



WESTERN RECORDER

Newspage Edition

July 15, 2008
Vol. 182, No. 28**FOR THE RECORD****Missions**International Mission Board appoints 72 new missionaries. *Page 2.***Baptists**Younger CBF leaders call for end to bitter anti-SBC rhetoric. *Page 2.***Kentucky**Sebree church is 'home sweet home' to visiting cyclists. *Page 3.***Resources**Ministry training courses available at this summer's Super Saturday events. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**Lifetime giving is possible through the use of endowment funds. *Page 4.***Guest editorial**Life's speed bumps serve to remind us of God's love. *Page 5.***Kentucky**Mount Vernon resident Shirley Cox named Kentucky's MSC Missionary of the Year. *Page 6.*

Ky. Baptist hurt in crash overseas dies from injuries



Lawrence Kendrick

Danville—Lawrence Kendrick, who sustained critical injuries in a June 6 car accident while serving on a mission trip in Russia, died July 2 in Danville. He was 68 years old.

Kendrick, a member of First Baptist Church of Junction City, was part of an eight-member mission team serving in Russia last month. While visiting friends in Bryansk, Russia, the taxi Kendrick was riding in was struck by a dump truck. He suffered multiple injuries, including several broken bones and brain trauma.

After spending more than two weeks in Russian hospitals, Kendrick was flown back to the United States and admitted to the University of Kentucky's Chandler Medical Center. Doctors at UK diagnosed Kendrick with diffuse axonal injury, a traumatic brain condition. He was transferred to the Danville hospital a few days later to be closer to his family.

Ernest Martin, who served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Junction City, from 1998-2004 and accompanied Kendrick to Russia, remembered his late friend as a "very pleasant person and ... a fine, dedicated Christian."

Kendrick "loved mission work and just fell in love with the Russian Christians," Martin recalled. "He's going to be greatly missed by the church and the whole community."

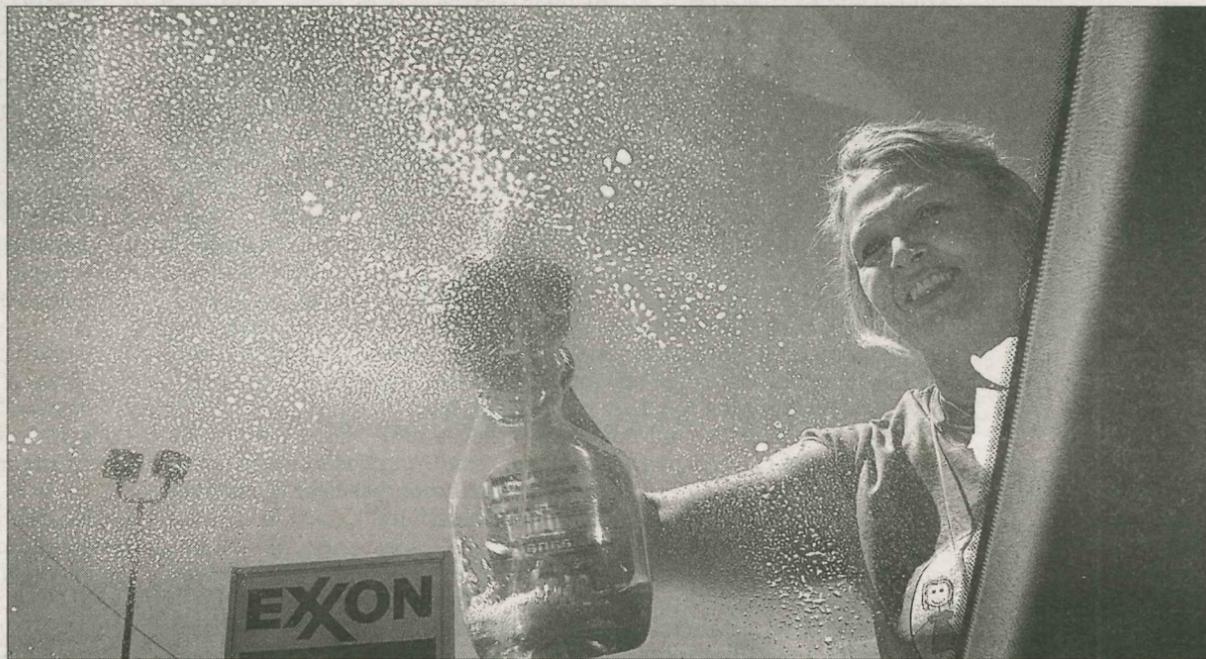
A native of Danville, Kendrick served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist, Junction City. He also was a former member of Gideons International.

Kendrick remained active in the community as well, serving on the board of directors and as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in Boyle County. Kendrick was a retired sales representative for Bush Hog.

Funeral services for Kendrick were held July 6 at First Baptist, Junction City. He is survived by his wife, Ramona, three sons and nine grandchildren.

Martin noted that those who wish to can still make donations to a fund set up to assist Kendrick's family with medical expenses. Gifts can be made through First Baptist, Junction City, or at any PBK Bank branch in Kentucky.

Crisis = Opportunity



Delana Mazdra from Parkway Baptist Church in Creve Coeur, Mo., cleans a driver's windshield during a gasoline buy-down promotion sponsored by Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries and NAMB's Families on Mission. About 80 volunteers and summer missionaries joined in the community service project that included giving each driver the equivalent of a free gallon of gas. (NAMB photo by Jim Burton)

Georgia group eases pain at the pump, shares gospel with drivers

By Kristen Marsh

SBC North American Mission Board

Cleveland, Ga. (BP)—Every crisis creates opportunities, even for missions. For three hours on a hot summer afternoon in the Georgia mountains, residents recently caught a short break from America's gasoline crisis.

They received a free gallon of gas, compliments of the Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's Families on Mission and First Baptist Church of Cleveland,

Ga., which provided funding for the giveaway.

NAMB missionary Keith Ivey, GMRM's director, created the gas buy-down initiative in cooperation with Families on Mission and First Baptist, Cleveland. With about 80 Families on Mission participants and GMRM summer missionaries working at a partnering local convenience store, more than 120 local residents received their free gallon of gas while also getting a full-service fill up, their windows cleaned and tires' pressure checked.

Ivey organized the project after reading an article about a church that sponsored a similar, successful gasoline buy-down. After considering other possible evangelistic efforts—such as block parties—Ivey said he decided on the gas outreach.

Not only was the buy-down an opportunity to make a positive contribution in the Cleveland community, it also provided Families on Mission participants with steady opportunities to share the gospel with others.

□ See *Volunteers turn ... Page 8*

KBC church confronts danger of moral failure

By Mark Kelly
Baptist Press

Paducah (BP)—When Todd Brady heard about a minister at a prominent Texas Baptist church being caught in a sex sting, his first thought was, "Oh, Lord, I pray we never see something like that happen here in our church."

His second thought was, "What do we need to do to prevent it?"

With that question, the pastor at First Baptist Church of Paducah called the staff together to determine what steps they could take to be sure none of them made a bad decision that would bring disgrace to the gospel and the church.

The result was a strongly worded resolution, replete with Scripture references, that was mailed to every family in the congregation. The letter sparked a wave of discussion about the dangers of sexual temptation and even pushed the church into the spotlight on the evening news.

"News of moral failure among

ministers of the gospel is sad and alarming," the statement noted. "But we know ourselves well enough to know that moral failure could happen to any one of us if we were not careful and diligent in our pursuit of purity.

"For the sake of the gospel and for the sake of our own souls, we desire to maintain the highest levels of sexual accountability," the statement continued. "We will be proactive in our efforts and dogged in our determination to uphold the integrity called for by our sacred office."

The resolution also noted preventive measures the church staff had put in place, from windows in all of office doors and a rule about not counseling women and children without another person present, to having accountability partners track Internet usage and regularly praying with one another about sexual purity.

Brady, who was campus minister at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., for 11 years, knows only too

well how many people are in danger of moral failure.

"Particularly in my work with young men, I realize how prominent this issue is among college students," acknowledged Brady, who has pastored the Paducah congregation for just one year. "This issue is everywhere in our society. I read one place where it is estimated that half of Americans regularly access Internet pornography.

"We live in a sex-crazed and sex-saturated culture," he continued. "We realize that the gospel, this church and our very lives are at stake with this particular issue. Anything that stands in the way of our sharing the gospel, we need to make sure that it is removed."

Besides the news about the Texas minister caught in a sex sting, Brady said another factor that prompted him to engage the issue was a presentation in early June at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

□ See *Paducah church ... Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, July 16.

More than 70 commissioned as IMB's newest missionaries

By Emilee Brandon
SBC International Mission Board

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Journeyman Trevor Yoakum lay face down in mud on the side of a narrow highway in Nigeria. Gunfire exploded in his ears. Squealing tires followed and then the crunch of cars crashing.

As Yoakum lay undetected, the shouts of highway robbers reverberated around him. He was afraid, but his love for the Nigerian people did not waver.

"Why go back? Why subject your wife and children to the same risks?" people have asked Yoakum about his family's return to the region where he served in the late 1990s. His response: "Because we bear in the body the death of Jesus, that the life of Jesus may also be manifest in our bodies."

The Yoakums were among 72 new Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries appointed at Bon Air Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., June 25, and Southern Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City June 27.

Hailing from 28 states and four countries, the newly appointed missionaries join more than 5,300 others serving around the world to complete the Great Commission task.

Kelli Johnson has witnessed firsthand the urgency of Matthew 28:18-20.

"On a sweltering night in 2006 I sat outside a Bangkok shopping mall surrounded by spiritual deception far more oppressive than the heat," Johnson recalled. "My heart broke as I watched a young man bow before a statue of Buddha and offer incense

and fervent prayers to a man-made image."

Immediately she said she began crying out to God, "Here am I Lord, send me." Not long after, He did just that. In obedience to God's calling, Johnson will serve among the people of southern Bolivia.

Rebekah Motley shares Johnson's passion.

The city of Rome "was built in darkness, and the plight of the early Christians was extreme," Motley, a Louisville native, told participants at Southern Hills. "Today, millions of Romans are adrift in a sea of nominal Catholicism and post-modern thought."

Jared and Rebekah Motley are leaving their rural Oklahoma farm town to begin a new kind of harvest—church planting in Rome.

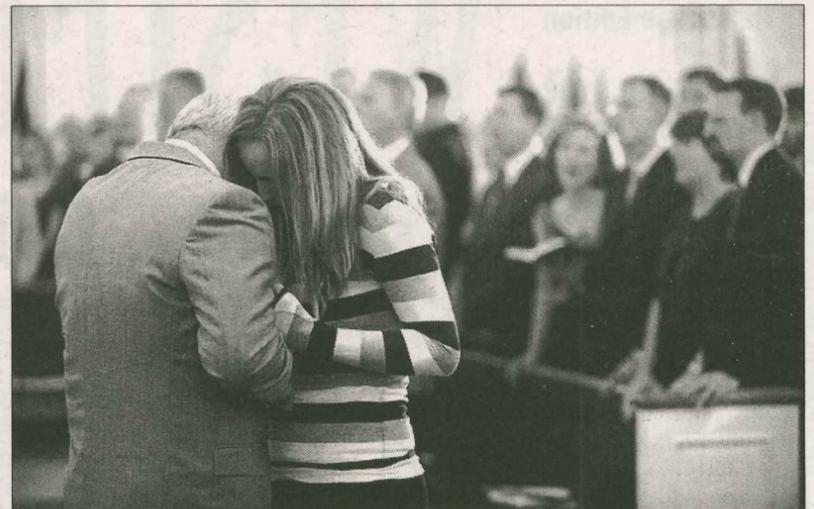
"While (I was) attending Oklahoma Baptist University, God used friends, experiences, mentors and His Word to speak ... His heart for the nations," Jared noted. "We desire to bring God's light into this city that Satan has held in darkness for generations."

Do not 'stop short'

Speaking from Luke 4, IMB President Jerry Rankin encouraged the new missionaries appointed in Richmond to be like Jesus as they begin their overseas ministry.

"He determined the priority of His purpose, He demonstrated the power of His presence, and He demanded participation in His program," Rankin said of Christ's ministry example.

The priority of a Christian's pur-



ANSWERING THE CALL Gordon Fort, IMB's vice president for overseas operations, prays for Mandy Haley of Nashville as she shares her commitment to follow the Lord during a missionary appointment service held June 25 in Richmond, Va. (IMB photo)

pose is to bear witness to the saving power of the gospel—but it will not be easy, Rankin said. Many already know the challenges they will face on the mission field, he continued, but it is important to remember to identify priorities, learn to depend on the power of His presence and know what it means to participate in God's plan and mission.

"I think one of the most abrupt (realizations) that I came to when I got to the mission field ... was to arrive in the largest Muslim country in the world and realize that I had brought a spiritual mediocrity," Rankin said during the Oklahoma service.

"From that moment, even until now ... I (longed) to see something that could not be explained except

by the power of God's Spirit. I knew my abilities weren't sufficient. I was desperate to see the hand and power of God in ministry."

Referencing 2 Kings 2, Rankin urged the new missionaries to not "stop short." Letting anything distract from the Spirit of God, he said, is like going around in circles but never really getting anywhere.

"Don't be satisfied with just being busy," Rankin said.

"There is no greater thrill than to lay your life on the altar, continually sharing Jesus with someone who has never heard," he added. "There is no greater thrill (than) ... to have the privilege of seeing the Kingdom of God planted and extend among people ... where no Christian witness has ever existed."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Boyce College dean named. Denny Burk, associate professor of New Testament at Criswell College in Dallas, has been appointed dean of Boyce College, the undergraduate school of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He replaces former Jimmy Scroggins, who was elected senior pastor of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., in June. Burk, who received his Ph.D. from Southern Seminary in 2004, also holds a master of theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and a bachelor of arts from Louisiana Tech University. He assumes his new post Aug. 1.

Richmond seminary appoints new dean. Trustees of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., have elected Israel Galindo as the school's new dean. Galindo, a Christian education professor at the Virginia seminary, was elected June 17. He replaces Mike Harton, who has served as interim dean for the past two years. Galindo also serves as the principal of a consulting firm. Born in Cuba and reared in New York, he joined the seminary staff in 1999 after several years as a local-church educator and principal for private schools. He holds a doctorate in education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Student missionary dies in Peru. Gregory Gomez IV, 22, a student summer missionary serving in Peru through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, was killed in a bus accident July 5. Gomez was traveling with another IMB student missionary and a national translator, when the accident occurred near the town of Abancay. The other two received only minor injuries. Gomez was in Peru serving on the REAP (Rapid Entry Advance Plan) South Team. Originally from Natchez, Miss., Gomez lived just outside of St. Louis where he was employed by the Nestlé Purina PetCare Product Technology Center as an engineering intern. He was a recent graduate of the University of Mississippi, a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Troy, Ill., and also attended North Oxford Baptist Church in Oxford, Miss. Gomez is survived by his parents, Elida and Gregory Gomez III, of Glen Carbon, Ill., and two sisters.

Young CBFers call for end to anti-SBC rhetoric

By Vicki Brown
Associated Baptist Press

Atlanta (ABP)—In response to controversial comments at last month's Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly, a group of younger CBF supporters has called for an end to "old rhetoric" and for renewed attention to the world's needs.

Seven leaders issued an open letter June 24 to Cecil Sherman, one of CBF's founders and its first coordinator, over comments he made at the June 19-20 meeting in Memphis, Tenn.

During the June 19 morning business session, Sherman made remarks after accepting author copies of his new book, "By My Own Reckoning," a personal recounting of the CBF's history. In asking listeners to use the lessons of the past to help chart the future, he made a reference to the Holocaust.

"Every once in a while, I meet someone of the younger generation who says, 'Don't talk about that anymore,'" Sherman said. "Why don't you tell a Jew not to talk about the Holocaust anymore? You need to remember the events that called us into being and be guided by them as you wisely chart your future."

Sherman was among moderate Baptists who fought the conservative shift of the Southern Baptist Convention beginning nearly 30 years ago. He has often been the target of intense criticism by conservatives.

While acknowledging Sherman's

leadership and contribution to the CBF movement, the open letter's seven signers called his reference to the Holocaust "misguided."

"(Y)ou juxtaposed our relatively small amount of pain—where no one was injured or killed—to the 6 million killed in the Holocaust. In our opinion and the opinions of many others, your analogy was misguided," the letter read.

David Burroughs, president of Passport Inc., CBF's partner for youth and children's camps and conferences, was among the seven signers. "We all have high respect for Cecil Sherman ... but there are some of us who are ready to lay that down and move forward," he said.

Burroughs noted that younger leaders within the CBF movement do not wish to discount the organization's history, but believe in "using the lessons of the past."

"We do want to remember the past. ... There are plenty of forums, including Baptist history (courses) at the seminaries and breakout sessions at the General Assembly," he pointed out. The 45-and-under leaders "want to give proper respect for the past, but don't want to be defined by it."

The problem with repeated references to the past, Burroughs added, is that CBF's critics can use them against the entity. "When we keep referencing the past ... it just gives fuel for some people's fire. (They can say), 'They keep defining themselves by what they did.'"

Younger CBFers, Burroughs continued, "are not defined by what happened and have grown tired of hearing about it."

In the letter, the leaders called for a focus on the future.

"Of course, remembering what happened (in the past) will help us avoid repeating mistakes. But we will no longer wish for this conversation to have center stage—nor be the focus of who we are and what we do," the letter read.

"Young Baptist leaders are ready to embrace new opportunities for ministry and discipleship. Remembering the past but not dwelling on it, many Baptists are excited and enthusiastic about ministering with the most neglected people around the world."

The signers invited Sherman and, by implication, other leaders from that era to "lay down the pain of the past and join us as we focus on a future, bright with possibility."

In addition to Burroughs, other signers included R. Scott Ford, CBF of Georgia associate coordinator for missions; Nikki Hardeman, CBF of Georgia associate coordinator for congregational life; Jeremy Lewis, manager of Together for Hope, CBF's program to assist the 20 poorest counties in the United States; Brent McDougal, coordinator of Alabama CBF; Christina Whitehouse-Suggs, CBF of South Carolina associate coordinator for congregational life; and Mike Young, Tennessee CBF associate coordinator for missions.

Ministry training courses available at Super Saturday

Louisville—Those who lead church ministries will benefit from a variety of training sessions at six Super Saturday events throughout the state in August and September. Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Super Saturdays are comprehensive church ministry training gatherings.

Events will be held Aug. 16 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Aug. 23 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Sept. 6 at First Baptist Church of Somerset, and Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah; Sept. 13 at First Baptist Church of Pikeville, and First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

New this year, Comeback Church courses will be offered for churches seeking to experience turnaround church growth, and Safe Church Initiative courses will be offered to help church leaders and volunteers understand how to protect children and youth in the congregation.

"Super Saturday is designed to help Kentucky Baptists discover practical tips for strengthening their ministries," said Darryl Wilson, who serves as Sunday school director for the KBC. "The conferences are designed to help church staff, teachers and volunteers map out a ministry plan for the coming year and help move their ministries forward."

Training is available for leaders and volunteers in most areas of local church ministry, including assimilation, church architecture, Sunday school, stewardship, discipleship, evangelism, women's ministry, worship and music, preschool and children, finances, deacon ministry, ministers' wives and secretaries.

Additionally, Hispanic ministry and church planting conferences also will be offered at the Lexington event, and small group and single-adult ministry conferences will be available at the Lexington and Louisville locations.

Super Saturday participants can customize their event experience by selecting from a variety of conferences throughout the day. Participants may select one leadership conference to receive in-depth training in their primary ministry area, as well as two afternoon conferences based on their interests and needs.

Registration is required for all Super Saturday events. The cost to attend is \$20 for those who register by the Monday before each event, or \$30 after that date.

To register for or to get more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/SuperSaturday, call (502) 489-3572, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3572.

Visiting cyclists find rest at Sebree church

By Charlie Hust
Providence Journal-Enterprise

Sebree—"Welcome home ... at least for the night."

This could very well be the new slogan for First Baptist Church of Sebree.

With the hard work of First Baptist pastor Bob Hardison and his wife, Violet, the church has become a welcome "bunk house" for numerous cyclists touring Kentucky.

That was the case recently as four cyclists took advantage of the facilities. The church basement has been remodeled which makes a perfect location for visitors passing through. It includes several sofas, recliners, mattresses, a full kitchen, ping-pong table, high-top (restaurant-style) table and chairs, along with sparkling clean restroom and shower facilities.

Personal hygiene products are available, as well as bottled water, nutrition bars and sports drinks. A local map highlights Sebree's places of interest including restaurants and stores.

"We also give them a Kentucky touring pin and a very small Bible to carry for the rest of the journey," Brother Bob explained.

A recent quartet of visitors were very impressed with the accommodations.

"It's a super nice place to stay," noted cyclist Elise Spoffard of Little Falls, Minn. "It was listed as 'cyclist-friendly' on our map."

And as most Webster County residents know, the Hardisons are not just 'cyclist-friendly,' they're 'people-friendly.' Brother Bob was quick to give a tour of the sparkling church facility and also pointed out an object of pride—the map room. With several maps of the United States, as well as world maps anchored to the walls, cyclists are encouraged to pinpoint their hometown with a thump tack on the map.

Former Southern prof Dever, 72, celebrated as 'devoted teacher'

Louisville (BP)—John Dever, a former professor of church and society at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, died of a heart attack July 4 at the age of 72.

Dever joined the seminary faculty in 1989 and served as the William Walker Brookes Professor of Church and Society from 1992-2001, when he assumed a part-time role in the seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth. He retired in 2007.

"John Dever was a devoted teacher and a respected faculty colleague," Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler noted. "His years at Southern Seminary were strategic, and he invested himself in the lives of so many students through Southern Seminary and the Billy Graham School."

"He devoted his life to the classroom and was especially involved with doctoral students. Those students came to appreciate John Dever's scholarship and personal concern," Mohler continued. "John also served well as chairman of the Faculty Committee for several years. He was greatly concerned with



"Look how many we have from New York already this year," Brother Bob said beaming. "Over here on this map we have people from Costa Rica, Australia and England."

And the thump tacks are quickly adding up in 2008 with more than 75 already on the board. Spoffard, along with fellow riders Areny McCann and Alex Banks-Watson of St. Joseph, Minn., and Max Banks-Watson of Brisbane, Australia, had already been on their tour for more than five weeks. As part of Adventure Cycling Tours, they travelled the 'western express route,' starting their trip in San Francisco and finishing around the end of June in Yorktown, Va.

Spoffard explained that this is her first cycling tour and it would cover 3,800 miles. Their stop in Sebree put them at the 2,700-mile mark.

"We usually ride 6-7 hours a day, our longest being a 10-hour day,"

the grad school student stated. "We were headed to Utica today, about 120 miles, but we just kind of sputter out at 100 miles. So this facility was listed as 'cyclist-friendly' and we stopped. The people in Kentucky have just been incredibly friendly so far."

Spoffard stated that touring Kentucky was a highlight of their trip, but noted that Missouri was her favorite.

"I've been (riding) in the mountains before in Utah, but the Ozarks were just fascinating to me," she said. "But the people were not as friendly as they are here."

And they will likely have to ride many more miles and take several more tours before they find anyone more friendly and accommodating than the Hardisons and the First Baptist Church, Sebree, family.

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HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Touring cyclists (from left) Alex Banks-Watson, Areny McCann, Elise Spoffard and Max Banks-Watson store their gear in the basement of the First Baptist Church of Sebree in preparation for their night's stay. The quartet is one of many groups that take advantage of the facilities at the Webster County church. (Photo by Charlie Hust/Providence Journal-Enterprise)

Paducah church is 'proactive' in confronting moral collapse

Continued from page 1

"The Southern Baptist Convention is on record for having stood strongly against sexual abuse," Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, told messengers to last month's annual meeting. "We have long condemned those who would use our churches as a hunting ground for their sick and selfish pleasure."

"At the same time, sexual abuse is a growing crisis in this nation and we must continue to do everything within our power to stop this horrendous crime," Chapman added. "We owe our boys and girls and the women of our churches every protection possible."

Chapman encouraged churches to use the national sex offender database (found at www.nsopr.gov) to screen prospective staff members and volunteers. He also noted that resources for preventing sexual abuse had been posted on the SBC's Web site.

Brady added a challenge for pastors to get confrontational with each other over the issue.

"This will be of no good if we sign it, put it on the wall and then never think about it again," he noted. "My desire is that we as pastors are continually in one another's face, asking the tough questions, fighting for our souls, fighting for one another, holding each other accountable."

"Pastors need to provide some leadership by speaking to the issue and acknowledging that we are all, as we sing, 'prone to wander, Lord, we feel it,' Brady said.

"Our churches will be encouraged to know that their leadership is raising the bar, wanting to be held accountable."

how churches minister to communities. He will be greatly missed by colleagues and honored by so many Southern Seminary graduates."

A two-time graduate of Southern, Dever earned a master of divinity degree in 1962 and a doctor of philosophy in 1969. He also held a master of arts from the University of Louisville and a bachelor of science from the University of Missouri at Rolla.

Dever also served as professor of religion and sociology at Averett University (formerly College) in Danville, Va., from 1969-1989.

During his decades of teaching, Dever was interim pastor at more than a dozen churches in Kentucky and Virginia. He contributed articles to numerous publications, including the Averett Journal, The Mercer Dictionary of the Bible and Review and Expositor.

Funeral services were held July 7 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, where Dever was a member.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 47 years, Marcia, and their daughter, Michelle.

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

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Financial downturn or recession?

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—What is the difference between a financial downturn and a recession? As with many other things, it depends on whom you're asking. And it sure depends on your personal financial situation.

Some Christians make financial decisions that are motivated by fear of the future rather than by trust in God and in His provision. Little thought is given to the fact that God is able and has promised to care for those who put their total faith in Him.

On the other hand, others make decisions based on today without any thought of tomorrow. The current foreclosure disaster is an example of that kind of decision making. Desirable real estate was purchased with adjustable rate mortgages—loans that had low initial rates. Unfortunately, many borrowers were unable to sustain payments as the adjusted mortgage rates climbed.

That is why planning, both short-term and long-term, is important in order to ensure your financial stability. But when fear of the future, worry about the future, or a cavalier attitude about tomorrow determines a Christian's financial decisions, then beware. There needs to be an immediate re-evaluation of financial priorities and a recommitment to trust in the Lord.

Often, when Christians are prompted by fear of their financial future, they cut back on their giving, and tithes and offerings become a first step in their attempt at financial stability. Such action is like cutting off your nose to spite your face.

Honoring God's mandate to tithe our income and keep our offering vows to Him is the way to ensure that we will not become victimized by financial downturns. This includes financial commitments we have made to God in the form of a vow: missions support, benevolence and so on. When commit-

ments are made as a vow or a pledge to give, those vows must be honored. However, faith promise commitments are subject to God's provision, and Christians should not feel obligated to give above the tithe until God provides the funds.

Withholding financial commitments made to the Lord in order to safeguard ourselves against potential future financial hardships may cost us our financial security, because God's blessings will not be on such self-imposed buffers.

Faith is the opposite of fear. Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as things that we hope for and things that we do not presently see or have. Having needs in our lives provides a great opportunity to develop our faith in God. That is why it is essential that we view potential future financial needs as opportunities to exercise and develop our faith.

A Christian who truly wants to serve God cannot live in fear of financial loss. In Matthew 6:24, Christ was very specific when He said that we must make a choice about either serving God or money. We cannot serve both. If we are fearful of our financial future, then we are not trusting in God or in His provision. In essence, we choose to serve the fear of financial loss rather than serve God who holds our financial future in His hands.

Often our priorities are based on desires and wants instead of real needs, because perspective gets clouded by what our materialistic society promotes. It is easy to get caught up in the mad rush to protect against future crises that could potentially threaten these society-defined needs. Remember, God assures us that He will always supply our needs, but He has not promised to supply all of the wants that our society identifies as needs. God may choose to answer in a way that we do not want or expect. And His answer could very well be "no" so that we can develop maturity and learn how to rely totally on Him.

FIRST PERSON

Playing the blame game

Baptisms are down and many churches are in decline. Much research is being conducted and books are being written as part of the effort to find a solution.

In a ChurchCentral.com article titled, "Eight signs of spiritually dead churches and six signs of resurrection," adapted with permission from Bill Easum's book, "A Second Resurrection," Easum blames denominational and church leaders who are spiritually dead.

"The only solution for a spiritually dead congregation is resurrection," he said, adding that only God can give new life.

Easum, a well-known church consultant and former pastor, wrote that the starting point for unfreezing a stuck organizational system is the development of a solid community of faith that includes spiritual leadership, trust, a desire to connect with the unchurched world and the absence of major conflict.

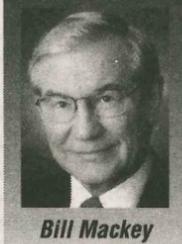
"True spiritual maturity is approached when people turn their attention to those outside the church and seek ways to spread the Good News rather than exercise their entitlements as members," Easum noted.

He said he believes that the pastor and church leaders must first experience a personal resurrection and then the church will follow.

"Spiritually alive churches, no matter what their form or where they are planted, always grow," Easum concluded. "That is what the church was put on earth to do—spread the Good News."

During his final address as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Frank Page said, "We have been ignoring God's call to repentance and failing to be relevant to a culture that sees us as representatives of death, not as representatives of life. ... The problem is not somebody else, the problem is me."

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

There are a variety of reasons that God may not answer the way we expect. Perhaps we may ask with the wrong motives (see James 4:3), or the timing may not be right, according to God's will and purpose. Or it may simply be contrary to His overall plan (see Acts 21:13-14).

Here are some steps to follow in order to trust God with the present and the future:

Find God's direction for your life. Most frustrations experienced by Christians come from patterning their lives after someone else's. Instead, through prayer and study, find God's direction for your life.

Develop a conscious effort to trust God. Put thoughts, words and commitments into action. Trust God and do not buy on credit or hoard. Wait for God to supply and plan ahead.

Develop a long-range viewpoint. Trust God's biblical directives and guidance, even though you cannot always see the end result or understand why He is doing it that way (see Matthew 6:34).

Pray diligently. Prayer is the key that unlocks God's blessings, power and direction for your life (see 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

Perhaps it is impossible to forecast when economic problems may occur or how to protect our holdings when it happens. But God knows and we can trust His guidance.

As Larry Burkett used to say, "We must decide if we truly believe God is able to supply our needs or if we are just saying we believe it."

We are not able to control the world economy, but we can allow God to control our lives and we can live our lives for His glory. That is all God asks of each of us.

Howard Dayton is co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries and current host of Crown's radio program, "Money Matters."

What are you thinking?

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

I would like to suggest a couple of things that God has shown me recently. When I recently stood at the gravesite of a close friend, I not only dealt with my grief but the fact that God has left me here to share the Good News with fire in my soul.

Secondly, God has shown me that I can deal with temptation by quoting Scripture as Jesus did. We must deal with sin that quenches and grieves the Holy Spirit and renders us powerless. Brokenness over our sin and disobedience leads to repentance.

Then we can praise God for His forgiveness through the atoning death of Jesus on the cross. It is a privilege to be forgiven and to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. We can tell our story with humility and joy of how God is transforming our lives each day and the Kingdom will grow through His church.

I want to encourage you to respond to God as the Holy Spirit guides you in becoming all that He has called you to be. Blame no one; just claim what God has available for you.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Lifetime giving is possible through endowment funds

By Laurie Valentine

You do not have to be a millionaire to provide financial resources that will change people's lives in the Lord's name.

Whether you want to provide support for your church, ministries to hurting children and their families, disaster relief/missions work, or financial assistance to students attending Kentucky Baptist institutions, you can establish a means to provide funding that will continue to give until the Lord returns through the creation of a new endowment fund, or by making gifts to an existing fund.

An endowment fund is a permanent, perpetual fund managed either by the cause benefited by your gift or another entity such as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Only the earnings from the endowment fund are distributed for use by the designated causes; the original value of what you give is never spent.

A large gift is not required to establish an endowment fund with the KBF. It can be started with any amount of money to which you may add from time to time over your lifetime. This permits even those of modest means to do more than they ever dreamed possible. As the endowment fund grows, more lives will be touched and blessed through the support provided.

Endowment fund giving does not have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. You may want to use a life-income gift to fund an endowment. Life-income gifts allow you to make a gift now that will provide an income stream to you and/or others for life with the endowment fund being established at your death with the remainder of your original gift.

Establishing (or adding to) an endowment fund during your lifetime provides tax benefits—a charitable income tax deduction and, if you make your gift with appreciated assets, capital gains savings. If you use a life-income gift to fund the endowment, you may also attain a higher level of income than that being produced by the asset you give.

All with which we have been blessed comes from God. Establishing an endowment fund, whether through a single large gift or a lifetime of more modest levels of giving, permits you to demonstrate your gratitude for God's blessings and your desire to be involved in touching lives in His name.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Married couples should take time out to give, receive love

Q: My wife and I seem to live life at 120 miles per hour. Between our jobs, managing our household and keeping in touch with family and friends, there is no time for us. Is this normal? What's the alternative?

Someone described the situation you find yourselves in as the "supercouple syndrome." Two-career marriages where each partner is highly invested in his or her job make it very difficult to balance marriage and family.

MARRIAGE

It is hard to give or receive love fast. At 120 miles per hour, most people just hold on and hope to avoid a crash.

Ultimately you have to decide if you are more inclined to continue pushing and pressing or to make a shift to prioritizing and pruning. Remember that our Creator carefully addressed the balance between love and work early on when he rested on the seventh day and laid the groundwork for the concept of the Sabbath.

Usually prioritizing and pruning cannot be effectively accomplished amid the buzz of frenetic activity. Trying to reflect and make healthy decisions for simplicity and a slower pace while moving at light speed is akin to trying to prune a rosebush full of bumblebees. Something is always buzzing, sticking or stinging.

Schedule some extended downtime to sit down with your spouse and reflect upon the life each of you would like to live. Imagine how each day would look on your ideal hourly calendar. Make a list of every possible change you might make. These may include less of some things and more of others, shifting some things around and dropping others altogether. Remember that pleasing God, not people, is your ultimate objective.—Scott Wigginton

Q: My wife and I enjoy watching movies, but we get tired of the continuous assault on marriage and commitment in so many movies. Do you have any suggestions of movies that support marriage?

At a marriage conference in 1999, William Doherty said, "We have cut through our marital chains but ended up with Velcro. Easy to pull apart but not strong enough to hold us together under pressure."

Between movies, television, books and magazines, our media makes commitment in marriage appear archaic and ridiculous. All of our modern conveniences were supposed to eliminate work and stress, yet we have high levels of it and experience increasing pressures and demands from all areas of life. This has a significant impact on marriage.

Marriage is meant to be one of the sources of deliverance into a relationship of pleasure, joy, happiness, love, contentment, faithfulness, honesty, trust and growth. Too many movies suggest romantic love is the only source for happiness and one should get it in any way possible.

Here is a list of movies that offer reflection on the commitment to the marriage bond.

- The Story of Us.
- License to Wed.
- A Beautiful Mind.
- The Preacher's Wife.
- Father of the Bride.
- Cheaper by the Dozen.
- The Notebook.
- Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood.
- Laws of Attraction.
- Shall We Dance?
- Family Man.
- Evan Almighty.
- Shadowlands.
- Facing the Giants.

All media needs to be critically evaluated for its content, but for those of us who enjoy relaxing with popcorn and a movie, some films are better than others for portraying marriage in a positive light.—Valerie Vincent

Family Forum writers are:

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



Life's speed bumps remind us of God's love

When you hit a speed bump you didn't see, it rattles your teeth, shakes the car and you think everything is falling apart. I had been pastor at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville for a couple of years when I experienced a speed bump.

I began to have stiffness and soreness in my right shoulder making me believe I had a rotator cuff problem. But as it progressed, my right hand began to shake. Our family physician examined me and said, "I need to send you to a neurologist."

My doctor, John Colby, examined me and said, "Rod, I'm 99 percent sure you have Parkinson's Disease, but we will do some more tests." After a pause he said, "You don't seem to be very upset about this." I replied, "John, if I were to die right now, I couldn't complain because God has been so good to me. This is just another speed bump in the road of life."

As I walked two blocks back to church, my first thoughts were, "How do I tell this to my family and my church family." We were preparing for a \$3.6 million expansion and refurbishing of our church. I didn't want this to affect the vote.

When I shared the diagnosis with the church, I told them I would resign when I saw I was no longer able to do the work of a pastor, or whenever the church family felt I needed to do so. I then selected four people to be diligent in watching for signs of decline in my ministry and tell me—sometimes we cannot see the forest for the trees.

Our church family rallied around me and my family. They have prayed for me, encouraged me and sent articles about Parkinson's Disease and about new drugs. My family, especially my wife, and church family have been good caregivers, providing me the support I needed to deal with the disease. I have pastored seven churches over the past 42 years and every church ministered to me as much as I ministered to them.

These churches loved me and the staffs that I worked with through providing health, life and disability insurance that protected my family from many burdens. This made me realize that a church that loves its staff will value their ministry and not see them as hired servants; rather as men and women called by

God to lead people to come to Christ and grow to imitate Him.

Last year, I was told by my doctor that I had entered the middle stage of the disease's three stages. He said I needed to leave the daily stress of being a pastor. I called the chairman of deacons and an attorney whom I greatly respected. Later, I told the chairman of the personnel ministry team. We prayed for a couple of weeks and then met and discussed my retirement which would take place Dec. 30, 2007. I applied for disability benefits through GuidesStone Financial Resources and was approved in February. However, it would take three months for it to begin. Our church family graciously paid for the months before my disability began. The congregation also held a reception and gave me a tremendous love offering.

I am learning many things as my body changes, but one thing I know is that God's love never changes. God didn't give Paul a message or doctrine to proclaim, but He brought Paul and us into a distinctly personal relationship with Jesus Christ which permeates everything we are and do. Paul said, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Speed bumps only slow us down so we can hear God's message to us and serve as a reminder that we are all terminal. When we face something like Parkinson's Disease, we can be sure He hasn't abandoned or forsaken us. God knows our needs and can see the future, so we must leave the unanswered questions to Him. Christians have a tremendous opportunity to encourage one another, especially when we hit the speed bumps that shake us all over. I'm thankful for the encouragement I can still offer others as they encourage me.

I felt I should write this for two reasons: First, I pray that anyone facing an incurable disease might be encouraged; second, I pray that churches will continue to love, encourage and support their staff members. Make sure they have medical, life and disability insurance so they can be cared for when they encounter speed bumps.

Rodney Travis is former pastor of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville

GUEST EDITORIAL



Rodney Travis

Let us continue to pray

By Phyllis Zagano

Hempstead, N.Y. (RNS)—The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland is in an uproar because midshipmen are praying before lunch at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Heaven forbid.

The next thing you know, the midshipmen will be reading the Declaration of Independence and thinking about how "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" entitle us all to liberty.

Midshipmen hear—but are not required to participate in—prayers before the noon meal. The ACLU's legal director, Deborah Jeon, calls the tradition "compulsory religious services mandated by the government."

Never mind that the prayers following announcements are non-denominational and directed at what sailors and Marines sometimes call the "Standard Issue Navy God."

Never mind that the Academy's eight chaplains rotate the duty among themselves.

Never mind that no midshipman is required to do anything but stand respectfully. They have been doing it since 1845.

There are 4,300 midshipmen at Annapolis. The ACLU says nine of them felt "uncomfortable" during the brief noon prayers. Do these nine feel "uncomfortable" cashing their government paychecks for curren-

cy that says "In God We Trust"? Are they "uncomfortable" reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, especially the "one nation, under God" part? Do they even know that God is mentioned in the Declaration of Independence?

COMMENTARY

You would think folks motivated enough to get an appointment to Annapolis would understand—or at least can learn—that U.S. naval officers are respectful of custom. A few whiners want to eliminate a 163-year-old tradition. Why are they at Annapolis?

Five years ago, the Virginia Military Institute had to forego its "supper prayers" following a complicated lawsuit (supported by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee) that was argued by the Virginia ACLU. Now the Maryland prayer police say the VMI decision applies to the Naval Academy.

The VMI court decision, however, does not consider "whether or to what extent the military may incorporate religious practices into its ceremonies," noting the Virginia Legislature—not the Department of Defense—oversees VMI. That means the VMI case, which was never reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court, does not apply to Annapolis.

Even so, the ACLU gleefully believes it has discovered another cor-

ner of the country where it might rip religion from its roots. By attempting to force its corporate personal opinion on the Naval Academy, the ACLU ignores our recognition of "Nature's God" in 1776, and makes mockery of the First Amendment.

Non-denominational invocations are part of the fabric of military life. Whether during ceremonies or at lunch, they do not support any "establishment of religion." Separately and distinctly, Navy chaplains provide for constitutionally protected denominational needs. The Academy chapel's Web site lists Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim services, a Buddhist study group and a Mormon student association. Chapel attendance is voluntary; understanding the Declaration of Independence and defending the Constitution is not.

The Naval Academy is not budgeting, but what's next? Will the ACLU go after the Declaration of Independence?

In this season of picnics and fireworks, let's remember how the Declaration of Independence closes, after an appeal to the "Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions":

"With a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Phyllis Zagano is senior research associate-in-residence at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Kentucky Baptists top messenger count at 2008 SBC

Nashville (BP)—

Kentucky Baptists sent the largest number of messengers, 729, of the 7,277 who registered for last month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis, according to official numbers released by SBC registration secretary Jim Wells. Kentucky messengers comprised 10.02 percent of the messenger attendance.

The next four leading states in messenger count were Tennessee with 629 messengers; Georgia, 604; North Carolina, 518; and Indiana, 439.

In all, 3,142 churches from 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were represented at last month's annual meeting. The 7,277 messengers at the Indianapolis gathering was a decrease of nearly 1,400 from the registration total in 2007 in San Antonio.

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

Shirley Cox honored as state MSC Missionary of the Year

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has selected Shirley Cox of Mount Vernon as Kentucky's 2008 Mission Service Corps Missionary of the Year.

Mission Service Corps missionaries are self-funded missionaries who are commissioned by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Since 2002, Cox has served as a photographer and journalist for Kentucky Baptists. A native of Eastern Kentucky, Cox recalled that she began writing to tell the stories of "ordinary people that God is using in extraordinary ways to impact the lives of others."

As an MSC missionary, Cox reports on the ministry efforts of Kentucky Baptists, primarily in Eastern Kentucky.

"Many ministries and missionaries in Kentucky have been encouraged and strengthened through the gifted writing of Shirley Cox," said Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department. "She is an example of how God can take something as small as an ink pen and use it for His glory."

Cox's articles are frequently featured in missions newsletters for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Her work also has appeared in the Western Recorder, the KBC's weekly news-



Shirley Cox

journal, and in Baptist publications such as "Missions Mosaic," "On Mission," and "Altitude."

Each year, the KBC recognizes an MSC Missionary for his or her commitment to and effectiveness in ministry, evangelism or church planting.

As the state honoree, Cox will serve as Kentucky's nominee for the National Missionary of the Year award to be presented by the North American Mission Board later this summer.

Cox and her husband, Bud, have two children and two grandchildren.

Bobby Himes, professor emeritus at Campbellsville, dies at age 76

Campbellsville—Retired Campbellsville University professor Bobby Himes, who taught at the school for 40 years, died June 28. He was 76.

A native of Hartford, Himes, who was a cancer survivor and known for his upbeat demeanor, began his tenure at Campbellsville in 1961 at the age of 29. He retired as a history and political science professor in 2001. Himes also taught at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., prior to arriving at CU.

During his four decades at Campbellsville, Himes served under five presidents, including current president Michael Carter, who affirmed Himes' legacy at the university.

"There are literally thousands of men and women in Kentucky and beyond who studied history and political science in the classes taught by Dr. Himes," Carter said. "Dr. Bobby Himes will be missed not only by his family, but he will be missed by all who knew him and counted him as a friend and professional colleague."

In 1994, Campbellsville presented Himes with its Distinguished Alumnus Award. He also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the university in 1999.

Himes' recognitions extended beyond the university and into the community. He twice was named the Campbellsville/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year, received the Business and Professional Women's Club Man of the Year award in 2001, as well as the 2004 Central Kentucky News-

Journal Man of the Year honor. He also received the Outstanding Social Studies Teacher Award from the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies in 1982.



Bobby Himes

Robert Clark, who taught with Himes during each professor's 40 years at the school, called his long-time colleague "a people person."

"He loved relationships with his colleagues, family and friends," Clark recalled. "He was always positive and enthusiastic in all endeavors."

Himes' "love of CU and his students has been demonstrated actions and contributions," noted John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external relations. "Certainly his knowledge of history and love of the political process were contagious to all who knew him."

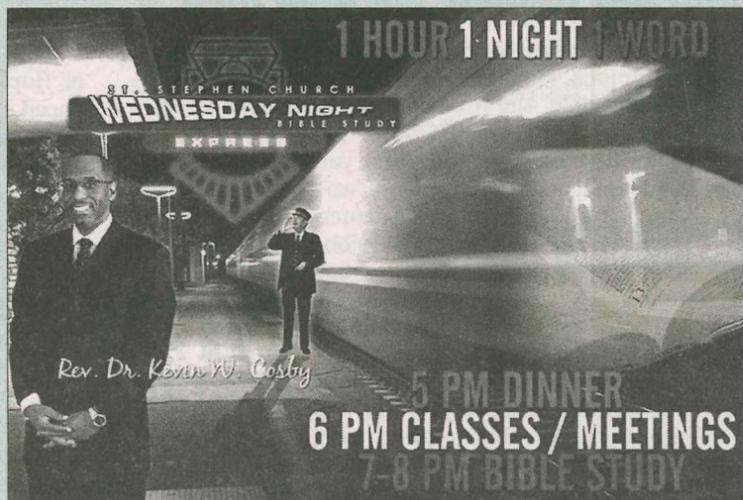
Himes was a veteran of the Korean Conflict having served his country in the United States Air Force as a staff sergeant and an aircraft inspector.

Himes was a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro and Appalachian State University.

Funeral services were held July 4 in Himes' hometown of Hartford. He is survived by his wife, Erlene, a daughter, a grandson and three great-grandchildren.

The family requests that gifts be made in Himes' memory to the Bill Himes Scholarship at Campbellsville University, or the Bob and Erlene Himes Scholarship Fund at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Wednesday night express



Louisville (RNS)—An advertisement from St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville tells about the church's new "Wednesday Night Bible Study Express," which helps members save gas by attending most church meetings on one night.

Kevin Cosby, pastor of the 14,000-member congregation that bills itself as a "seven-day-a-week" hub of activity, recently noticed a drop off as people could not afford the gas to drive to several activities on several different evenings. So Cosby shuffled the schedule to combine all activities on Wednesday night to give mem-

bers a "one-stop-shop for your soul." The church also bought a third 14-passenger bus to shuttle people to and from church. "We thought it would be a better practice of stewardship," Cosby said. "The good use and stewardship of resources is how we demonstrate our love for God."

Members with long commutes said they already feel the benefit of the shift. "I think it's great. Tonight I am going to attend three different auxiliaries all in one night," said Cornelius Pumphrey, an 11-year member who lives 25 miles away. (RNS photo courtesy St. Stephen Baptist Church)

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Connecting others to Christ begins with estate planning

Connecting all people to Jesus Christ is the most important and greatest business in the world.

As believers we have been commanded by our Lord to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

It takes human and financial resources to make these connections, and it will take more of those resources in the future than it has in the past.

More than at any other time in our history, there is this great convergence of the unbelievable opportunities for connecting all people to Jesus Christ, and the giving opportunities inherent in the transfer of wealth from one generation to the next that is taking place at this time. That generational transfer of wealth is estimated to be \$41 trillion. The truth is it all belongs to God and He has entrusted it to those who have it,

whether in large or small amounts, to use it for His purposes.

This \$41 trillion consists of home equity, retirement accounts, life insurance death benefits, brokerage accounts, rental property, farm land and businesses—assets you can not place in the offering plate on Sunday. Much of this wealth will pass from one generation to the next via bequests in the wills and revocable living trusts of those who possess it.

For us Christians, estate planning may be the single most important act of stewardship we shall ever perform. Therefore, it should be performed prayerfully and joyfully, with the assistance of knowledgeable advisors and with conviction about what you understand to be God's will for the possessions He has entrusted to you.

Laurie Valentine, Kentucky Baptist Foundation's trust counsel, is available to assist you without any cost or obligation. Call her toll free for a consultation session. She is awaiting your call.

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

Record-setting summer

Crossings camps experience best-ever attendance, giving

It is hard to believe that summer is passing so quickly. We are about halfway through another summer of Crossings and God has blessed us in ways like never before.

This year will prove to be the largest attendance in our history and all present indicators point that spiritual decisions will also be at record levels.

At this point of the year, I am constantly reminded of our need for God's grace at each moment of camp. We are ministering to approximately 1,800 adults and students on a typical camp day. This number is comprised of some 1,200 people at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, 450 in Moldova and 150 in Zambia.

I am very proud and thankful for our staff this summer as they all are making great sacrifices to keep the components of camp in operation. Our staff consists of nearly 120 paid positions and another 20 to 40 weekly volunteers.

This year is very special as we, for the first time, are channeling our missions focus in two directions—Moldova and Zambia. Last week alone, our guests gave more

than \$13,600 towards missions. This is an incredible amount considering the bulk of this money is given by middle- and high-school students.

In a few weeks we will have our second team of the year going to Zambia. Please remember them in prayer as the travel is long and the living conditions in Kitwe, Zambia, are quite primitive.

Please continue to pray for our ministry that campers and staff alike will be kept safe and healthy, that our camp pastors and program staff will be Spirit-led as they preach and teach the Word of God, and that hundreds more will make life-changing decisions in the coming weeks.

Again, if you would like to see camp in operation, please contact our offices and we will gladly schedule a visit so you too can experience what God is doing through the ministry of Crossings.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Hoover, for example
- 4 "And I saw, and behold a white _____" (Revelation 6:2)
- 9 Auction action
- 12 "Beware of him, and _____ his voice" (Exodus 23:21)
- 14 "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with _____" (Matthew 27:34)
- 15 Shoshonean tribe member
- 16 Scrambled scuffle
- 18 "And the Avims which dwell in _____" (Deuteronomy 2:23)
- 20 Of considerable size
- 22 What a raconteur weaves?
- 23 "And in the fourth chariot _____ and bay horses" (Zechariah 6:3)
- 26 Cave dweller
- 27 Partner of rave
- 28 What Hebron was formerly called, and its namesakes (var., Genesis 35)
- 30 Preposition
- 32 _____ white
- 33 Bypass
- 34 Queen, for example
- 35 The royal _____
- 36 Teams
- 37 Melted, as a fuse
- 38 Deface
- 39 Bees in the bonnet?
- 41 One husband of Abigail
- 43 "Let the wicked fall into their own _____" (Psalm 141:10)
- 44 "God hath blessed thee _____" (two words, Psalm 45:2)
- 46 Aeries
- 49 "Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to _____" (2 Chronicles 33:9)

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

- 50 "Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of _____" (Genesis 10:21)
- 52 Holding a grudge
- 53 _____ station
- 54 Packs away
- 55 Tatami (floor _____)

Down

- 1 Title of respect in Brazil and Portugal
- 2 Lincoln, to his nearest and dearest
- 3 "As when the _____ fire burneth" (Isaiah 64:2)
- 5 "Sihon king of the Amorites, and _____ king of Bashan" (Psalm 135:11)
- 6 Stadium sound
- 7 Smote
- 8 "_____ the ninth" (1 Chronicles 12:12)
- 9 Charred
- 10 Inflammation (suffix)
- 11 Political partisan (abbr.)
- 13 Leaven
- 17 Building extension
- 19 Ages
- 21 "Intreat me not to _____ thee" (Ruth 1:16)
- 23 "The tree _____, and was strong" (Daniel 4:11)
- 24 "Why do the heathen _____" (Psalm 2:1)
- 25 Overcome with noise
- 29 Shaggy mammals
- 30 _____ there, done that
- 31 Coniferous trees
- 33 Achieves success
- 34 "Their root shall be as rottenness, and their _____ shall go up as dust" (Isaiah 5:24)
- 36 Bat's bailiwick
- 37 Pierces
- 38 "In the resurrection they neither _____ nor are given in marriage" (Matthew 22:30)
- 40 "Your father hath ... changed my wages _____ times" (Genesis 31:7)
- 41 Feminine name
- 42 "The reward not reckoned of grace, but of _____" (Romans 4:4)
- 44 Handful
- 45 Automobile of a previous generation
- 47 Singing syllable
- 48 Jelled
- 51 Inits. accorded a member of the clergy

Last week's solution

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

Volunteers turn gasoline crisis into missions opportunity

Continued from page 1

As drivers pulled their cars up to the pumps, participants greeted them and gathered information via a registration card about local church membership and participation. This also allowed Families on Mission participants to provide the gas customers with tracts and talk to them about a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In addition, many of the younger Families on Mission participants helped run a face-painting booth for the customers' children, as well as a popcorn machine and balloon animals.

Gospel witness

Each customer left with a free gallon of gas and an example of Christian service. And for many customers, the gas buy-down was also their first-ever opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries missionaries said they plan to follow up with the registered gasoline customers and give their names to nearby Southern Baptist churches.

"We provided Christians who were there to serve others and the rest was up to the Holy Spirit," Ivey said.

Families on Mission participants from seven states learned there are many unique and new ways to share the gospel with people in their home communities.

Before the gas buy-down, many families had expressed how they longed for unique ways to minister to people back home. Each family said they walked away from the

experience exhausted but still excited about being able to share Christ in a new way.

"As people strive in our communities to make sense of our economy and how we are going to feed our families, the gas buy-down struck a chord with our family," said Susan Long, Woman's Missionary Union director at First Baptist Church of Alabaster, Ala., who attended with her husband, Scott, and their four daughters.

"The community saw that God's people still love and care for their fellow man."

Doing missions together

Sponsored by NAMB, Families on Mission is a weeklong, pre-packaged mission trip for families whose children have completed kindergarten.

"Families on Mission teaches parents how to participate with their children in relevant ministries that have implications for evangelism and church planting," said Rick Head, NAMB's Families on Mission director. "Our goal is to help families make missions an integral part of their value system and legacy."

"Keith Ivey's creativity was a good match for our families," Head added. "It's an experience they will long remember."

Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries is a ministry of White County, Notla River and Hiwassee Baptist associations, the Georgia Baptist Convention and NAMB.

For more information about Families on Mission, visit www.namb.net/fom. For more information on Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries, visit www.gmrm.org.



ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE Ben Spiller (left) and his father, Jay, help flag down drivers in Cleveland, Ga., during a gasoline buy-down promotion sponsored by the Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries and Families on Mission. The Spillers are from First Baptist Church of Petal, Miss., where Jay serves as pastor. (NAMB photo by Jim Burton)

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Reaching in and out

Devotional studies in girls' dormitory develops into new outreach ministry

By Denise Spencer, OBI publications

What began as a simple devotion in girls' housing has blossomed into an outreach to dorm residents, day students and daughters of our faculty and staff.

Our students have had dorm devotions off and on through the years in different formats and with different leaders. Currently, houseparent Jamie Jory leads the girls' group assisted by one of our middle school teachers, Emily Kelley.

Jory started the group in November 2006 at the prompting of some students. "I had a couple of girls who said, 'This is a Christian school. Why don't we do more Christian things?'" she recalled. Jory was hesitant to do it at first because houseparents' schedules are quite demanding.

When she gave it a try, two girls attended the first meeting. Within a month attendance was up to five. In the 2007-2008 school year, they averaged 12, but have had as many as 40 participants at one meeting. Devotions are held weekly during the students' nightly free time. "This year has been amazing," Jory said.

A highlight this year has been "Main Events" designed to draw in dorm girls who don't usually come to devotions, as well as local "day" students and daughters of OBI faculty and staff.

These generally involve a staff member sharing a devotion or a testimony, games or other activities and, of course, food. These events are thematic in nature. For example, one was titled, "Will True Christians Take a Stand?"

For the regular weekly devotions in the dorm,

Jory and Kelley take turns teaching topical studies on teen issues based on questions the girls ask. "We're constantly asking the girls for new ideas," Jory said. She first relied on resources she used previously, but then curriculum was purchased with money donated to the school for that purpose.

"The girls prayed for the books," Jory recalled. "That was a growth experience." Each girl who regularly attended devotions was given a book and Jory said she was pleased to see the books turning up in other girls' rooms as group members shared them with their friends.

Kelley and Jory give the girls points for attending devotions with prizes awarded to the top participants. They hope to do a retreat or a day trip for those who accumulate 100 points.

The two leaders pray for the continued growth of the girls' group. "I'd like to see 85 percent of the dorm attend at least one devotion in a year," Jory noted. "Our goal is to see girls grow in Christ and to see seeds planted. We don't know what God's call in their lives may be. They might be future missionaries or pastors' wives."

Jory said she has noticed a difference in the dormitory as a result of devotions. "It's a joy to walk through the dorm lobby and see girls praying. I've seen a lot of positive things come out of it."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

A road less traveled

Student's educational journey longer than most

The average college student's educational journey is usually five to six years. I'm sure very few expect that journey to take 11 years but that is the "road less traveled" just completed by 2008 graduate Patrick Butcher.

"I started at Clear Creek in 1997 and attended classes until 2000," Patrick said. "I left school because of health problems. I also got married, had some children (then) time took over. After six years, I knew God was leading me back to Clear Creek to finish what He had called me to do. It is a great feeling to know that I am finishing in 2008 what God called me to do in 1997."

"One of my favorite memories about Clear Creek is just being able to have fellowship with my fellow students here," Patrick continued. "Not only in class but also being able to spend time with my peers outside of the classroom and really get to know them on a personal level."

"I will never forget the trip I got to take with other students to the Holy Land with New Testament professor Roy Lucas," Patrick recalled. "We spent two weeks in the Holy

Land and Egypt. The trip opened up God's Word to me in a whole new way. I have a new perspective on the biblical text each time I prepare for a sermon now. I remember driving from the Holy Land through the wilderness. We drove for about eight hours through absolutely barren country with no livelihood at all. It was a stark contrast compared to our Appalachian mountains here."

Patrick continues to serve as pastor of Silver Leaf Baptist Church in Rose Hill, Va., after graduation. "I started as a supply preacher for them as a student in 2007," he said. "Each Sunday turned in to another and through that time God led them

to talk to me about serving as their pastor. The people there are great. I pray God allows me to continue to serve there for a long time."

"I am thankful for my educational journey at Clear Creek no matter how long it took me to finish," Patrick concluded. "I have grown to love the Word of God in a deeper way through my time here."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

Helms, Baptist, former senator, dies at age 86

Raleigh, N.C. (BP)—Jesse Helms, the outspoken and sometimes controversial five-term senator from North Carolina, died July 4. He was 86.

A member of Hayes Barton Baptist Church since 1966—a Raleigh congregation dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—Helms was first elected as a Republican to the Senate in 1972 and served for 30 years until he chose not to seek re-election in 2002.

Dubbed “Senator No” for his willingness to cast the single vote against bills, Helms came into power with the Democrats in charge and left with Republicans in power. During that time, he was one of the most conservative members of the chamber. He may be best remembered for his unwavering anti-communist views.

Helms famously backed Ronald Reagan during the 1976 Republican primary, helping the future president win North Carolina and giving him a boost in his bid to capture the GOP nomination over sitting president Gerald Ford. Reagan fell short that year but won the nomination and presidency four years later.

The National Review wrote in an editorial that it was “not far-fetched” to believe that “without the assistance of Helms in 1976,” Reagan would not have won in 1980.

But while Helms was on the conservative side of many issues, including abortion, gay rights and communism, history has often viewed him as wrong on others.

The late senator opposed civil rights legislation of the 1960s and, years later, opposed making Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a national holiday. His supporters, though, contended he was not a racist and that he had African-Americans on his staff—one of them being James Meredith, the first black student at the University of Mississippi.

“Of course I am not anti-black, and any number of African-American friends and Capitol Hill staffers who have known me over the years would be happy to set that record straight,” he told National Review in 2005. “I have always been opposed to violence from any quarter; to unconstitutional quotas; and to politicians who try to rob people of their ability to dream their own dreams and reach their own goals through their own efforts by selling them the lie that they can’t succeed without the government running their lives. I have always believed that the American dream is the birthright of every American and that the free-enterprise system is the route to secure that dream.”

Oprah Winfrey’s ‘gospel’ comes under fire

Web video triggers increased scrutiny of Oprah’s beliefs

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Colorado Springs, Colo. (RNS)—Oprah Winfrey has become a catalyst for a new journalistic project and increasing news coverage by conservative Christians questioning and criticizing her spiritual beliefs.

Some evangelical Christians have voiced alarm that Winfrey is introducing the 46 million viewers who watch her television show each week to nontraditional spirituality they do not condone.

In May, two dozen Christian newspapers pooled their resources to publish an article titled “Oprah’s ‘gospel’” that prompted higher readership and more letters to the editor than any story some of the individual papers had ever published.

In a first-of-its-kind venture, the evangelical newspapers hired Colorado writer and editor Steve Rabey to write the story.

“For some Christians who have considered themselves part of Oprah’s electronic family, her sins against evangelical orthodoxy have increased in number and seriousness,” Rabey said.

In recent months, Southern Baptist newspaper editors also have written editorials declaring, “It’s time for Christians to ‘just say no’ to the big ‘O’” and calling her a source of “foolish twitter and twaddle.” And Charisma, a prominent charismatic and Pentecostal magazine, ran a story in its July issue with the headline “Oprah’s Strange New Gospel.”

Lamar Keener, publisher of the Christian Examiner regional newspapers in California, came up with the idea to work with a dozen “mom

and pop” publishers to address Winfrey’s theology.

“Our point is we want our readers to be aware that what she is teaching does not represent traditional, historical Christianity, according to the Scriptures,” noted Keener, who also is president of the Evangelical Press Association.

Twenty-three monthly papers from across the country and Canada published the story and distributed 500,000 copies to churches, Christian bookstores, doughnut shops and other outlets.

Keener was inspired after viewing a video titled, “The Church of Oprah Exposed,” which has had more than 7.2 million hits on YouTube.

“It’s taking actual clips off programs,” Keener said. “That’s what got my attention.”

One of Winfrey’s quotes highlighted in the story is her belief that “there couldn’t possibly be just one way” to God.

“One of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way to live,” Winfrey said.

A spokesman for Winfrey’s Harpo Productions explained that the celebrity is a Christian.

“Oprah was raised Baptist and has stated many, many times that she is a Christian and that she believes in only one God,” said the spokesman, who asked not to be named. “She has also said, ‘I’m a free-thinking Christian who believes in my way, but I don’t believe it’s the only way, with 6 billion people on the planet.’”

The spokesman also noted Winfrey is hardly alone; 70 percent of Americans said “many religions can lead to eternal life” in a recent survey from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Part of the evangelicals’ concern stems from Winfrey’s recent embrace of Eckhart Tolle’s “A New

Earth” as the first spiritual book she included in her hugely popular book club. In the July issue of O, The Oprah Magazine, she commented that the book’s advice on “putting the ego in check” had a “profound impact” on her.

“Spirit to me is the essence of who we are,” she wrote. “That essence doesn’t require any particular belief. It just is.”

Charisma editor J. Lee Grady said Winfrey’s recent discussions of hypnotism on her show may have prompted more people to question her views.

He has long thought Winfrey did not embrace “an orthodox belief in Jesus Christ,” but he thinks other Christians may just be starting to draw that conclusion, sparked in part by what they learn about her on the Internet.

“There’s definitely an alarm because so many people watch her, that she could lead people into New Age belief or deception,” he said.

Religion writer Marcia Nelson, author of “The Gospel According to Oprah,” said criticism of Winfrey by conservative Christians dates back to 1998 when she included a spiritual emphasis on her TV show.

“Back then she got pretty much lambasted the way she is being lambasted now, for telling us what to believe and telling us the wrong thing to believe in, according to conservative Christians,” Nelson recalled.

But Nelson, who studied a year of Winfrey’s shows, differs with those who call Winfrey’s spiritual ideas “New Age.” She said Winfrey would be more related to the “New Thought” movement, which is more mainstream, focusing on positive thinking as a spiritual tool rather than crystals, for example.

“I absolutely regard her as a Christian but ... she’s one of those capacious Christians,” Nelson said.



UNDER PRESSURE
Evangelicals are taking a closer look at the “Gospel of ‘O,’” questioning where the popular talk show host Oprah Winfrey, shown here in New York City in 2006, stands in relation to the Bible. (RNS photo by Scott Lituchy)

NATIONAL NOTES

Gay man files suit over Bible verses. A gay man is suing two Christian publishers, claiming their versions of the Bible that refer to homosexuality as a sin violate his constitutional rights and have caused him emotional pain and mental instability. Bradley LaShawn Fowler of Canton, Mich., is seeking \$60 million from Zondervan, based in Cascade Township, Mich., and \$10 million from Nashville-based Thomas Nelson Publishing. Fowler filed the suit in federal court against Zondervan on July 7. The suit against Thomas Nelson was filed in June. Fowler, 39, alleges Zondervan’s Bibles referring to homosexuality as a sin have made him an outcast from his family and contributed to physical discomfort and periods of “demoralization, chaos and bewilderment.” He is representing himself in both claims.

Grassley: Ministries making changes. Ministries headed by evangelists Joyce Meyer and Benny Hinn are both changing the way they operate even as a Senate probe into alleged lavish spending by six prominent ministries continues, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said July 7. “Both Joyce Meyer and Benny Hinn have indicated that they are instituting reforms without waiting for the committee to complete its review,” said Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, in an update on the investigation he began

last year. “Self-reform can be faster and more effective than government regulation.” A spokesman for Joyce Meyer Ministries in Fenton, Mo., confirmed that changes are being made but did not release details. A spokesman for Benny Hinn Ministries in Grapevine, Texas, also declined to comment in detail but said “reforms and improved governance practices” were being shared with Grassley’s office.

Most generous U.S. city named. Birmingham, Ala., ranks as the most generous city in America, according to a study that measured percentage of household income given to charity in 60 metropolitan areas. Birmingham-area residents give 3.6 percent of their household income to charity, just ahead of several other Southern cities, the study noted. Memphis, Tenn., was second at 3.4 percent, and Columbia, S.C., was third with 3.2 percent. The study was conducted by the Tijeras Foundation in Albuquerque, N.M., a city that incidentally ranked fourth from the bottom, ahead of San Antonio, Pittsburgh and Tampa, Fla. The foundation supports church organizations, including help with fund raising and financial management skills.

‘I believe’ plates face suit. Americans United for Separation of Church and State have filed a federal lawsuit seeking an in-

junction to prevent South Carolina from producing a license plate with a design that features a cross superimposed over a stained-glass window along with the words “I Believe.” Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United, said approval of the plate “was a clear signal that Christianity is the preferred religion of South Carolina,” according to The New York Times. Bobby Harrell, the Republican House Speaker in South Carolina, expressed doubt about Americans United’s motive for filing the lawsuit. “I think this has less to do with the First Amendment and more to do with their disdain for religion generally,” Harrell told Associated Press.

Report: Adults supply teens with alcohol. Of the nation’s estimated 10.8 million underage drinkers, more than 40 percent said they obtained free alcohol from an adult during the past month, according to a federal survey. One in four underage drinkers said they obtained alcohol from an unrelated adult, while one in 16 got it from a parent or guardian and one in 12 got it from a family member, according to the survey, “Underage Alcohol Use: Findings From the 2002-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health.” The report said underage drinking is responsible for more than 5,000 deaths of people under 21 each year in the United States.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Neighborhood dinner ministry of Eaton Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro. The ministry, coordinated by Joann Clary, provides dinner on Monday evenings in the church's fellowship hall for the hungry in the community. As a result, Eaton Memorial has new people in the congregation and has witnessed a stronger connection with the community. Pray that those who come for bread will also find the "bread of life." Pray that the church will open its arms to the needy and live out the gospel before its community.

Charles Blair, Kentucky coordinator for Mississippi River Ministry. Mississippi River Ministry is a seven-state consortium of state conventions that work together to evangelize, start new works, develop and strengthen ministries, and mobilize volunteers to serve in the region. Pray that God will do a mighty work through those who will serve in the regions along the Mississippi River this summer. Pray for Charles Blair as he ministers and provides leadership to the many partners of this ministry.

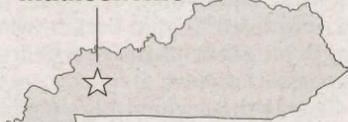
If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org or call (866) 489-3530.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Madisonville



Grapevine Church recently honored **H. Ralph Gill** for his 60 years in ministry.

■ **BEAVER DAM**—Beaver Dam Church recently called **Bill Bryan** as pastor.
 ■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Warren Association recently called **Jeff Crabtree** as director of missions. He previously was associate pastor at Central Church in Corbin.
 ■ **CALIFORNIA**—First Twelve Mile Church recently called **Terry Wilder** as pastor.
 ■ **CORBIN**—Immanuel Church recently called **Allan Bonnell** as pastor.
 ■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church recently called **Dave Levee** as student minister. He previously was youth and recreation minister at First Church of Hodgenville.
 ■ **EUBANK**—Oak Grove Church #2 recently honored **Glenn Faw** for 50 years of service as deacon.
 ■ **KEVIL**—Providence Church will hold a homecoming service July 20, followed by revival services July 21-23 with **Mike Newberry** as evangelist. **Marion Cornett** is pastor.

■ **LEBANON JUNCTION**—Mount Carmel Church recently called **Matthew Johnson** as pastor.
 ■ **LEXINGTON**—**Joseph Tackett**, a longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor, died June 29. He was 89. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Tackett served as pastor of Greenup Fork Church in Owenton, Sand Run Church in Hebron, First Church of Walton and Grace Church in Lex-



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

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.

28-29 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

ington. He is survived by his wife, Emma, three children, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

■ **PARIS**—First Church recently called **Gary Elcessor** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Highland Church in Shelbyville.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church ordained **Danny Blanton** to the gospel ministry June 22. **Jerry Workman** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—**Vic Hill** recently resigned as pastor of Highland Church.

■ **RICHMOND**—Eastside Church will host a simulcast of Living Proof Live, featuring speaker and author **Beth Moore**, Aug. 1-2. For more information, call (859) 624-9646.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Wolf Creek Church recently ordained **Shane Gibson** to the gospel ministry. **John Justice** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

FOR SALE: Adult tricycle (3-wheeler, like new); patio set; office desk and chair. (502) 253-9817.

FOR SALE: Covermaster gym floor protective covering system. \$1,200 or best offer. Westport Road Baptist, (502) 425-2350.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Smithsboro Baptist Church, Sassafras (near Hazard). Send resumé and other material to Dr. Ken Slone, PO Box 70, Mallie, KY 41836.

SEEKING: Part-time music/worship leader. Seeking individual to join the ministry team at Williamstown Baptist Church, a community of faith that centers on worship, faith and love. Responsibilities include directing praise team/choir and leading worship in multiple services. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resumé to Darrell Morgan, 214 N Main St., Williamstown, KY 41097; or to Darrell@williams-townbaptist.com. Resumés accepted through Aug. 8, 2008.

SEEKING: Part-time director of music for First Baptist Church, Danville, Ky. This position is responsible for planning, conducting and overseeing a comprehensive program of music for the church. A bachelor's degree is required with 3-5 years experience preferred. First Baptist Church, Danville, has a new facility located in beautiful central Kentucky. We are seeking a God-called individual who loves music ministry, is a self-starter, mature in spirit, a team player and able to plan and lead. Please send resumés to Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 1570 North Danville Bypass, Danville, KY 40422; or e-mail to colleen@fbcdanville.org.

SEEKING: Associate pastor for worship and music for First Baptist Church, Asheboro, N.C. Requirements: minimum of bachelor's degree in music; seminary a plus; 3-5 years experience. For more details, check the church Web site at www.fbcasheboro.com. Submit resumé to: First Baptist Church, 133 N Church St., Asheboro, NC 27203, Attn: R.M. Stratton, chairman of Music Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time children's minister for Erlanger Baptist Church. We are seeking an individual with a strong calling to children's ministry and a calling to serve in the rapidly growing area of northern Kentucky. Qualifications include a calling to children's ministry and a demonstrated ability to minister to and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with children. The children's minister also will be responsible for recruiting, training and leading volunteers and managing the children's ministry budget. Erlanger Baptist Church is a dynamic and growing church. Our attendance averages over 500 a week and we've celebrated over 20 baptisms in 2008. Our children's ministry attendance averages 80 weekly. Please send resumés (before 8-31-08) to: Personnel Committee chairperson, Erlanger Baptist Church, 116 Commonwealth Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018.

SEEKING: Minister of intergenerational education. Main Street Church in Alexandria, Ky. (Cincinnati metro), is seeking a strategic leader to direct our church in ministering to families with children. The candidate will seek to build bridges between our adult and children's educational areas with additional responsibilities in teacher training, curriculum review, parenting courses and communication. Main Street is a progressive, contemporary church with a missional philosophy averaging about 500 in worship. Interested individuals can view the service description at www.sievechurch.org/staff.htm. Resumés may be sent to Main Street Baptist Church, 11093 Alexandria Pike, Alexandria, KY 41001.

SEEKING: Experienced, full-time administrative assistant competent in MS Word and Publisher. Please send resumé to Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220; or e-mail to dianehein7@aol.com.

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

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

SEEKING: 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.

SEEKING: Music assistant (requires 25-30 hours per week). First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., is seeking a gifted musician who shares a passion for worship and leading others to do the same. We are interested in talents related to our contemporary worship format which include overseeing the worship band, vocal team and media/technical staff. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 904, Owensboro, KY 42302; or by e-mail to myoung@fbcowb.org.

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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.

Four to three

Chart-topping vocalists 'Point of Grace' making transition from quartet to trio

By Erin Roach
Baptist Press

Nashville, Tenn. (BP)—Heather Payne, one of the founding members of the Christian singing group Point of Grace, has announced her departure from the group in order to focus on her family and serving through her home church, Ninth & O Baptist in Louisville.

In a statement posted on the group's Web site, pointofgrace.net, Payne said the growing demands of raising four small children and touring finally became too much to handle.

"I have given it my all and in the process I have realized that I can't do it all," she wrote. "As much as I have tried to be super-wife, super-mommy and super-singer, my efforts came up empty. I now know that I haven't been excellent at any of it. The girls have sacrificed and I have sacrificed, but mostly my family has sacrificed, and to continue like this is not God's will."

Payne's husband, Brian, is an assistant professor of expository preaching and pastoral leadership at Boyce Bible College in Louisville.

Payne, along with Denise Jones, Shelley Breen and Terry Jones, founded Point of Grace 17 years ago at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. Terry Jones left the group in 2003 to raise her three children, and Leigh Cappillino joined in 2004.

After the birth of her first child, Ella, who is almost 6, Payne said she memorized Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and realized the mandate believers have to train their children in the Lord. As she prayed about what to do in regard to raising four children and continuing her singing career, Payne said the passage kept coming to mind.



MAKING A CHANGE Heather Payne, an original member of Point of Grace, has departed from the Christian singing group to focus on her family and local church involvement. She and her husband, Brian, are members of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Every time I got to the part about teaching our children 'diligently' and at all times, I started feeling uncomfortable," she wrote in her Web site post last month. "I haven't been diligently teaching my children, I have been getting by."

"I am incredibly blessed with a husband that has supported my ministry," Payne continued in her post. "Now, my role is to support him in his ministry. I will also be able to be actively involved in our home church."

Leaving Point of Grace, Payne said, was a "very difficult decision," but she promised she will cheer the trio on in their future endeavors. "I support them 110 percent in all that they do and wish them only blessings."

Jones, Breen and Cappillino, meanwhile, wrote in a post on the Web site that over the years they have developed a unique bond with Payne.

"Something special has happened in our relationships with one another, something that cannot be fabricated, something that can only happen over many years of walking



STILL SINGING (From left) Denise Jones, Leigh Cappillino and Shelley Breen are continuing the nearly 20-year music ministry of Point of Grace as a trio. Their next release is expected in September.

the same road together," the women wrote.

It was following "much prayer and consideration" that the remaining members of the group decided "not 'replace' Heather," the post continued. "Some would say that no one is irreplaceable, but we would have to respectfully disagree. Our precious sister Heather, in our opinion, is indeed irreplaceable. We are excited to continue with our ministry for as long as God allows, and it will be as a trio."

The women reported they are currently recording songs for an ex-

panded version of their most recent project, "How You Live," originally released last fall. Payne sang lead vocals on the title track, which she said was a reminder to enjoy the blessings God has given.

"We live in such a fast-paced world that we put things off," Payne said at the time. "We will not use the 'guest dishes' because we want to save them for a time when it's appropriate. When you wish time away, you don't get that back. 'How You Live' is about making every moment count. It encourages us to take advantage of every single moment."

"We live in such a fast-paced world that we put things off. We will not use the 'guest dishes' because we want to save them for a time when it's appropriate. When you wish time away, you don't get that back."

Heather Payne, a founding member of Point of Grace

Payne makes final performance where 'Point of Grace' began

By Trennis Henderson
Ouachita Baptist University

El Dorado, Ark. (BP)—Since the release of their self-titled debut album 15 years ago, Point of Grace has been one of the most successful groups in contemporary Christian music.

Organized during their college years at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., the female vocal group has gone on to earn eight Dove awards as well as a record 24 consecutive No. 1 hits, a feat unmatched by any other recording artist in any genre.

In addition to recording such hits as "The Great Divide," "Jesus Will Still Be There" and "Circle of Friends," the group expanded its ministry influence by establishing "Girls of Grace" conferences several years ago. Designed to help educate and encourage middle school and high school girls on such topics as sex, dating, fashion and Christian faith, the effort has attracted more than 100,000 young women in the past five years.

During a return trip to Arkansas as part of their current "All the World Tour," Ouachita alums Shelley Breen, Denise Jones and Heath-



GAL PALS The original members of Point of Grace, all students at Ouachita Baptist University: (from left) Heather Payne, Denise Jones, Terry Jones and Shelley Breen. Terry Jones left the group in 2003 to spend more time with her children.

er Payne took part in a meet-and-greet reception hosted by Ouachita's alumni and admissions offices. They were joined by Leigh Cappillino, a graduate of Anderson (S.C.) College and Charleston (S.C.) Southern University who joined the group in 2004.

The reception was held prior to a sold-out concert performance in El Dorado's Municipal Auditorium.

The Ouachita alum reflected on their start and the years of ministry together. "I can't tell you how many people all over the country

we have correctly taught how to pronounce Ouachita (Wash'-uh-taw)," Jones said.

Looking back on their college years, it would have been hard to imagine what was ahead.

"I don't think we could ever imagine the journey we were beginning at that point," Breen said. "We really always try to take it one day at a time, one step at a time, and we're grateful that we're still here and somebody cares."

"Many people don't enjoy as long of a career in Christian music—or in any kind of music for that matter—as we have," she added.

Citing examples of the positive impact of Christian music in individuals' lives, Breen said, "I am just grateful to be a part of the bigger team that helps us be able to do what we do."

And the group's circle of friends is continuing to grow. "How You Live," the title song of their latest CD, has gained airtime on secular country radio stations, spreading the group's musical message of faith to a new listening audience.

Cappillino noted that producer Brown Bannister added tradition-

al country instruments such as the banjo, fiddle, mandolin and steel guitar to several of the CD tracks.

"It kind of began to construct itself with this real country kind of feel," she said. "We're all about it because we're as Southern as you come."

Cappillino said the songs on the album "How You Live" are very personal for the group. "I made some really bad choices and those choices left me with a consequence that really haunted me for a long time," she said of her college years.

After sharing those struggles with songwriters Nichole Norde-man and Clint Lagerberg, Cappillino said the song "Heal the Wound" was written.

With lyrics that declare, "Heal the wound but leave a scar, a reminder of how merciful You are," Cappillino noted, "It's a little bit of my story."

"The process on this last record really took a lot longer than maybe most Point of Grace records because we just searched and searched so long for the right songs," she said.

And the result? "The whole record, we're really, really proud of."

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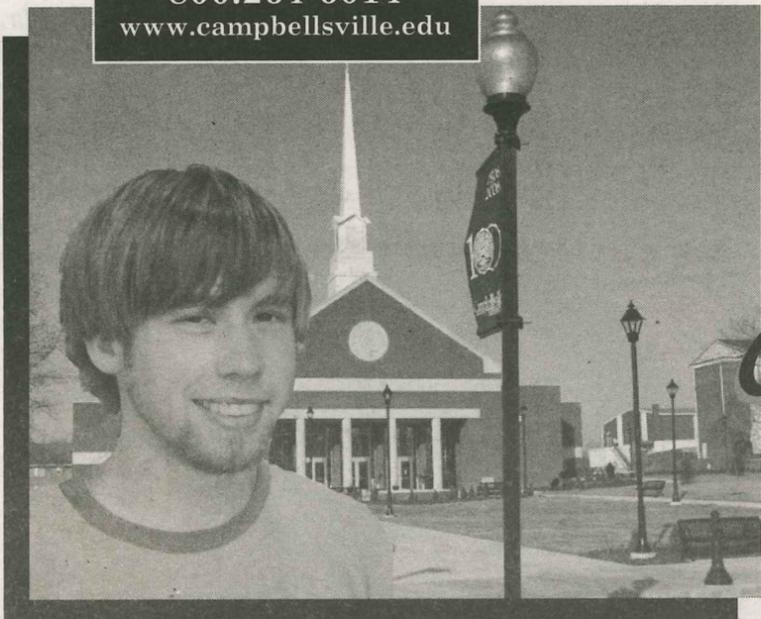
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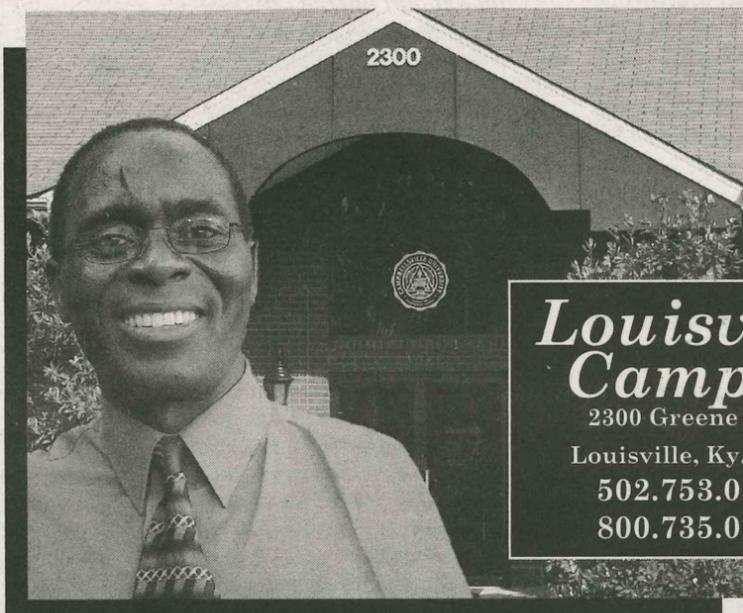
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Trent Elliot Creason, 2008 graduate,
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