustees:

- Appropriated more than \$3 million for 124 human needs projects. A total of more than \$2.3 million was released to support world hunger needs, more than \$613,000 to support general relief needs and nearly \$314,000 to support three ongoing 2004 tsunami projects.

- Accepted the resignation from missionary service of Rodney Hammer, former regional leader of Central and Eastern Europe. Hammer and his wife, Debbie, have served as missionaries for 18 years. Hammer stepped down from his leadership role in May after challenging policies and actions of the board of trustees with which he is in disagreement.

Azerbaijan Baptist insists imprisoned pastor was framed

Aliabad, Azerbaijan—Hamid Shabanov, a Baptist pastor in Aliabad in the Central Asian country of Azerbaijan, was arrested June 20.

Elnur Jabiyev, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Azerbaijan, reported that the "police claim to have found an illegal weapon in his home."

Denying the allegations against Shabanov, and suggesting that the weapon was planted by the police, Jabiyev said that the arrest "was a provocation by the police" and that it was "a deliberately targeted action." The BUA leader asserted that "the police's aim is to halt Baptist activity and close the church in Aliabad."

Shabanov's arrest follows that of Zaur Balaev in May of 2007, who also leads a Baptist church in Aliabad. Balaev was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison in August 2007, but was released in March after protests from the Baptist World Alliance and the European Baptist Federation.

BWA president David Coffey stated that "the BWA will do all we can to publicize among the world family what has happened in Aliabad."

"I would agree that there is not a more challenging time, historically speaking, to do international mission work. There is likewise no era that is presenting more opportunity than the one we have before us today."

IMB trustee chairman Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington

"The congregations and institutions that partner within this fellowship have great influence and impact in the world. And our future is as bright as the promises of God."

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal

CBF expands poverty commitment, initiates direction for future

Memphis, Tenn. (ABP)—An update on how the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is helping achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals—a commitment the organization's top decision-making body made last fall—topped the agenda of the CBF's annual General Assembly in Memphis, Tenn., June 19-20.

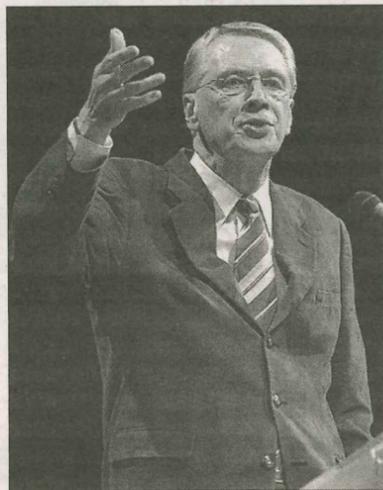
During the two-day meeting, nearly 2,000 Baptists also launched a process to discern the CBF's future direction.

At its General Assembly last year, CBF supporters asked the organization's Coordinating Council to endorse the Millennium Development Goals. The UN adopted them in 2000 to address extreme poverty worldwide.

"The Coordinating Council and staff have found this call to be the very thing we are eager to do," said Jack Glasgow of Zebulon, N.C., who chaired a task force to explore ways to help meet the goals.

Those objectives are to eradicate extreme hunger; ensure access to primary schooling for all children; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and create a global partnership for development, involving trade, aid and debt relief.

"This is the right path for missionary churches," said CBF moderator Glasgow, who became the group's top elected official at the end of the meeting. "Our focus on the MDGs has energized us as we move to the future."



KEYNOTE ADDRESS Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal addresses the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly June 19 in Memphis, Tenn. (CBF photo by Rod Reilly)

CBF field personnel around the world are engaged in more than 100 projects that collectively address the eight goals, Glasgow noted. Among those is Water for Hope, a new initiative that "builds on the assets of communities and on partnerships with churches and other groups to overcome the water crisis in places like Ethiopia, Southeast Asia, Thailand and Uganda," he explained.

In addition, the Coordinating Council has approved a two-year partnership with Micah Challenge USA, which aims to deepen Christian engagement with impoverished and marginalized communities and to influence world leaders to fulfill their promise to achieve the MDGs.

In looking to the future, the CBF is eager to involve all of its consti-

tuents, according to Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal. "Discernment together is more than voting on a strategic plan or projecting goals or trying to reach consensus. It is a spiritual exercise looking at the past, present and future," he noted.

"Whatever the CBF becomes will be determined by Providence," Vestal continued. "But my understanding of Providence is that we are asked to make decisions that have real consequences."

Although the 17-year-old Fellowship, which receives contributions from about 1,800 congregations, is "young in historical perspective and small in global perspective," Vestal said it is "significant and strategic within the Baptist family and within the body of Christ."

"The congregations and institutions that partner within this fellowship have great influence and impact in the world," he emphasized. "And our future is as bright as the promises of God."

Following his comments, participants met in state and regional groups to pray and discuss a survey of questions related to broadening the CBF community; training and development; resource utilization; missional engagement; honoring race, gender and generational differences; and interacting with the world community. The survey also asked respondents to rank the six categories in order of importance.

"Now we have come to a time in the life of this movement when we are healthy and strong enough to step back and ask: What is God preparing for us now?" said outgoing CBF moderator Harriet Harral of Fort

Worth, Texas. "In what new and improved ways are we now being called to step out on faith to follow Christ and serve God better?"

The next day, groups completed the surveys and presented them during a worship session. "These surveys really represent not only your insights and passions and convictions, but also something of an offering to the Lord," Vestal noted. "We are going to offer our best insights and deepest convictions to God as a sort of prayer."

Leaders will use the responses as they evaluate the organization's future direction. Ben McDade, CBF's advancement coordinator, said he expected the Coordinating Council to have a proposal to consider at its October meeting.

In other business, participants approved a 2008-2009 budget of \$16.5 million, a slight increase over the current budget of \$16,480,000. More than \$13 million of that is allocated for global missions.

Participants also endorsed an unopposed slate of nominees for top offices and for the Coordinating Council. They included a new moderator-elect—Hal Bass, a political science professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. Bass will become the moderator at next year's General Assembly, scheduled for July 2-3 in Houston.

CBF supporters also contributed more than \$10,000 to the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Offering for Religious Liberty and Human Rights. About one-third of the receipts from the offering will be sent to the Baptist World Alliance's human-rights and religious-liberty initiatives.

KBC offers resources for churches in need of 'comeback'

By Erin Roach
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—In a day when numerous Kentucky churches have as many empty seats as those filled on any given Sunday, the Kentucky Baptist Convention is working to reverse the trend with the help of missiologist Ed Stetzer through a new Comeback Church Process.

Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research, said a majority of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention are plateaued or declining in terms of membership. To find a solution, he collaborated with Mike Dodson, a church strategist in Pennsylvania whose doctoral dissertation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary became the basis for the book, "Comeback Churches."

In March, the KBC hosted a one-day conference to allow Kentucky Baptist pastors to hear Stetzer share what he and Dodson learned from surveying 300 churches among 10 denominations that had achieved healthy evangelistic growth after a significant season of decline.

But that was not enough, said Alan Witham, KBC's church development team leader and strategist.

"Often we give good information through conferences, but we don't follow up with a plan or process to implement that good information," he indicated. "We wanted to take the additional step to give churches the opportunity to discuss the information, process it and then to talk about ways they could apply it in their setting."

That is how the Comeback Church Process was born. Witham said the process is about helping

churches apply proven and transferable principles for revitalization.

"It's not that we're trying to follow one particular church model, but we are asking, 'What are the transferable principles we see from the research that could be applied in our setting?'" he noted.

Starting in April, the KBC planned five consecutive regional network meetings. With one meeting per month, each meeting focuses on one of the five key factors that Stetzer referred to as part of the comeback churches he studied. Those factors are leadership; vibrant faith; meaningful and active ministries for laypeople; intentional evangelistic efforts; and a "celebrative" and "orderly" mood of worship.

Comeback attempt

Johnny Spray, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Hardinsburg, attended the initial session with Stetzer, as well as the ongoing regional network meetings. When he was called as pastor three years ago, New Bethel averaged 40 people in Sunday school and 70 for worship, he recalled. The church also had a history of feuding caused by struggles for power among its members.

Fortunately, the previous pastor had helped set the church on track for healing and already had some potential in place, Spray suggested. For instance, the church had a projector and a screen for worship, but they were not using them. Spray, 34, incorporated those tools and brought in a part-time minister of music to coordinate the choir and improve the worship services.

"Probably the biggest thing we

did was go to age-graded Sunday school classes," Spray noted. "They didn't have those. As a matter of fact, they had one gigantic area for youth and a nursery and that was their catchall."

The pastor also started a young-adult Sunday school class and since then, a man he had been mentoring has taken leadership of it. Spray also started a children's church to help draw in the young families that compose a strong portion of the local demographic.

The worship attendance at New Bethel has more than doubled since the changes, Spray said, and Sunday school attendance is now closer to 75 people. Baptism numbers also have increased from eight the first year to 18 the second, he added.

During the process, Spray said he was spurred on by reading "Comeback Churches."

"Through Ed's book, I was able to see churches that have had some similar characteristics as we've had, and it offered some hope," he commented.

Witham said churches that are interested in experiencing a similar comeback should contact the KBC regional strategist assigned to their area of the state. The strategist can provide an audio CD of Stetzer's March presentation, as well as a comeback church survey to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the congregation as a starting point.

"The church development team members and specifically the regional strategists are available to engage in discussions with churches about how they can experience turnaround growth," Witham not-



ed. "We would also encourage pastors to connect with these network meetings. They're scheduled in four different areas of the state so that pastors can go to a regional meeting close to them."

Also, at each Super Saturday event in August and September, a Comeback Churches track will be offered so that pastors can further learn to implement the principles Stetzer and Dodson highlighted in their book.

Both Witham and Spray said that they would encourage pastors to read "Comeback Churches" for inspiration and guidance—but do not expect dramatic results immediately.

"I would definitely say go slow, love on the people and preach the Word. It's a slow process," Spray noted, adding that his church tried to start an AWANA program for the children, but it was too soon for the idea to take root. "It's not going to be something that someone can come in and just revolutionize overnight."

LESSONS LEARNED

Ed Stetzer discusses the common factors of growing churches with Kentucky Baptist pastors at the Comeback Churches seminar in March. The Kentucky Baptist Convention has since developed the Comeback Churches Process to help pastors revitalize their congregations.

Ky. Baptist injured during mission trip overseas

Lexington—A Kentucky Baptist man serving on a mission trip in Russia is back home in Kentucky after sustaining serious injuries in a car accident June 6.

Lawrence Kendrick, a member of First Baptist Church of Junction City, was visiting friends in the city of Bryansk, Russia, approximately 235 miles from Moscow, when the taxi cab he and others were riding in was struck by a dump truck on Kendrick's side of the vehicle.



Lawrence Kendrick

The 67 year old was knocked unconscious and suffered several bone fractures, according to Steve Fegenbush, associate pastor of First Baptist, Junction City. One other person in the taxi suffered only minor injuries.

Kendrick was part of a seven-person mission team consisting of members of the Junction City church and Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville. The team was serving in Orel, Russia.

Kendrick had travelled to Bryansk to visit a family he had befriended on a previous trip to the area. Following the accident, Ernest Martin, a fellow member of First Baptist, Junction City, and leader of the trip, relayed information back to the United States and Kendrick's family.

On June 12, his wife, Ramona, and Pete, one of his three sons, travelled to Bryansk. Doctors told Ken-

drick's wife and son that Lawrence had suffered brain injuries, but were unclear as to what extent, Fegenbush noted. He also said that Kendrick had exhibited very little response since the accident.

Nearly a week later, Kendrick was transferred to an American medical center in Moscow. Ramona and Pete began making arrangements to have Lawrence flown by air ambulance to Lexington's Bluegrass Airport.

That plan hit a snag when doctors conflicted over whether Kendrick would require brain surgery in order to travel by air. In addition, Fegenbush said Kendrick's insurance benefits had essentially dried up and the family would be responsible for nearly \$250,000 in medical bills at the Russian hospitals, as well as another \$150,000 for the air ambulance.

After a couple of days, Russian doctors agreed to let Kendrick fly without surgery and he arrived back in Kentucky on June 23. He was immediately rushed to the University of Kentucky's Chandler Medical Center and placed in critical care. Kendrick's wife and son returned home the next day.

Fegenbush said he spoke with doctors at UK who acknowledged that they were not clear about the Russian physicians' assessments of Kendrick, and that they would be re-

quired to run their own tests to determine the extent of Kendrick's injuries.

According to e-mails from Kendrick's family members and Fegenbush, doctors at UK have determined that Kendrick suffered fractures to multiple ribs, his pelvis, and right femur and knee, as well as a dislocated left hip.

Most importantly, as of June 30, doctors diagnosed Kendrick with diffuse axonal injury, a traumatic brain injury, which according to the Web site, eMedicine.com, is often caused by "high-speed motor vehicle accidents" and leaves 90 percent of diagnosed patients in a "persistent vegetative state."

According to an e-mail from Kendrick's son Larry, the family is considering options on Lawrence Kendrick's long-term health care. Fegenbush noted in another e-mail that the family may have Kendrick moved to a health care facility closer to home in Danville.

Fegenbush said that the Lawrence Kendrick Recovery Fund has been established to help alleviate the financial burden on the Kendrick family. Those who wish to contribute to the fund can do so at any PBK Bank branch in Lincoln, Boyle and Rockcastle Counties, or through First Baptist Church of Junction City, P.O. Box 246, Junction City, KY, 40440.

The congregation also will host a benefit concert July 13 featuring local Gospel music groups.

Kentucky's Hispanic ministries experiencing growth, maturity

Continued from page 1
to just more than \$22,500.

The most impressive statistic was the baptisms. The 147 reported last year averages about seven members per baptism, much lower than the Southern Baptist Convention's 42:1 ratio.

"If you look at the number of members to baptisms, that's phenomenal," said Grundy Janes, consultant in associational missions for the KBC. "Attendance is moving up, too. ... If you go back to where we were 10 to 12 years ago and look at where we are today, there's been fantastic growth."

The attrition rate has been fairly low as well. Janes counted 78 starts over the past 12 years, meaning only 13 have either closed or merged with other churches. Like De la Barra, Janes sees Hispanics maturing, which he credited to the Bible Institute providing more leadership.

"The missionaries are doing less of the Sunday-by-Sunday preaching," Janes said. "And, we're getting more leadership and growth in churches and Sunday school classes."

Still, Janes noted that there is more that can be done. Any Anglo churches aware of Hispanic groups in their area can contact De la Barra to arrange help in reaching them, he said.

Janes also pointed out that missionaries are better equipped to initially reach other Hispanics. Once relationships have been established, existing churches can help by providing meeting space, periodic meals and English-as-a-second-language classes, as well as holding joint worship services, Janes said.

Help from Anglo churches is always appreciated, Santiesteban urged.

Even though his church is much larger than in 2003, it is still relatively small and has limited resources to help immigrants with few possessions, he noted.

"We are always looking for help—getting clothes for people and furniture," Santiesteban said. "I'm always asking for any kind of donations we can (get) to help these families."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

DREW NICHTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SBC changes

There are few conventions like the Southern Baptist Convention. Many things are voted on, but our nonbinding resolutions will not enslave its members. Not all of our Christian friends can make that claim. Our new president stated that "radical change" is needed to stop the decline in membership. Amen to that. What changes do we need?

There is some evidence to indicate that we are a denomination run by grumpy old men. One report from the convention speaks of purging members. Our church did that last year and I don't recommend it. I suspect that the father of the prodigal son would feel the same way.

Also mentioned are new requirements for service on SBC committees, commissions and boards with piercing questions for candidates bordering on inquisition. Why treat such distinguished people as if they were on trial with the burden of proof of their righteousness on their own shoulders?

With our previously known condemnations of Disney, Harry Potter, Halloween and public education, is it any wonder that many of our grown sons and daughters attend non-Baptist churches? That would help explain our fall in baptisms.

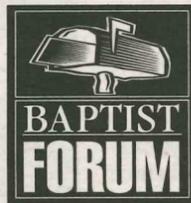
Yes, let's go for "radical change." Stop waging wars in the public domain that we can't win and cease all witch hunting within our own ranks.

*John Townsend
Memphis, Tenn.*

Thank you

Along with seven team members from Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville and First Baptist Church of Junction City, I recently returned from a mission trip to the Orel region of Russia.

We worked with the Transfiguration Baptist Church in Orel. Valery Yeroshkin is the pastor. He also serves as the superintendent of the churches in the Orel region. At present, there are 31 churches there.



Taking the stress out of stress

By Tamara Quintana

Dallas (BP)—You don't need to take a "stress test" to see if you have it. We all have it. Stress is a normal part of life. It's what motivates us to take action.

How you manage stress, however, can set you apart from others. We all experience stress differently. What causes stress for me may not bother you at all.

For many, a 72-mile round trip to Dallas every day would be a serious stress trigger. You know that somewhere along that 72-mile stretch, you'll inevitably encounter a fender-bender, a stalled car, road construction and, of course, drivers who shouldn't have a license at all. I call this scenario commuting to work, and I've been doing it for more than 20 years. Instead of letting myself feel stress, I use the time to listen to music, catch up on the news and

chat with my carpooler.

Many people would call being in the room for one hour with 38 children ages 3-12 torture. But for more

than 25 years I've called it children's choir—and I love it. That's probably because I'm still a kid myself. Children can be stress triggers but they can also be the best stress relievers. Someone once said laughter is the best medicine for whatever ails you, and I am fully medicated after a children's musical.

Possible signs of stress include:
■ Short-term forgetfulness of routine things (like leaving church and realizing you are missing one of your children).

■ Loss or increase of appetite.
■ Desire to sleep all the time or the inability to sleep.

■ Uncontrollable crying or anger.
So, what can you do?

COMMENTARY

Celebration at Eaton Memorial

Eaton Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with guest musicians and worship, testimonies and celebrations.

It was a privilege for Kay and me to participate in the Sunday morning worship service and to catch the exciting spirit of the celebration. A teenage girl, accompanied down the aisle by her grandmother, professed faith in Jesus Christ.

Former pastors and staff persons were recognized. Among them were Phillip Basinger, director of missions for Green Valley Association, and Wallace Miller, who is retired from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school department. Pastor Dennis McFadden extended a warm welcome to everyone.

The adult choir, directed by Pam Howell, provided excellent music for the services. Pam has served her home church with her wonderful voice and directing for more than 20 years while teaching public school

music.

Eaton Memorial is a church that has ministered faithfully in its location through many transitions in the community. It traces its origins to 1907 when after surveying the west end of Owensboro, W.D. Nowlin and W.W. Williams conducted a revival meeting in the area. In July of 1908, with Williams as pastor, 27 charter members constituted the mission into a church.

The congregation has overcome many barriers throughout its history, including a fire. It dedicated its current building on May 30, 1920.

Today, there are housing units across the side street from the church building that are largely occupied by individuals with alcohol and other substance abuse issues. The neighborhoods to the west are known for drug activity.

Despite these obstacles, the church, which has an average attendance of 178 in worship, strives to

We had the opportunity to assist with the renovation of buildings at a youth camp that serves the entire region during the summer months. We also had the opportunity to participate in eight worship and evangelistic services in five different churches and to share with children in an orphanage on two different occasions.

Every church we went to expressed appreciation for Kentucky Baptists and all they did for those churches during the five-year Kentucky-Russia Partnership. They also are very appreciative for the many teams, financial and prayer support given to them since the end of the partnership.

Bill Marshall and the executive board members who had the vision and implemented the partnership need to know that great good has been done and continues to be done as a result of the partnership.

My Russian Christian friends said, "Please tell Kentucky Baptists we deeply appreciate all they have done for fellow believers in Russia."

*Ernest Martin
Danville*

Since we can't eliminate stress, we must learn to manage it. When I worked at a local hospital, it was not uncommon for women to be admitted to the hospital complaining of abdominal pain. In reality, they convinced their doctors they were ill just so they wouldn't have to cook for the holidays. There are healthier ways to handle stress:

■ Stay in God's Word.
■ Talk to a friend or your doctor.
■ Exercise. It helps release natural chemicals that lift your spirits.
■ Journal your thoughts.
■ Read a faith-based book on dealing with stress.

■ Ask someone to pray for you. Sometimes we are so far down that we can't even pray for ourselves.

■ Help others. Often the best way to relieve our own stress is to be a blessing to someone else.

Tamara Quintana is director of the employee wellness program for GuideStone Financial Resources

meet the needs of its members and the community. It has a mission to bring people to Jesus, equip believers for spiritual maturity, celebrate God's presence, provide a sense of belonging and demonstrate God's love through service. It is a joy to see a pastor and people reach out with love, courage and hope in the name of Jesus.

The church's signature ministry is a meal provided at the church every Monday night for people in the community who are in need. More than half of the church's vacation Bible school students this year came from the local community. Several made commitments to Jesus Christ.

The pastor and church are active in Daviess-McLean Baptist Association and recently reached the \$1 million milestone for faithful support of missions through the Cooperative Program.

Please pray for Rev. McFadden, the church staff, the members and others like them who have been called to minister in transitional communities.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

There is danger in looking around at what others have

By Jeremy White

I often warn my teenage daughters about being too concerned about what everyone else is doing. Adults understand the problems that teenagers can encounter when they try to do what everyone else is doing.

We, as adults, however, should practice more of what we preach. From a financial and spiritual perspective, we can be tempted to focus on what others have—whether their car, house, waist line, size of TV, vacations, talents, clothes, power tools or jewelry.

The spiritual danger of eyeing our neighbors' stuff is a path toward envy and coveting. Envy is desiring for yourself what others have—their looks, talents, place in life, job or marriage. Coveting is wanting their stuff and the things they own.

The envying/coveting cycle usually goes something like this: We look around; we see what others have; we want their things desperately; we become discontented or angry that they have things we do not; we become unappreciative of what we have; and we then use envy and coveting as motivation to get what we cannot afford.

The cycle starts with looking around at others for guidance and as a measuring stick. That causes problematic spiritual attitudes of the heart which can lead us to greater spending and debt. That is where the financial problems begin. You probably have heard it said that too often we buy things we do not need with money we do not have in order to impress people we do not know.

Another common problem is that looking at others can cause us to justify sinful attitudes such as cheating or cutting corners. Many people say they can cheat on their taxes because they look around and perceive that everyone else has. Or they think that they can cheat an insurance company because they think everyone else is doing it.

Instead of looking around horizontally and eyeing what others have, we should look vertically. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, we won't sink. There is no lasting satisfaction in temporal items. As the Bible says in Hebrews 13:5, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"

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



Children who lie often learn to do so from their parents

Q: Why do children lie?

As a child, I was taught to tell the truth. Perhaps more importantly, truth telling was modeled for me. The only lie I remember hearing as a boy was the time my Mamaw told my brother, "This won't hurt," as she prepared to clean his bleeding cut with rubbing alcohol (I still remember his scream as well).

A recent article in Newsweek and a February cover story in The New Yorker have raised interesting insights into the issue of children and lying. Research indicates that 98 percent of our kids believe lying is wrong. However, 98 percent of our teens also admitted to lying to their parents. Kids lie for all sorts of reasons, but a new theory suggests that one factor in particular helps them learn to lie: They are just copying their parents.

Psychologist Alan Hilfer says that most parents tend to lie to their children on a regular basis. These "lies of convenience" range from comments about a gift, to the way a person looks, to insincere praise. While seemingly insignificant and often "pro-social," these "little white lies," as we like to call them, form a pattern which children pick up on and eventually incorporate into their own behavior.

The Bible tells us to speak the truth in love. It also challenges us to let our words be uplifting and encouraging. Christians must ask God to help our words honor this tension, knowing that little ears are listening—and learning. Parents cannot allow lying to become an effective strategy for handling difficult situations.—David Garrard

Q: How can those knocked down by disappointment through a divorce or long-term relationship that didn't work out rebuild their confidence, self-esteem and self-love to move forward to another day?

Consider these truths:

- God supports you. When Abraham "dismissed" his second wife Hagar (Genesis 12:14), scripture says that God heard her cries, heard the cry of her young child Ishmael, and "God was with the lad" (Genesis 21:22). The reason "God hates divorce" is because of what it does to divorced people.

God feels your pain and is with you in your distress.

- You have a future. "I know the plans I have for you, plans for a future and a hope." These words written centuries ago for Jews in exile apply to those who see themselves as in relationship "exile."

- Romans 8:28 is still true. If you love God, He is weaving all things together for your good and His glory. Trust Him.

- You have the Holy Spirit within. Jesus called the Spirit "the Comforter." Allow God to comfort you and give you peace.

- You are a unique, unrepeatable miracle of God, created for community with other "unique unrepeatables." Find a healthy and safe group of unconditional acceptance, such as a strong divorce or relationship recovery group. Surround yourself with uplifting and encouragement.

- Your future begins today. Don't live in the past—there's no future in it.

- Take care of you. This includes your personal living space. Do what you can with what you have and allow God to do the rest.

- Be positive. Many more positive experiences have resulted from being focused on the positive aspects of life than the negative.

- Life is a journey—travel light. Get rid of any "baggage" from previous relationships. Start now to enlist professionals or groups that can help you navigate the grief and forgiveness journeys that ultimately lead to a joyful and glorious future filled with hope.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibc-lex.org.

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

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



What can Christians do in difficult times?

As I stood in line at the donut shop recently, a law enforcement officer I know stopped to chat. He asked if I had heard about the suicide of a well-respected and well-liked businessman who was a leader in his church. I had indeed heard the news which both saddened and surprised me. The officer echoed my sentiments and indicated that many were surprised by the man's death. The officer then commented that the number of home foreclosures in the county was reaching staggering levels. With sadness, he predicted a corresponding rise in the number of suicides. These are trying times and difficult days. What can we as Christians do?

The economic situations facing business owners, single parents, young families and retirees are not new. Every generation has faced economic difficulties and many experience these difficulties while trying to camouflage their pain and distress. These individuals are in our workplaces, schools and churches. They are trying to support their children and keep life as "normal" as possible. Unfortunately, many of them go unnoticed—not so much because they succeed in their camouflage efforts, but perhaps moreso because we are simply dealing with our own problems.

Edwin Arlington Robinson, a noted American poet, chronicled a similar situation in his 1896 poem, "Richard Cory."

*Whenever Richard Cory went down town,
We people on the pavement looked at him:
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored, and imperially slim.
And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good-morning," and he glittered when he walked.
And he was rich—yes, richer than a king—
And admirably schooled in every grace:
In fine, we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.
So on we worked, and waited for the light,*

*And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,
Went home and put a bullet through his head.*

Nothing about Richard Cory's appearance or demeanor indicated that he was distressed to the breaking point. His camouflage was apparently sufficient. We meet Richard Corys everyday, and like his townsfolk, because we are unaware of their trials, we do not offer encouragement or hope.

We need to be aware of people at work, school and even at church. We need to engage people in conversation—particularly if they seem a bit glum, withdrawn or even "trying

too hard." We need to be encouragers and good listeners. We must offer them the hope that we have as Christians. Consider the people around you. Invite them to meet you for a mocha at your favorite coffee shop. Invite them to Bible study or to your worship service. Engage them.

What we have is sufficient; God is our faithful provider. Yes, we make poor decisions and waste money, but we do have hope.

As the Apostle Paul stated, "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress" (Philippians 4:11-14). We need to share in the distress of those around us—especially those in no apparent distress—even at the risk of seeming nosy. It might save a life and add another to the Kingdom. We have a living hope which sees us through all trials, tribulations, illnesses, financial reverses and foreclosures. Be vigilant. Be diligent. Seek out the Richard Corys to offer them encouragement and hope.

Lanna Martin Kilgore is a practicing attorney and member of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green

GUEST EDITORIAL



Lanna Kilgore

Avoiding summer burnout

It happens every year in churches all across Kentucky—and for that matter the nation. Churches, and in particular youth ministers, see just how many activities can possibly be crammed into one summer. I know I've been there. Between youth camp, a mission trip, vacation Bible school, the mandatory trip to the amusement park and church softball leagues, there just isn't any downtime in the summer. It's the old adage "you gotta make hay while the sun shines" taken the nth degree.

And while summer is an excellent time to build relationships with students, it is also a time that we must make time not to burn ourselves out. Many youth ministers (myself included) have been known to say, "Yes, but I would rather burn out than rust out," or something to that effect. But as I get older, the realization sets in that either way, I am out.

So here are a few suggestions to avoid burning out this summer:

Heed the higher calling. Are you ready for this? If you were called to be married and have a family, then your marriage and family are higher callings than your ministry. Make sure that you have carved out time—quality time—with your spouse and family. If we pack our schedule to the brim with youth activities, our fam-

ilies get the leftovers; they get what energy and time we have left over from "doing youth ministry."

Block out days in your calendar for family time.

Youth ministers tend to be workaholics and we will carve away at family time to do ministry. I know this is difficult with the "hecticness" of summer, but if it is a higher calling then it requires that we pay attention to it.

Delegate.

I know what you're thinking: It would just be easier to do it myself than to find someone, show them what I want done, then follow up and make sure it gets done. No, it won't. First off, if you have to do all that then you haven't really delegated it; you've just found somebody to do it your way. There are things we can all give away. It isn't being a bad leader to ask someone else to do something. Good leaders know what they can give away.

Do you really think George Steinbrenner, the owner of the New York Yankees, actually cleans the team buses, updates the team's Web site or handles ticket sales? He delegates those tasks to someone else, not because they are unimportant, but because it is necessary for the Yankee organization to work at its best. No one person can do everything. We need to allow others to walk along-

side us, to catch the vision for ministry and then give them a part to play in reaching this generation with the gospel.

Sabbath. We must rest. Whether it is a nap at camp while other adults are teaching our students, or taking an extra day off (with the church's blessing) after camp. Even God took time to rest. I remember a few years ago waking up one October morning and not feeling tired. It hit me later that day that I had finally recovered—two months after summer had ended. I realized two things that day. No. 1: I wasn't as young as I once was. No. 2: My summer was just way too busy. We have to find time to rest. Take a day off, go for a walk, play a round of golf, go fishing, buy a hammock and sleep in the shade. Just find something that helps you rest and actually rest.

Stay fresh. I like bananas—green bananas. Once they turn a dark yellow I don't want them anymore. At the first hint of brown, it is time to either throw them out or make banana bread. We have to stay fresh. In the business of summer, it is easy to forgo our devotional time and run on adrenaline. Our accountability partners are running 100 miles an hour like we are, so no one will notice if we aren't as regular in the Word. In order to keep from burning out, we have to make time to stay fresh.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

Kentucky teenager wins National Bible Drill competition

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Duluth, Ga.—After excelling in a series of Bible Drills at the local and state level, Kentucky resident Bailey Scott went on to win the National Youth Bible Drill Invitational, held June 20 at the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center in Duluth, Ga.

Scott, a member of Liberty Baptist Church in Auburn, competed with nine drill champions from other Southern Baptist state conventions. A rising high school sophomore, Scott is a six-year state Bible Drill winner.

Scott was selected to represent the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the national drill after being named runner-up in the April 5 state drill, held at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. As outlined by official competition rules, state drill winner Shelby Brown was ineligible to compete at the national level, having already represented Kentucky once before.

Scott also received a perfect score award at the National Invitational Drill.

"We are proud of Bailey for her commitment to learning more about the Bible," said Joe Ball, KBC's youth strategist and coordinator of Kentucky's annual drill. "She's been involved in Bible drills for many years and it was exciting to see her shine at the national level."

The KBC also was represented by Chelsea Smith at the National Invitational Speakers Tournament, held in conjunction with the National Youth Bible Drill. A rising high school junior, Smith was the winner of the State Speakers Tournament at the April 5 event in Elizabethtown. She is a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Stanford.

According to Ball, Bible drill events are designed to help students learn key Bible verses and articulate their spiritual beliefs. Participants are expected to know the books of the Bible and be able to locate them, locate key passages, memorize verses and be able to answer questions about Bible content.

The Speakers Tournament, he noted, is an opportunity for 10th through 12th graders to make a presentation on a pre-determined topic



RECENT WINNERS Kentucky teen Bailey Scott (left), winner of the National Youth Bible Drill Invitational, shows off her awards alongside Chelsea Smith, who represented Kentucky in the National Speakers Tournament. Both events were held June 20 at the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center in Duluth, Ga.

related to Christian life.

This is the second straight year a student from Liberty Baptist Church in Auburn has represented Kentucky at the national drill. The church had three other students participate in the state drill this year: Mindy Can-

ler, Caitlynn Oberhausen and Brianna Scott.

To qualify for the state drill, students must first earn enough points through their participation in Bible drills at the church and associational levels.

Recent Campbellsville grad finds success with original musical

Campbellsville—After three full-house performances and a sold-out encore, the ride is just beginning for recent Campbellsville University graduate Matt Hodge.

Since the first performance of his original contemporary musical production, "Just a Breeze to a Hurricane," the accolades have flooded in and doors have opened for the budding composer.

The musical follows the lives of a close-knit group of friends as they journey through college. With 17 original songs and fully choreographed dance sequences, the musical combines both humor and drama to present an insider's view into the lives of three students, all with

different ideas about what their college experience should be.

Hodge said he wrote the musical "because it had always been a dream."

Hodge began writing the musical during the summer before his senior year. He returned last fall with a 50-page, 13-song rough draft of the musical. After months of revisions, Hodge completed the final draft in January of this year and began working with the cast.

"We rehearsed insane amounts of hours every week to put this thing on," Hodge recalled. "Learning the music, dialogue, dancing, lighting, microphones, the orchestra pit and numerous other things. It was a

very hectic and stressful couple of months."

When "Just a Breeze to a Hurricane" opened for three performances on campus, it was greeted with an "overwhelming" reception.

"People really clung to it and came back to see it over and over," Hodge recalled. "I had people that doubted I could get enough people to come to three performances. ... The last performance was standing room only and even then we had to turn away some people."

Campbellsville University also took notice of the response to the musical.

"CU offered to finance us to have an encore performance and have it

professionally recorded on DVD," Hodge said.

The school also provided funds for Hodge, the cast and musicians to travel to Nashville to record the musical's soundtrack.

Hodge said he is also working on getting "Just a Breeze to a Hurricane" copyrighted, delivered to different publishing companies and is showing it to music industry representatives in Nashville.

"I have been so blessed with what has happened in my life the past few months," he noted. "Three months ago, I prayed that I would have just a handful of people come see my musical. And now, three months later, I'm recording in Nashville."

KBC sends more disaster relief mud-out teams to Cent. Indiana

Elnora, Ind.—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is sending 33 additional disaster relief volunteers to assist with the mud-out efforts currently underway in several areas of Indiana, following severe flooding that caused damage there last month.

According to Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the KBC, two teams of volunteers left last week to provide relief in Elnora, and three teams were sent to Terre Haute this past weekend.

The teams serving in Elnora include two volunteers from Bowling Green, two from Georgetown and one from Mount Washington. Those who are stationed in Terre Haute include 22 volunteers from Cadiz, four from Bardstown, one from Crab Orchard, one from Henderson and one from Shelby County.

Kentucky teams who had been serving in Elnora prior to this recent call out include volunteers from Fort Mitchell, Ashland, Hopkinsville and Frenchburg.

Webb said he anticipated the mud-out efforts to last through this week in Elnora and until next week in Terre Haute. At this point, no additional workers are needed, he indicated.

Kentucky Baptists are part of a larger network of Southern Baptist volunteers trained to respond to disasters by manning mass feeding operations, using chainsaws to clear downed trees and limbs, clear mud out of flooded homes and more.

To learn more about Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, visit www.kybaptist.org/dr.



Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association

22nd Annual Meeting

July 23-25, 2008

Kentucky Baptist Convention
13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive • Louisville, KY 40223

Growing in Wisdom

Registration is \$85 without overnight accommodations; \$120 with accommodations.

Participants may attend the Continuing Education Skillshop: Business Communication and receive one Basic Business English unit for an additional \$60.

Sessions Include:

- Website Class
- Bible Study
- Missions Project
- Copyright Class
- Women's Health Issues
- Smile Conference
- Worship

PLUS...Thursday evening banquet with singer Kenna Turner West!

For registration packet, call 270-726-2392 before June 29. For more information, call the Church Development Team at 502-489-3571 or 866-489-3571 (toll free in KY).



Affluenza: It's an epidemic

Jesus offers prescription for disease called materialism

Wealth advisor and noted psychologist Ronit Lami defines affluenza as "the effect of materialism, money or wealth on the individual's subconscious which manifests itself in unbalanced relationships with oneself, others and money." I would add to her list of unbalanced relationships one's relationship to the one and only God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me encourage you to consider prayerfully the extent to which you might be caught up in the affluenza epidemic by answering these questions:

- Is more never enough?
- Are you preoccupied with externals?
- Do you have a high regard for your outer self but a low regard for your inner self?
- Can you delay gratification and tolerate frustration?
- Do you have a false sense of entitlement?
- Are you selfish?
- Have you lost your motivation and personal productivity due to the anticipation of or receipt of an inheritance?

Research shows there can be a negative correlation between a person's self-worth and self-confidence and their need for material possessions. I have found to be true in my experience the testimony of an anonymous inheritor who said, "It is difficult to admit to ourselves that we have difficulties because of all the money we have. But regardless of how much they have, people share the same desires and have the same personal and emotional challenges which have nothing to do with money."

When I read that, I immediately thought of the famous encounter Jesus had with the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-22. He asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Remember Jesus' response? "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." Jesus prescribed for him exactly what he needed for his affluenza. The young man went away sad because he had great wealth—he rejected Jesus' solution to his problem. I wonder how many of us are doing the same thing?

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Western state (abbr.)
- 3 "I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and ___ for thee" (Isaiah 43:3)
- 7 To do much better than another
- 12 ___ of the Chaldees
- 13 From ___ to stern
- 14 Fabric used to make an ephod
- 15 In law, an object
- 17 Preposition
- 18 "In the beginning was the ___" (John 1:1)
- 19 "The horse is prepared against the day of ___" (Proverbs 21:31)
- 21 "Stand in ___, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 22 "They fled before the men of ___" (Joshua 7:4)
- 24 Pres. Clinton's home state (abbr.)
- 25 Simile syntax
- 26 "The children of Israel be as the ___ of the sea" (Romans 9:27)
- 28 Administer the SAT again
- 31 Quaker pronoun
- 32 You, in the Yucatan
- 34 Start
- 36 Provincetown province (abbr.)
- 37 Grandfather of David, and son of Ruth
- 40 Means of communication
- 43 First word written on the wall (Daniel 5)
- 44 Linking verb
- 45 "Two of every ___ shalt thou bring into the ark" (Genesis 6:19)
- 48 Masculine nickname
- 49 Took a break
- 51 "It is as high as heaven ... ___ than hell" (Job 11:8)

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					54			55	
56	57					58			59		60	
61						62					63	

- 53 Minuscule
- 54 Naval officer (abbr.)
- 55 Where one can perspire or be pampered
- 56 Portion
- 58 Used by the high priest to hold oil
- 60 Classified, for one
- 61 Spread around
- 62 Altar end of the church
- 63 Biblical pronoun

- 20 Three, in Turin
- 22 "Ramoth with her suburbs, and ___ with her suburbs" (1 Chronicles 6:73)
- 23 Notion
- 25 "The ___ of Kish Saul's father were lost" (1 Samuel 9:3)
- 27 Sighing sound
- 29 Preposition
- 30 "The friendship of the world is ___ with God" (James 4:4)
- 32 Volume
- 33 Father of Gaal (Judges 9:30)
- 35 Note on diatonic scale
- 38 ___ passant (chess term)
- 39 "If any man ___ to be first, the same shall be last" (Mark 9:35)
- 41 "Pray for them which despitefully ___ you" (Luke 6:28)
- 42 Swabs
- 46 To reward
- 47 Barter
- 50 Once more
- 51 "Behold, the nations are as a ___ of a bucket" (Isaiah 40:15)
- 52 All ___ (attentive)
- 53 Pitch
- 56 Baseball player (abbr.)
- 57 Like alt.
- 58 Laughing sound
- 59 Quadrant in D.C.

Down

- 1 Checks
- 2 ___ code
- 3 Christian ed. concern (abbr.)
- 4 Common abbr.
- 5 ___ noire
- 6 "I ___ God, even thy God" (Psalm 50:7)
- 7 "___ of speech" (how Moses described himself)
- 8 Employed, in Bible times
- 9 Conjunction
- 10 "This I know; for God is for ___" (Psalm 56:9)
- 11 Printer's measure
- 16 Day ___
- 18 "The field is ___, the land mourneth" (Joel 1:10)

Last week's solution

1	S	O	B	4	P	I	P	8	S	W	A	T					
12	O	R	A	13	A	T	E	14	P	A	V	E					
15	P	E	R	16	R	E	A	17	P	E	R	I	E				
18	N	O	A	19	M	20	A	21	M	E	N	D	S				
22	T	A	I	23	D	24	E	25	N	I	D						
26	T	A	B	27	L	E	28	29	A	D	D	30	G	O	A		
31	A	L	A	32	S	33	I	34	T	S	35	S	L	I	P		
36	Y	E	S	37	J	O	H	38	N	E	39	H	E	E	L	S	
40	A	D	H	41	E	R	E	42	K	E	43	E	N				
44	M	I	A	45	S	46	R	47	A	I	48	D	49	J	I	R	E
50	E	C	R	51	I	D	L	E	52	N	53	O	N	O	N		
54	N	E	T	55	S	56	T	57	E	N	58	D	59	G	O	D	

"Calling America Back to God"

CRUSADES FOR CHRIST BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 30 – August 1, 2008



Bro. Joe Mobley
Crusades For Christ
London, Kentucky



Dr. W. Boyd Bingham III
Pastor
Binghamtown Baptist Church
Middlesboro, Kentucky



CRUSADES for CHRIST

Hosted by
CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH
LONDON, KENTUCKY

Beginning Wednesday Evening
with Dinner at 5:00 pm
Followed by Evening Service
at 7:00 pm

Thursday and Friday services at
9:00 am • 1:30 pm
and 7:00 pm Nightly
16 Seminars Offered



Dr. Ronnie Owens
Evangelist and
Co-Founder of Harvest
International Missions



Dr. Fred Luter
Senior Pastor
Franklin Ave. Baptist Church
New Orleans, Louisiana



Dr. John Hayes
Pastor
Jersey Baptist Church
Columbus, Ohio



Dr. Gary Jackson
Pastor
Friendship Baptist Church
Cincinnati, Ohio



Mr. Buddy Davis
Paleo-Artist
Speaker and Musician
Answers In Genesis
Petersburg, Kentucky



Mr. Keith Wells
Minister of Music
Friendship Baptist Church
Cincinnati, Ohio



Dr. Tommy Mitchell
Medical Doctor
Speaker for
Answers in Genesis
Petersburg, Kentucky



Dr. Lonnie Riley
Mission Service Corps
Missionaries
Lynch, Kentucky



Mrs. Lois Jane
Lois Jane Ministries
Gallatin, Tennessee



Dr. Brent Snook
Pastor
First Baptist Church of
Glen Este, Cincinnati, Ohio

For Registration Information, contact
CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH

1671 Old Whitley
Road London, KY 40744

or Call 606-864-5440

Dr. David Allen
Dean, School of Theology
Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Ft. Worth, Texas

Southern Baptist volunteers serve Midwest flood victims

Continued from page 1

The thought that someone like a disaster relief volunteer would show up at her front door had never occurred to her or other residents of the area.

Now, pairs of disaster relief volunteers from the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention braved the stench of the woman's home with white masks, rubber boots and large plastic buckets to remove debris that reached the upper-floor windows.

Six people in Reedsburg accepted Christ as volunteer teams and chaplains helped meet physical and emotional needs. The community came together as neighbor helped neighbor.

The situation was worse in Iowa City, Iowa, where University of Iowa students sunbathed on high ground above campus streets flooded by the Iowa River. Businesses were closed. Utilities were shut off. Residents sloshed around in rubber boots with boats full of their belongings in tow.

"In our son's neighborhood in Cedar Rapids, people's belongings are piled head high," said a retired Methodist minister who came with his wife to survey the damage.

When he saw the Alabama Baptist disaster relief unit gutting a home across the street, he quoted Matthew 25:40: "I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me."

Sandbag walls helped some, but not enough to hold back an overwhelmed Iowa River. And this

made sketchy the situation in Missouri, where the floodwaters crested June 26 in St. Louis suburbs such as Clarksville and Winfield.

Three or four major levees in Missouri have buckled due to pressure from the mighty Mississippi River, a situation so tenuous that even muskrats burrowing into the levees or a passing motorboat can cause a threat. In these areas, homeowners already have evacuated. Some had to be taken out by boats provided by neighboring county fire departments.

Only a few miles away, the Mississippi continued to fill neighboring farmland and communities. National Guardsmen watched over flooded neighborhoods to prevent possible looting while residents waded, unprotected, through water that officials warned could be dangerously contaminated with bacteria, sediment and fertilizers.

The water peaked in the area last week. County officials asked for volunteers to fill 50,000 more sandbags to fortify the Pin Oak levee, where the river has softened the ground and where a breach would flood more than 100 homes.

As with most areas downriver, as one resident put it, "the waiting is the worst."

In all, Southern Baptists have served 3,807 volunteer days, prepared more than 180,000 meals, cleared out 117 homes from mud and other flood debris, provided 1,218 showers and made more than 1,800 chaplaincy contacts in the Midwest flood region.

90 pieces of fish and 200 hush puppies

Houseparents model Jesus' command to become 'fishers of men' to students

By Suzi Garrett, OBI houseparent

"Do you have a fishing pole or two that my friend and I can borrow?"

I was sitting in the OBI dining hall eating lunch and I didn't realize he was behind me. I turned and saw "John" (not his real name), one of the younger boys here for the summer work program—a time when students whose parents pay a reduced rate of room and board earn their scholarships.

The boys had been working for more than a week and they were beginning to tire of how repetitious work can be. John works on the farm and he was looking for a way to beat the monotony that adults sometimes feel from doing the same things over and over.

"Me and 'Will' want to go fishing and one of the houseparents said he might take us if we could get some poles," John told me. "He said he might get off a day later this week. I love to fish. Do you think you have something we could use?"

I explained to him that we could do better than that; we could take them that afternoon when they finished working. Any time anyone takes a student off campus, there are papers to be filled out and checked.

My husband, Gary, and I got in touch with Jim Price, Oneida's dean of boys, who contacted the dean of students. That meant Gary had to get the tackle ready.

By the time we were ready to go, we had gained a third boy. "Andy," who claimed he had fished when he was little, had mowed our lawn

after lunch and saw Gary putting new lines on the fishing rods. Although usually shy, Andy came right out and asked if he could go with us. Gary somehow just couldn't say no to him.

We picked up all three boys at 5:15 p.m. and drove to our friend's farm 20 miles away. Within five minutes of arriving, Will had a catfish in the net and John was calling for the net because he had a fish, too. For the next two hours it was that way—one catching a fish, one netting it and another calling for the net.

Our friends told us to take home as many fish as we needed to feed both the girls and the boys who were at school for the work program. We took back the 12 largest catfish we caught and cleaned fish for hours.

The next night, my husband and I prepared about 90 pieces of fish, 200 hush puppies and some homemade tartar sauce. We fed 36 young people and 10 houseparents—some of whom were working at the dorms and some who came to our house when word got out that we were frying catfish.

It had taken two hours to catch the fish, about five hours to clean and prepare them and a mere 20 minutes to devour every morsel of the food.

We had a lot of fun, but more importantly, we became real people to those three boys that night. We will no longer be just houseparents, but the friends who took them fishing one summer afternoon.

Lord, you tell us to become "fishers of men." This is a starting place.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE

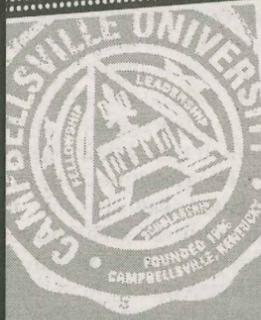


Donnie Fox

Campbellsville University's School of Theology

Proudly presents the Guest Speaker for its annual

"January Bible Study Preview: Exodus"



For more information contact:

Mrs. Betty Hatfield
School of Theology
Campbellsville
University

1 University Drive
Campbellsville, KY 42718

800.264.6014
270.789.5029

theology@campbellsville.edu



Dr. Dwayne Howell is beginning his 10th year on the faculty of the School of Theology at Campbellsville University and is the Distinguished Professor of 2008 at CU. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. Howell is a 1982 graduate of Campbellsville University. He completed his Ph.D. in Old Testament and Christian

Preaching at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993. He has pastored churches in central Kentucky and is pastor of the Rolling Fork Baptist Church in Gleanings, Kentucky. He is actively involved in professional development, having worked on two grants in Biblical Hebrew, serving as chair of the Homiletics and Biblical Study section of the Society of Biblical Literature and co-writing articles with his wife, Dr. Susan Howell, in the areas of Psychology and Biblical Studies.

The School of Theology and the Church Relations Council of Campbellsville University invite you to this year's January Bible Study Preview of Exodus. ~Featuring Dr. Dwayne Howell~

August 7, 2008
Campbellsville Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
Campbellsville, Kentucky
12:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

*Study free of charge
*Cost for evening meal \$10.00 (payable that day).

'How can I know this Jesus?'

Emotional recollections from recent mission trip to Turkey

The following are journal thoughts from a Clear Creek participant during a recent mission trip to Turkey:

"We have gone to a small village of about 300 people on the side of a large lake near Didum. The young man we are visiting has recently become a believer and we are having supper with him at his small restaurant. After the meal, he invites us to go for a walk with him over to the ruins nearby that include an old Roman temple to Diana.

"As we leave, we come across an elderly woman sitting on one of the broken columns of the temple. She stops us to ask if we will pray for her. She says that her knees have become so sore and swollen that she can scarcely get around the village to go about her normal life. We pray for her through our translator for both physical and spiritual healing, that she may come to know our Heavenly Father and to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, as Savior and Lord.

"At the end of the prayer she asks why we ask for her spirit to be healed. Our guide begins to talk to her about Moses and the prophets and how Jesus was different. She agrees that she has sin in her

life and wants to know how she can have this Jesus in her heart as she sees it in our hearts. Our guide shares with her how to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. After we are sure she understands we pray with her and at the end of the prayer she says, 'Amen.' We are all standing with our heads bowed in prayer, but she and the young man are holding their heads toward heaven with their hands uplifted. We talk with her some more and find out that she cannot read, she has no family and we pray that someone will come to help her learn more about Jesus.

"After we leave, the young man with us asks us if we saw the light in her face. We tell him that we were praying and he says, 'A light came into her face and eyes when she prayed for Jesus to receive her.' He has tears running down his face and we are all caught up in spiritual high that is hard to put into words."

If you would like to join our teams in Turkey, visit www.FaithTourismTurkey.com.

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.ecbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ecbbc.edu

ACLU seeks end to lunchtime prayer at Naval Academy

Annapolis, Md. (RNS)—The American Civil Liberties Union has asked the U.S. Naval Academy to halt its practice of expecting midshipmen to stand for a prayer at their noon meals, saying it makes some of them uncomfortable.

"We believe it is long past time for the Naval Academy to discontinue the official lunchtime prayers that all midshipmen are compelled to attend," wrote Deborah Jeon, legal director of the ACLU of Maryland.

ACLU officials tied their request to a 2003 federal appeals court ruling that organized prayers before mandatory meals at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., were unconstitutional.

"People have to separate themselves out if they do not wish to be seen praying," said Jeremy Gunn, director of the ACLU's Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief. "It's creating a dual status for people, those who are accepting the Naval Academy's prayer versus those who are not."

He said the ACLU, which has heard from nine midshipmen concerned about the tradition, will consider suing if the policy does not change.

The academy, in a statement, said it is developing a response to the ACLU but seemed reluctant to change a tradition that has been a part of academy life since it was founded in 1845.

"The academy does not intend to change its practice of offering midshipmen an opportunity for prayer or devotional thought during noon meal announcements," it said.

In a September 2007 memo drafted after a previous ACLU complaint, the U.S. Naval Academy called the noon meal prayer "a worthwhile and beneficial practice that tangibly supports the mission of the USNA."

Poll: Most Baptists tolerant of other faiths

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—A massive survey of Americans' religious views shows that Baptists, like the overall population, generally are socially tolerant of other faiths.

It also suggests that most Americans and most Baptists are, effectively, universalists.

The latest results are the second set of findings released from the United States Religious Landscape Survey, released June 23 by the Washington-based Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. The survey showed large majorities of Americans favor the statement, "Many religions can lead to eternal life." Fewer agreed that: "My religion is the one, true faith leading to eternal life."

Tolerance reigned across all major faith categories, including large majorities of Southern Baptists, evangelicals, African-American Baptists, mainline Protestants, Catholics and members of congregations affiliated with the American Baptist Churches USA.

Smaller majorities of Americans and Baptists favored the assertion, "There is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of my religion."

"Although many Americans are

highly religious, we found they are not particularly dogmatic about their approach to faith," noted John Green, the Pew Forum's senior fellow in religion and politics. "We believe that this non-dogmatic approach to faith is consistent with the great diversity of American religion, which this report describes in great detail."

On the "one true faith" question, 70 percent of all Americans affiliated with religious traditions said there were multiple routes to eternal life. Among all Protestants, the figure was only slightly lower—at 66 percent.

Those who identified as members of evangelical churches were slightly more evenly divided on the question—with 57 percent affirming multiple faiths' access to heaven and 36 percent insisting that their faith was the only true one.

But respondents who identified themselves as Southern Baptists were more reflective of the general population's views on the subject: 61 percent said many religions could lead to a positive hereafter, while 33 percent said their faith was the only route to salvation.

American Baptists were slightly more universalist, with 73 percent affirming the multiple-routes-to-

heaven assertion and 22 percent favoring a more exclusivist view.

But some religion reporters quibbled with the survey's framing of the universalism question—which didn't define what the questioners meant by "faith" or "eternal life."

"I am being a bit picky here, but I suspect that if you asked a lot of people that Pew Forum question today, they would think of the great world religions. But many Christians would think more narrowly than that," wrote veteran religion reporter Terry Mattingly in a June 24 posting on GetReligion.org, a blog that analyzes the secular media's coverage of religion. "What is your religion?" "I'm a Baptist, a Nazarene, an Episcopalian, a Catholic." "Can people outside of your religion be saved?" "Of course."

"This is not the same thing, for many, as saying that they believe that salvation is found outside faith in Jesus Christ," Mattingly explained.

The survey results were the second set of data from a groundbreaking survey, conducted last year. It interviewed more than 35,000 Americans about their religious affiliations and views on religious and social questions. The first set was released earlier this year.

Ore. faith-healing laws revisited after teen's death

Portland, Ore. (RNS)—As authorities begin sorting out whether two parents committed a crime by allowing their gravely ill son to choose faith healing over medical treatment, lawmakers vowed to revisit the issues raised by his death.

"We're going to have to look at it again," said Oregon state Senate President Peter Courtney who helped write the 1997 and 1999 state laws that address religious defenses in faith-healing death cases.

"I know that devotion to parents and devotion to religion can be a powerful influence on a child," Courtney noted. "And in these cases, you have religious freedom, parental rights, the health of a child and medical science. Mix all of that together and you have a tough, tough issue."

Neil Jeffrey Beagley, 16, died June 17 from complications from a urinary-tract blockage at his grandmother's home in Gladstone, Ore. He was surrounded by his family and other members of the Followers of Christ Church, a nondenominational congregation that shuns medical treatment in favor of spiritual healing.

Those in attendance told police that despite his painful and prolonged suffering, Beagley chose to be treated solely with prayer.

Prosecutors said that it will take time to research how current Oregon laws on religious defense, parental responsibility and medical consent apply to this case.

The case is complicated by a 1971 law that gave children 15 and older the right to seek medical care inde-

pendent of their parents. The law was intended, in part, to give girls access to birth-control information, contraceptives and abortions.

Legal and ethical questions raised by the boy's death and the 1971 law are prompting a spirited debate. Some believe the right to seek medical care also grants the right to refuse medical care.

Beagley's blockage easily could have been treated by inserting a catheter tube past the obstruction, a deputy state medical examiner said after conducting an autopsy.

Beagley's death came less than four months after his 15-month-old niece, Ava Worthington, died in similar circumstances. Her parents, Carl and Raylene Worthington, are facing charges of manslaughter and criminal mistreatment.

Court rules child rapists cannot be executed

Washington (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 25 a child rapist may not be executed if he did not kill his victim.

The vote was 5-4 in the case, with Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy leading the majority. The decision, issued over a strongly worded dissent from Associate Justice Samuel Alito, invalidated laws in six states that permit capital punishment for child rape.

The case involved the aggravated rape of an 8-year-old girl by her stepfather. The Louisiana Supreme Court upheld a jury's sentence of the death penalty for the defendant.

Writing for the majority, Kennedy said the court determined "the death penalty is not a proportional punishment for the rape of a child."

Alito, however, wrote in his dissent the court's ruling means the death penalty for child rape always is prohibited "no matter how young the child, no matter how many times the child is raped, no matter how many children the perpetrator rapes, no matter how sadistic the crime, no matter how much physical or psycho-

logical trauma is inflicted, and no matter how heinous the perpetrator's prior criminal record may be."

Kennedy noted that the court based its opinion on what he described as a "national consensus against capital punishment for the crime of child rape" and the justices' "independent judgment." He said execution in such a case violates the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishments," and the 14th Amendment, which provides for "due process" and "equal protection" of the law.

Following "evolving standards of decency" and the court's precedents, Kennedy wrote, "There is a distinction between intentional first-degree murder on the one hand and nonhomicide crimes against individual persons, even including child rape, on the other."

Joining Kennedy in the majority were Associate Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas agreed with Alito's dissent.

MID-SOUTH BUS CENTER

www.thebuscenter.com

TRANSPORTATION SOUTH

The Bus Center

Responsive to YOUR needs.

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



Greg Stephenson
Committee Member
First Baptist Church
Decatur, Alabama

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

BusCenter.com
SERVING BUS & VAN MINISTRIES SINCE 1972

How to Become a Christian

By Teresa Parrett

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). He created vegetation, sun, moon, stars, fish, birds and animals; He then made mankind—Adam and Eve. "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Adam and Eve lived in a perfect environment, the Garden of Eden, enjoying fellowship with God. They were given responsibility to care for the garden and were permitted to eat fruit from the trees in the garden; that is, except for one—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The serpent approached Eve, questioning what God had told them: "Did God really say ...?" (Genesis 3:1) Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the forbidden tree. At that moment, sin entered the world and fellowship with God was broken.

Since that time we have all sinned against God (Romans 3:23). We have tried many ways to bridge the gap—good works, religion, morality—but none of these are sufficient.

God Himself provided the only way to restore fellowship between sinful man and Holy God by sending Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, to die on the cross for our sins (John 3:16). We must trust Jesus as Lord and Savior and receive Him into our hearts.

How do you receive Christ into your heart?

■ Admit you are a sinner.

■ Be willing to turn from your sins.

■ Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.

■ Pray and invite Christ to come in and control your life.

Then you will have the sweet fellowship and wonderful new life in Christ.

Teresa Parrett is state missions mobilization coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Iva Missionary Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary July 13, 10 a.m., with Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director **Bill Mackey** as guest speaker and special music provided by **Charity**. The church also will dedicate its new Outreach Center. **Ransom Bennett** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—**Mark Choate** recently resigned as pastor of New Light Church.

Ponderosa Church recently called **Norman Cotton** as pastor.

■ **HUSTONVILLE**—Mount Salem Church recently called **Derek Durham** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**John Finney** recently resigned as minister of music at Parkland Church.

■ **MONTICELLO**—Spann Hill Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary July 13, 10 a.m. The church will recognize former pastors and host a luncheon. Guest speakers include **Donnie Fox**, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, and **Richard Adams**, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development department. **Roy Gregory** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Elkhorn City

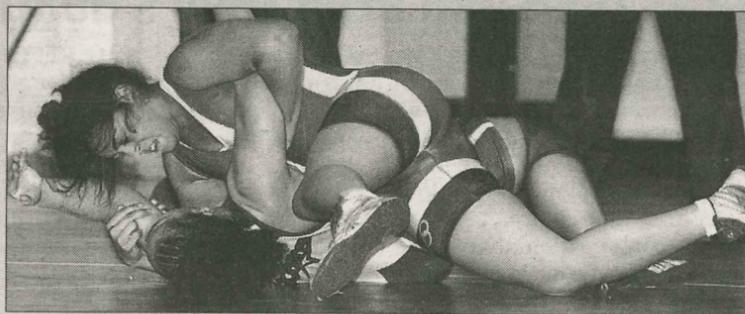


The Freeda Harris Center honored directors **Greg and Alice Whitetree** for 25 years of service June 22 with a reception. **Eric Allen**, KBC's mission service and ministry department director, presented the Whitetrees with a framed print to commemorate their ministry. During their 25 years with the center, the couple have witnessed at least 1,000 people come to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

■ **SALYERSVILLE**—First Church will host **Michael Combs** in concert July 18, 7 p.m. For more information, call Pastor **Matthew Gullion** at (606) 434-3418.

■ **SUMMERSVILLE**—Summersville Church recently called **Mike Walker** as pastor.

Gold-medal performance



Lauren Knight, a member of the University of the Cumberlands' women's wrestling team, pins an opponent at the Junior Pan American Games in Cuenca, Ecuador, June 22, where she took home the gold medal. Knight pinned Canadian Laura Steffler in the championship match in only 47 seconds to earn gold. The rising junior wrestler narrowly missed a shot at joining the U.S. Olympic women's wrestling team last month at the Olympic Trials in Las Vegas.

AVAILABLE: Conference speaker, church revivals and seminars in west Kentucky. Balanced, conservative doctrine, marriage and family, Christian worldview and anti-cults. (270) 727-0707.

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor, Elkton (Ky.) Baptist Church. Excellent opportunity for a mission-minded, Bible-based leader for a growing congregation. Experience and seminary degree preferred. Send cover letter and resumé along with DVD or CD to EBC Search Committee, PO Box 703, Guthrie, KY 42234.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for congregational singing in Sunday worship. Whites Run Baptist Church, Pastor Eric Newcomer, (502) 347-0727.

SEEKING: Associate director of student ministry for grades 7-9 for Jersey Baptist Church in the greater Columbus, Ohio area. The primary role of this position is to provide oversight for this age group, under the direction of the director of student ministry. This minister will cast and implement a vision along with a plan for fulfilling the mandate of the Great Commission for this age group. Leadership will be provided that involves the planning and execution of current programs including, but not limited to: Bible Fellowship (Sunday school); campus ministries, 789 Worship, missions, discipleship and other related events. Interested candidates should submit a resumé and references to Jersey Baptist Church, 13260 Morse Road, Pataskala, OH 43062, Attn: P.K. Spratt; or e-mail resumé to pspratt@jerseychurch.org.

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

President Bush touts success of faith-based community initiative

Washington (RNS)—President Bush recently touted the successes of his initiative to partner faith-based and community organizations with government funds, calling it a key part of his presidency.

"I truly believe the faith-based initiative is one of the most important initiatives of this administration," Bush said in a keynote speech to those attending a national conference sponsored by the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

On June 26, the White House announced that faith-based organizations won more than 3,200 grants in the fiscal year 2007, totaling \$2.2 million of the \$15.3 billion in grants awarded to nonprofits.

"I am confident that the progress that you have made over the last eight years will continue," Bush said at the conference. "I'm confident because the movement is bigger than politics or any political party. This is not a political convention. This is a compassion convention. ... We care about saving lives."

Bush also highlighted the program earlier in the day at the annual National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast.

"I understand this: Government can hand out money but government cannot put hope in a person's heart," Bush noted. "And oftentimes that is found in our faith community and our community organizations. And so we've lowered the barriers that kept government and faith-based groups needlessly divided."

Critics, however, continue to question the initiative's merits.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said the initiative should be "shut down, not celebrated."

At the Hispanic prayer breakfast, leaders from both parties referenced the debate over immigration. "The one thing I would like to say on Sen. (John) McCain's behalf is that this is an issue that needs to be solved, not demagogued," said Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C.

Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., leader of the House Democrats' Faith Working Group, added, "We must work together to be good neighbors to those who are new Americans, those who wish to be Americans, those who are looking to us to restore hope and faith in them."

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: Senior pastor possessing the character traits described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, holding a masters degree from Southern Baptist Seminary, having a minimum of 5 years full-time pastoral experience and is 35 to 50 years old. Please send resumé and a non-returnable video or DVD to the Pastor Search Committee, Kings Baptist Church, PO Box 380, Mt. Washington, KY 40047. For more information, check the church's Web site: www.kingsbaptist.net.

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: 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 resumé may be sent to 123 Quisenberry Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

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 resumé to Ron Moore, 435 Madison St., Clarksville, TN 37040.

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.

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

'Know your script'

CentriKid's Hollywood theme emphasizes that God created everyone to play a part

By Brooklyn Noel
LifeWay Christian Resources

Ridgecrest, N.C.—If you have ever sent your child to LifeWay's CentriKid camp or even attended yourself as a chaperone, you are likely aware that "fun" is a common theme.

But showing kids a great time certainly is not the only goal.

"As God cultivates our faith, we blend our gifts as a team to impact culture through life-changing camps and events, believing such ministry takes place best in the context of relationships." CentriKid Director Trent Creason shared this Fuge vision statement with parent volunteers and church leaders on the opening night of CentriKid at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina June 20-24.

The "fun" parts of CentriKid only enhance a camp experience; the larger purpose is to impact campers' lives.

"With kids, you have to take the Truth and put it in a form that can get into their hearts," said Ryan Coatney, CentriKid camp pastor. "I hope they have fun, but I also hope they see Jesus in a different way and that they learn something."

CentriKid is a camp designed specifically for students who have completed third through sixth grade. It is part of LifeWay Christian Resources' larger Fuge camp system.

Going Hollywood

This year's CentriKid camps, scheduled throughout the country during June and July, feature a Hollywood theme that encourages campers to understand the Bible as a script outlining the role God created each person to play.

"Know your script, know your script, know your script," Coatney urged 450 campers during evening worship. "It's the story of us sinning, and it's the story of doing things our way instead of God's way, and it's the story of God bringing Christ into the world for us."

Camper Lee Gunter, a rising sixth grader from Brookwood Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., said he enjoyed the fun parts of camp, but he came to "learn about God and why God is here."

"Some kids here, not many but some, don't believe in God and they (the CentriKid staff) help you find Him," Gunter noted, speaking of the invitations offered after evening worship to which numerous campers responded.

The idea of seeing the Bible as a script did not fall on deaf ears. Even after days full of fast-paced activities, high-energy free time and a rowdy morning session led by camp worship leader Jeff Slaughter, campers still responded to and absorbed the message of the week.

One camper, Rhema Hedgpath a second-year participant from Red Oak Baptist Church in North Carolina, said her favorite part of camp was the worship sessions because they provided an opportunity to learn more about God.

Slaughter, who led worship before Coatney offered a lesson each evening, said his job was to impact the way campers view worship.

"I want to create an environment where the Holy Spirit can move upon them," he noted. "I want there to be a sense of the Lord moving in them and pulling them closer and giving them a hunger for more."

CentriKid may seem serious and intense, and at moments, it is. But the idea of "fun" was present even for Slaughter as he led singing for the campers.

"I love to teach them about freedom in worship and freedom in expression," he explained. "Worship can be fun, and I want these kids to see the full range of relationship that is possible with the Lord."

Maximizing teaching time

Evening worship and Bible study time certainly provided opportunities to help the kids better understand the "script" and God's role as director, but CentriKid counselors never missed an opportunity to teach biblical truths.

Each day, campers hiked to the recreation field at Ridgecrest's campus under banners bearing Hollywood-themed team names such as "Cuecards," "Stuntmen," "Cameos" and "Sequels." Once there, the campers played creative relay games, mastered team-building activities and even bounced a ball on a colorful nylon parachute. As groups rotated through each station, however, counselors often found a way to relate the activity to biblical lessons such as supporting one another or working together.

"I like the way they do camp here," said Cindy Bailey, children's minister at St. Mark's Church in Burlington, N.C. "It's fun, but the kids learn something. It gets them interested in the Bible and interested in Christ and makes them want to come back."

At least one of Bailey's students, Jacquiline Faith, accepted Christ after the evening service on Saturday night.

"I feel wonderful," Faith said after speaking with one of the CentriKid counselors and making her decision for Christ. "I gave my life to God and when I die I get to go to heaven."

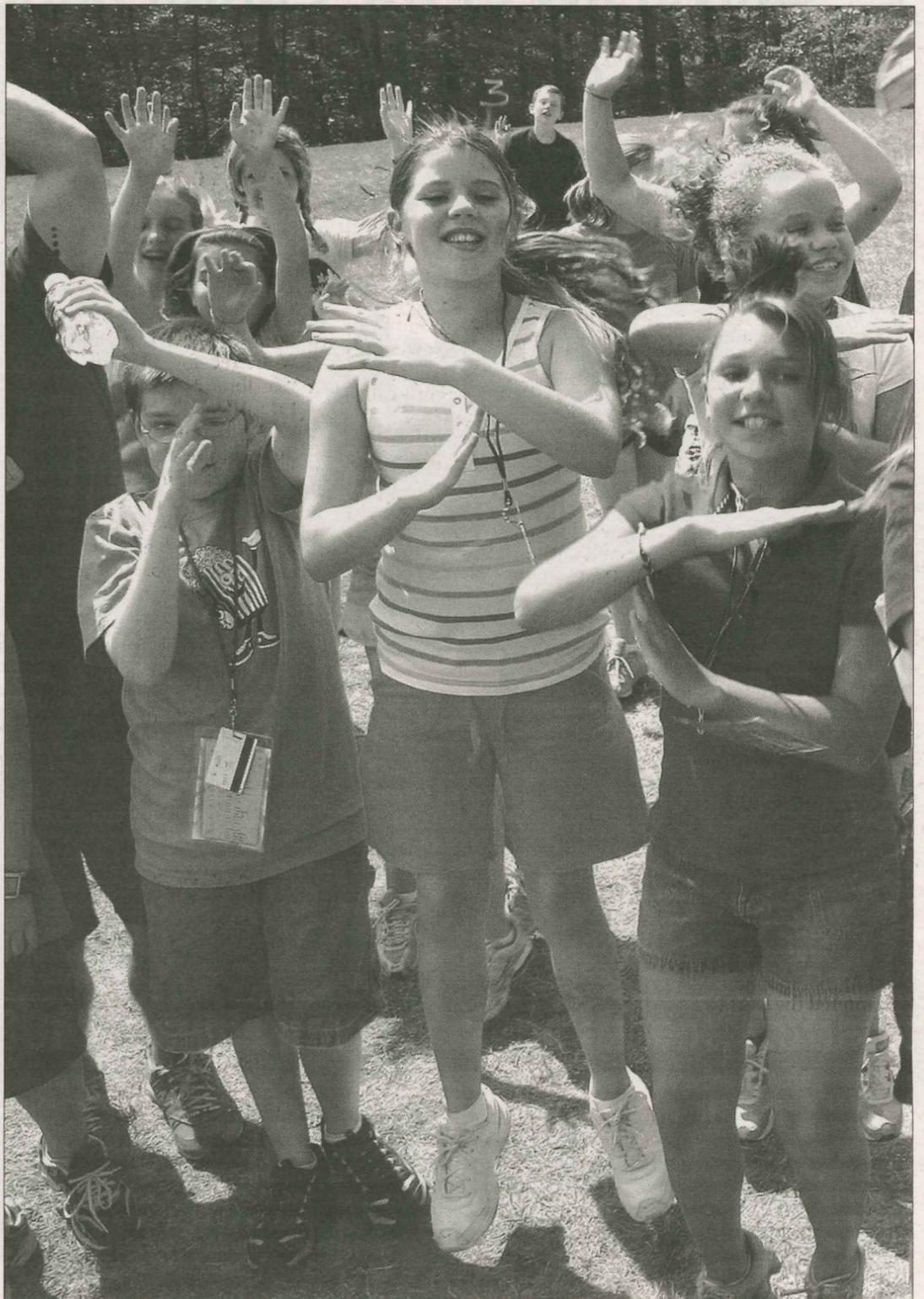
It's moments such as this that keep Slaughter coming back to lead worship for children.

"I don't want to be the aloof worship leader who shows up on stage and sings," he emphasized. "With kids, it's about relationships."

For Coatney, those relationships should lead to authentic changes in kids' lives that then benefit the churches they attend.

"Camp is good because it helps the churches," Coatney said. "Kids are real believers. The real Holy Spirit is living in their hearts. They can do real ministry and they can serve their churches in real ways."

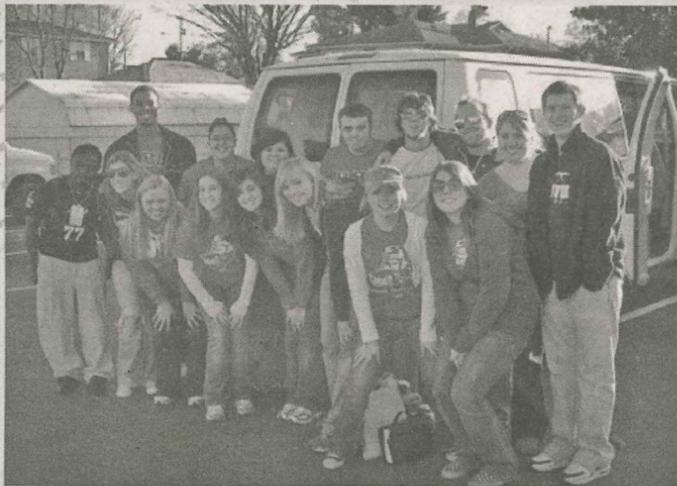
For more information about CentriKid and other LifeWay Fuge camps, visit LifeWay.com/Fuge.



Above: CentriKid campers participate in group activities and games at recreation time during the June 20-24 CentriKid camp at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. **Left:** CentriKid camp pastor Ryan Coatney speaks to 450 campers during one of the evening sessions. (Photos by Blake Noel)

University of the Cumberlands Baptist Campus Ministries

Servants on Mission



WHITLEY COUNTY

- Tosha Farris, Laurel Lake Camp
- Genna Cummins, Laurel Lake Camp
- Tony Shouse, Laurel Lake Camp
- Patrick Hendy, Appalachian Ministries
- Brittany Philpot, Appalachian Ministries
- Matthew Brotherton, Appalachian Ministries
- Kevin Lewis, Appalachian Ministries
- Jarelle Callihan, Appalachian Ministries
- Sarah Whitaker, Mountain Outreach
- Chris Tucker, Mountain Outreach
- Matt Henson, Mountain Outreach
- Alicia Hasty, Mountain Outreach
- Victoria Kirby, Mountain Outreach
- Andrew Morrison, Mountain Outreach
- Jonathan Bowman, Mountain Outreach
- Doug Johnson, Mountain Outreach
- Tracey Smith, Mountain Outreach
- Riley Perkins, Mountain Outreach
- Bradley Bell, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg
- Sean Aspenlind, Cornerstone Community
- Josh Laughlin, Cornerstone Community
- Caleb Dodson, Cornerstone Community
- Daniel Woods, Cornerstone Community

"GROWING AS DISCIPLES BY MAKING MORE DISCIPLES THROUGH AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS" SUMMER MISSIONS 2008

KENTUCKY

- Chris Parrish, Acts 1:8, Louisville
- Sarah Wasson, Acts 1:8, Louisville
- Sarah Burton, Camp Nathanael
- Brooke Hall, Camp Nathanael
- Sarah Mullins, Camp Nathanael
- Ashley Singer, Camp Nathanael
- Kathy Stienbarger, Camp Nathanael
- Jessica Gibson, Wolf Lake Camp
- Andrew Bertram, Calvary Baptist, Danville
- Tim Gerst, Christian Concert Agent
- David Kelley Baldrige, Kentucky
- Emily Henson, Kentucky
- Caitlin Hall, Camp Caleb
- Forrest Coleman, Lifeway Fuge Camp
- Laura Back, Crossings Camp

- Brent Foley, Crossings Camp
- Sandi Freshour, Crossings Camp
- Brian Jones, Crossings Camp
- Casey Hamm, Crossings Camp
- Trevor Laughlin, Crossings Camp
- Josh Patrick, Crossings Camp
- Josh Prewitt, Crossings Camp
- John Steely, Crossings Camp
- David Atwood, Baptist Churches
- Magan Atwood, Baptist Churches
- Joe Ayers, Baptist Churches
- Dave Sandlin, Baptist Churches
- Allison Day, FBC Whitesburg
- Anthony Jolly, Calvary Baptist, Corbin

INTERNATIONAL

- Chris Parrish, Dominican Republic
- Sarah Wasson, Dominican Republic
- Heather Grant, Kazakhstan
- Danil Zakhlebnyy, Kazakhstan
- Ki Young Cha, Uruguay
- Lola Embree, Tampico, Mexico
- Maggie Deardurff, Costa Rica
- Tim Wix, Costa Rica
- Kati Reager, Costa Rica
- Jeanette Wilson, Costa Rica
- Brad Bell, Puerto Rico and China
- Kathy Stienbarger, Puerto Rico
- Shelby Crawford, Puerto Rico
- Kellie Hatter, Salamanca, Spain

UNITED STATES

- Marcella Chiromo, WinShape Camp, GA
- Katie Smith, WinShape Camp, GA
- Emily Harlow, Pine Ridge, South Dakota
- Lindsey Jones, South Carolina Team
- Jessica Lowrie, Kanakuk Camp, Branson, MO
- Bethany Ott, Adairsville, GA
- Heather Rogers, Streamside Camp, PA
- April Seay, South Dakota

1-800-343-1609 • www.ucumberlands.edu