

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

**Baptists**  
Alleged New Orleans housing scandal not tied to Southern Baptist rebuilding efforts. *Page 2.*

**Kentucky**  
Cut-off date could pose problem for year-end Cooperative Program totals. *Page 3.*

**Financial Forum**  
Faith in Christ is displayed through tithes and offerings. *Page 4.*

**Guest editorial**  
Kentucky Baptist institutions cut a wide swath across the state. *Page 5.*

**Kentucky**  
Groups appeal state funding of Kentucky Baptist children's agency. *Page 6.*

**World**  
China increases pressure on Christians as Olympics draw near. *Page 8.*

**Nation**  
Saddleback church to host Obama and McCain in candidates' first joint appearance. *Page 9.*

## Oldest known copy of New Testament to hit Internet soon

London (RNS)—Codex Sinaiticus, thought to be one of the world's oldest Bibles, is going online soon in a project led by the British Library to reconnect all its 1,600-year-old parts that are spread across Europe and Egypt's Sinai desert.

A preview of the manuscript, which dates from the 4th century and includes what is believed to be the oldest surviving copy of the New Testament, were made available for free July 24 at [www.Codex-Sinaiticus.net](http://www.Codex-Sinaiticus.net).

The codex is a "unique treasure" that "only a few people have ever had the opportunity to see more than a couple of pages," said Scot McKendrick, the British Library's head of Western manuscripts.

Until now, anyone fortunate enough to get a first-hand peek at the ancient book would have to approach the British Library "on bended knee," Oxford University scholar Christopher Tuckett said. "To have it available just at the click of a button is fantastic."

The project is aimed at bringing together in digital form all the pages of the Codex Sinaiticus that are presently kept in Leipzig, Germany; St. Petersburg, Russia; St. Catherine's Monastery in Egypt's Sinai; and the 347 vellum pages that the British Library bought from Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in 1933.

Leipzig library curator Ulrich Johannes Schneider told France's AFP news agency that the initial preview would include more than 100 pages, 67 of them from the British collection and including the Codex's complete Book of Psalms and parts of the Gospel of Mark. By next July, existing pages in handwritten Greek, and more than 40 fragments, are expected to be online.

## Exploring medical missions



Bonnie Eaton, a member of First Baptist Church of El Paso, Texas, picks up an information packet during the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Global Medical Alliance Conference July 15-20, attended by more than 200 medical missionaries, staff and Baptist partners. (IMB photo)

## Medical workers prepare for overseas missions at IMB gathering

By Shawn Hendricks  
SBC International Mission Board

Rockville, Va. (BP)—Cheryl Simonson and her volunteer missions team were only halfway through their weeklong trip to the mountains of Peru when they ran out of medical supplies. Fortunately, a Baptist missionary was there to help track down a pharmacy with the needed medications.

Before the week was over, the team from Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., treated 580 people. One of them was a 93-

year-old woman with Parkinson's disease who gave her life to Christ.

Simonson credited the 2007 Global Medical Alliance Conference with helping make her church's first overseas medical mission trip happen—even if she did underestimate the amount of supplies the team needed.

"Last year, I came not knowing really anything except that our church wanted to do medical missions," Simonson said, recalling the many questions that ran through her mind.

"How do you get a team together?"

"What kind of training do you do?"

"What kind of equipment do you need?"

Simonson returned this summer with her daughter Rachael to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's second annual Global Medical Alliance Conference, July 15-20 in Rockville, Va. They were just two of nearly 200 Southern Baptist medical profes-

□ See Medical workers ... Page 2

## Western Kentucky church's ministry helping broken families heal

By Keith Todd  
State Correspondent

Marion—When Marylyn Belt went back to school to work on a Master's degree in social work, she looked for a project that would help her improve her real-world skills. What she did not realize is that she was headed into a unique ministry that became Arms Around Families, now a Tuesday night fixture at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion.

"I knew I needed to do a parenting class," Belt recalled. "I just saw there was a need in Crittenden County and knew it was something I needed to do."

In July of 2005, she called Pastor Rob Ison and shared what was on her heart. While developing plans for the parenting class, the two realized they needed to do more. Some of the parents had drug and alcohol issues, as well as children who had

been exposed to those behaviors.

"Part of God's genius in all of this is that Arms Around Families is taking a holistic approach," Ison explained. "If those parents are court ordered to attend, they're going to ask, 'Well what do I do with my kids?' ... If you address the parenting issues without taking on those other problems you're going to send them right back out to fail."

Belt and Ison chose the Parenting Wisely system as the basis of the parenting class and developed the Everybody Cares program for children. Combined with Celebrate Recovery, the three-pronged Tuesday night ministry became Arms Around Families.

"Parenting Wisely is a 16-week program. We have components that deal with alcohol abuse, substance abuse, child abuse and discipline," Belt noted. "We have professionals

from the community who come in to talk about specific topics such as immunization, ... child safety, those kind of things."

The parents are assigned homework and participate in interactive open discussions.

"They are very open to share some of the inappropriate things that may have gone on in their lives," Belt explained. "We help redirect them into positive behavior."

The parents come from a variety of backgrounds.

Some parents "are ordered (to attend) by Children and Family Services, drug court, family court, district court. Some are here because their attorney advised them to take the class because of a custody issue," Belt pointed out.

Meanwhile, volunteers with the Everybody Cares program spend time teaching children basic life

skills.

"Things like how to say no appropriately, how to call 911, how to avoid being a bully and how to deal with a bully," Belt said. "Parents work different schedules, so kids often eat in front of the TV. We teach them to sit at a table and eat a meal, and to have prayer before meals. These little things can make a big difference over a period of several months."

Both Belt and Ison said they are amazed at the number of people from the community who have been drawn to the effort and now contribute to Arms Around Families as leaders and teachers. In addition, the program has given social workers, domestic counselors and even the judicial system an added resource.

"For instance, the courts can't order anyone to attend a parenting class at Emanuel Baptist Church. □ See Family ministry growing ... Page 3

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, July 30.

## Alleged New Orleans scandal not tied to Baptist efforts

By Mike Ebert  
SBC North American Mission Board

**New Orleans (BP)**—In a city too often known for scandal and financial wrongdoing, Southern Baptists want to be sure no one confuses their ongoing Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Hope) Rebuild ministry with a city-affiliated agency that has been accused of misappropriating housing funds.

The city agency—New Orleans Affordable Homeownership—also is known as “NOAH.” The agency’s stated purpose is to help elderly and low-income homeowners rebuild houses that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent levee breaches. But a report that aired July 21 by WWL-TV in New Orleans

alleged that a large number of jobs the agency claims were completed were never even started.

Southern Baptists working with the Operation NOAH Rebuild ministry are speaking up to distinguish their NOAH from the city’s.

“We have worked hard and we have a great reputation in the community,” said David Maxwell, Operation NOAH Rebuild coordinator. “I would hate for any of the homeowners we helped to hear the news accounts and think they were about us.”

Maxwell was quick to point out that the Southern Baptist Operation NOAH Rebuild has not accepted any city funding. Additionally, volunteers pay their own way to New Or-

leans and cover their food and lodging costs. All labor is provided to homeowners free of charge.

Maxwell said the alleged scandal “breaks my heart because I know the need that still exists here.”

“My wife and I came here two years ago because we wanted to help the people of New Orleans,” he recalled. “I have met so many who have lost \$40,000 or \$60,000 or even \$80,000 to fraudulent contractors. This scandal is just one more in a series people have had to endure.”

Since early 2006, more than 22,000 Southern Baptist volunteers have helped 1,350 families move back into their homes. This includes gutting 616 homes and completely rebuilding 144 homes. Southern

Baptists currently are rebuilding more than 200 homes in the city.

Maxwell noted the ministry has been blessed with 500 volunteers a day on site for most of the summer, but now that the summer months are waning, volunteer numbers are dropping off.

“We need more volunteers,” Maxwell said. “Especially those who are skilled electricians, plumbers and sheetrock finishers. We also need teams who can come down with their own team leaders because we are not able to provide daylong oversight at each of the construction sites.”

Those who wish to volunteer with Operation NOAH can find out more at [www.namb.net/NOAH](http://www.namb.net/NOAH).

## Medical workers explore need for overseas missions support

Continued from page 1

sionals, missionaries and other partners who attended the event meant to inspire, educate and mobilize more individuals to pursue overseas medical missions.

“They had a lot of nuts and bolts workshops,” Simonson noted, adding that the conference went beyond simply logistics and medical clinics. “It’s not just about handing out pills and doing that type of work,” she emphasized. “It’s about reaching the lost with the gospel.”

Inspiration for that came during time to network with medical professionals and hear stories about medical missions impacting lives for Christ.

Tom Kent, a missionary for 34 years, shared how working with mobile medical clinics, which sometimes involves navigating rough roads into remote villages, has led many to the Lord in Paraguay. In June, a volunteer team from the United States treated more than 2,000 patients—350 of whom also embraced the opportunity to follow Jesus Christ.

Years ago during one of Kent’s first mobile clinics, he recalled one man saying, “You know, all my life I’ve heard about God’s love, but this is the first time we’ve seen it in action.”

Attendees learned that medical mission trips are not just for professionals. Hospice care, free reading glasses and simple counseling are just a few examples of services that do not require much medical skill.

Those who attended the event received the newly published book, “Preach and Heal: A Biblical Model for Missions,” by Charles Fielding, a medical professional overseas. In the book, Fielding discussed how Jesus taught His disciples to meet both physical and spiritual needs wherever they went and suggested that Christians today are not exempt from following His lead.

“Ordinarily we think, ‘Well if I’m a doctor, I’m going to be a doctor. If I’m a preacher, I’m going to preach,’” said Brandon Cochran, an IMB regional health strategy consultant for North Africa and the Middle East.

“We’ve got to throw this out the window,” he said. “Doctors have got to preach. Preachers have got to heal. Every disciple of Jesus has to preach and heal. No one is exempt from this command.”

Sometimes just showing up can have a positive impact on a person in need, noted Rebekah Naylor, who has served with the IMB as a medical missionary in India for 35 years. Her ministry is profiled in a new book, “Rebekah Ann Naylor, M.D.: Missionary Surgeon in Changing Times.”

“It is very possible to communicate caring and compassion to people just by presence and by touch even when you cannot speak the language—your very presence shows care,” Naylor acknowledged. “We can utilize anyone who feels God leading them into short-term partnership.”

In a world full of political instability, natural disasters and economic uncertainty, even more people are needed to fill these opportunities, according to IMB President Jerry Rankin.

“You know why medical ministries are such a high priority?” he asked. “Medical workers (are) immersed with the people and their needs.”

Medical missions are “an opportunity to show and demonstrate the compassion and love of Christ,” Rankin added.

\*Name changes for security reasons

## Baylor regents board removes Lilley as president

**Grapevine, Texas (ABP)**—Baylor University President John Lilley has been fired for failing to “bring the Baylor family together,” reported Howard Batson, chairman of the university’s board of regents.

Regents voted to remove Lilley from office, effective immediately, during their summer meeting July 24.

Batson cited Lilley’s inability to unite Baylor’s various constituencies several times in interviews shortly after the regents’ vote.

Lilley became Baylor’s president in January 2006, at a time when Baylor’s constituency had been divided over the administration of the previous president, Robert Sloan. Also controversial was Baylor 2012, a decade-long strategy for growing the world’s largest Baptist university and increasing its influence.

For two and half years, Lilley worked to strengthen Baylor but could not foster unity, Batson noted.

“The board really thinks Baylor needs a new president who can bring together and unify the various constituencies of the university,” he

emphasized. “We felt like Dr. Lilley came at a very difficult time in the history of Baylor, and we acknowledge that. We do appreciate his service a great deal.”

Lilley could have stayed longer—possibly until his contract ends in 2010—if he had agreed to participate in a transitional process, Batson indicated.

Under terms of the proposed transition, Batson would have been authorized to appoint a presidential search committee “sometime before the end of 2008,” he said. Lilley would have remained in office until his successor was selected.

“He didn’t want to work under those conditions,” Batson added. “The board felt it could have worked very well, but he did not and we respect his reasons.”

In an e-mailed statement, Lilley expressed his disagreement with the regents’ decision.

“Two and a half years ago, I was invited unanimously by the board of regents to come to Baylor,” Lilley stated. “I did not come to Baylor to advance my career. (Wife) Gerrie and

I were reluctant, but finally were persuaded to come because of the unanimous vote and the promised prayers of the regents.

“We felt that we could help to heal the wounded hearts left in the wake of the conflict that preceded us,” the statement continued. “Despite the board’s unanimous vote, it became clear immediately that the Baylor board of regents reflected some of the deepest divisions in the Baylor family.”

“I deeply regret the action of the board and I do not believe that it reflects the best interests of Baylor University.”

The regents selected one of their own, Harold Cunningham, as acting president with “full authority” to lead until an interim president is chosen, according to Batson.

Cunningham is immediate past chairman of the Baylor regents and served as a Baylor vice president twice—for special projects and for finance and administration.

Once an interim is chosen, the regents will then begin a search for the next president.

## Campers escape injury as storms slam S.C. campus

**Tigerville, S.C. (BP)**—About 900 teenagers and camp staff narrowly escaped injury July 21 when severe storms struck the campus of North Greenville University in Tigerville, S.C.

The students, who were attending Centrifuge and M-fuge camps, were finishing a worship service and about to move to Bible study classes in NGU’s Donnan Administration Building when the storm hit, according to the university’s Web site. Half of the building’s roof was torn off and debris landed on the Neves Academic Building a few yards away, causing a quarter of that roof to collapse.

Damage to the campus was estimated at \$500,000 to \$1 million, but North Greenville President James Epting was more focused on the safety of the campers.

“This is nothing when you think about lives,” Epting told the Greenville News. “To know you had that many people on campus and not one was hurt—it was a miracle in Tigerville.”

While a tornado was not reported, storms like the one that struck the campus may pack winds in ex-



**CLOSE CALL** Part of the roof of North Greenville University’s Donnan Administration Building landed atop the Neves Academic Building during a July 21 storm that hit the South Carolina campus. Nearly 900 teenagers staying at the school were uninjured. (BP photo courtesy of North Greenville University)

cess of 60 mph, a National Weather Service meteorologist told the newspaper.

Damage to the administration building was minimal because an original flat roof underneath the existing roof remained intact, the school reported on its Web site. A portion of the building that housed the school’s main computer serv-

er was damaged by water. The area damaged in the academic building includes the registrar’s office.

“Buildings can be replaced but lives can’t,” Epting said. “We are very blessed that no one was injured.”

The teenagers were expected to finish out their week of camp and fall classes will begin at NGU as scheduled on Aug. 20.

## Cut-off date could pose problem for year-end CP totals

Louisville—Churches intending for their Aug. 31 Cooperative Program gifts to be counted for the 2007-2008 fiscal year will need to make special arrangements to ensure their gifts are received by the Sept. 2 deadline, according to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

Mackey said that because the last Sunday in August is the last day of the month, churches need to have their receipts post-marked prior to August 31, and those gifts need to be received by the Kentucky Baptist Convention by Sept. 2 in order to be counted in a church's 2007-2008 giving totals.

"It's important that we receive all August CP gifts by Sept. 2 so we can accurately report what each church contributed to the Cooperative Program in this fiscal year," Mackey noted.

Gifts received after Sept. 2 will be counted toward the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget totals. The fiscal year runs September through August each year.

According to Mackey, August CP receipts need to be post-marked by the last business day in August every year and received by the first business day in September. Since Labor Day falls this year on Sept. 1, the deadline for receipts to be received by the KBC is Sept. 2.

"This is important not only for church reporting, but also for the ministries that depend on funds budgeted for the current fiscal year. If we don't meet budget, funding for these ministries would be cut back," Mackey acknowledged. "We're needing good receipts in August in order to meet budget or to at least come close to it."

With just two months left in the fiscal year, Cooperative Program giving totals through June are 2.4 percent behind budget, according to Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader.

He said June CP receipts totaled \$1,824,716. So far this fiscal year, churches have given more than \$19.5 million through CP, which leaves total receipts \$476,923 (2.4 percent) behind budget.

"I believe our churches realize we are investing in bold and exciting ministries through the Cooperative Program and I am hopeful that we can overcome the deficit together to fully support these ministries," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources.

Ashby noted that nearly \$4.5 million is needed throughout the remainder of the fiscal year in order to meet budgeted projections. For that to be achieved, more than \$2.2 million would need to be received in both July and August.

## Family ministry growing at Marion church

Continued from page 1

But, the courts can order parents to attend a class without specifying where," Ison noted. "Since we happen to have the only parenting class in the area, they show up here."

Some parents have driven more than an hour to attend Arms Around Families meetings. The program also has received inquiries from all of the surrounding counties.

"We have provided a resource not just in our community, but to communities within a 60-mile radius," Ison emphasized.

Meanwhile, Belt said she believed adding Celebrate Recovery as a substance abuse healing program was too much. She later realized it would add an important element to the program.

"When you go to (Alcoholics Anonymous) or (Narcotics Anonymous), they only talk about a higher power," Belt observed. "Celebrate Recovery involves a faith element. It includes prayer and a worship service. Often, we have people that tell us this is the first time they've heard the gospel when they were sober so it could mean something to them."

### Tough issues

While churches have yet to adopt the Arms Around Families approach to helping families, Belt said she has received several requests for information. She added, though, the program is not for the faint of heart.

"We had a church that wanted to do this in an upper-middle class neighborhood as parenting enrichment to fit their community. But, I told them they need to have a plan, because God will use that program to bring in people they don't expect," Belt recalled. "You need a plan for what you're going to do when a kid comes in with head lice because his or her parents have only been requiring the children to take a bath once a week. What will you do?"

Ison said the program has faced even more serious issues.

"We had a parent who showed up to tell us the spouse had threatened to steal the baby as part of a custody dispute," Ison explained. "Do you wilt, or do you put plans in place to deal with it? We locked all the doors except one ... and we had everyone come in and out that door and put our child care people on alert to assure that nothing happened."

## Campbellsville Univ. student dies in car accident

Campbellsville—Jonathan Bruckert, a senior at Campbellsville University, died in a car accident July 19 in Taylor County. He was 23.

Bruckert was travelling to Louisville to visit family when the accident happened. His parents, Greg and Shelly Bruckert, are missionaries to Indonesia and are on furlough visiting relatives in Louisville.

According to those who knew him, Bruckert was actively involved in missions work and ministry at Campbellsville University.

Ed Pavy, director of campus ministries, described Bruckert as "likeable and friendly and made friends across the board." Pavy also said



**OPEN ARMS** Coordinator Marilyn Belt leads an adult discussion group during an Arms Around Families Tuesday night meeting at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion. The ministry attracts as many as 120 participants to the weekly gatherings.

Despite the dangers, the Arms Around Families effort has produced its fair share of surprises.

"We had a couple ... who was not properly handling their baby's bottles. It was causing health problems for the baby," Ison recalled. "Over several weeks, the parents learned about making sure the bottles were clean and the milk properly formulated. Within a short time, the baby's cheeks were filled out, it had good color and the baby was more responsive to the surroundings."

The changes in some of the adult participants have been equally remarkable, according to Belt.

"We had a lady in the parenting class who had very low self esteem," she noted. "Our volunteers began to talk to her and interact with her. ... You could see a physical and spiritual strength that had not been there before. She had just grown as a person and that translates into her being a better parent for her children because she feels better about herself."

Both Belt and Ison said they believe seeing those kinds of improvements is the best sign that God is in the program.

"We've seen a lot of people just bloom during the program," Ison indicated. "I know I've had occasions when some of the women in the program were reluctant to engage in conversations with me. I came to realize that many of the participants have been in less than ideal relationships. ... This program may be the first opportunity for some of these women to be in a non-threatening conversation or situation with a man."

He noted that only a few of the Tuesday night participants have transitioned into regular church at-

tendance. Still, he said the Tuesday night activities have become church for many.

"I think our philosophy in the '90s was to create as many inroads into the Sunday morning service to get people to church on Sunday," he observed. "What's actually happening here is that Tuesday night is becoming their church service."

### Tuesday night church

"I told a pastor friend who came to visit that it might be difficult to get some of our Tuesday participants churching," Ison added. "He grabbed my arm and said, 'Don't think that you're not churching them—you're just not Sunday morning churching them.'"

Ison acknowledged one of the toughest transitions for Arms Around Families participants is coming to the understanding that the program is not just about recovering from drugs or abuse—it is about restoring something spiritual that drugs and alcohol have taken from them.

"Most of our participants start out thinking that this is something they need to do to make life better," he said. "It's more than that. This is becoming their church. There are some things about being a traditional church member that they may never get. What I'm coming to realize is that's not bad. It has the same spiritual value to them, just as if they were here on Sunday morning."

Ison said Emmanuel Baptist Church hopes to spread the Arms Around Families concept to neighboring churches and communities. For more information, visit [www.ArmsAroundFamilies.com](http://www.ArmsAroundFamilies.com).

*"I think our philosophy in the '90s was to create as many inroads into the Sunday morning service to get people to church on Sunday. What's actually happening here is that Tuesday night is becoming their church service."*

Rob Ison, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion, which began the Arms Around Families ministry in 2005



Jonathan Bruckert

Bruckert was involved with Baptist Campus Ministry and attended weekly BCM Oasis meetings.

"He was a wonderful kid who had shown a lot of maturity over the past year as he took his spiritual life more seriously," Pavy noted.

He added that the Bruckert family was very supportive of Campbellsville University having sent three children to the school. Pavy

recalled that Greg Bruckert had spoken at the annual BCM dinner theater on campus in February and also hosted CU students on a mission trip to Indonesia.

"There is a special bond with missionary families," Pavy said. "No

matter where they are missionaries, there is that sense of kinship."

David Akers, minister of recreation at Campbellsville Baptist Church who worked with Jonathan Bruckert said the student's death sends a "strong message of evangelistic note."

"You can't control your destiny, and if people think they can get by without trauma or injuries in life, that won't happen," Akers noted. "Jon was a Christian and I pray for his family."

Funeral services were held July 22 at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville. In addition to his parents, Bruckert is survived by two sisters, Jennifer, who is a Campbellsville graduate, and Jamie, who currently is a student at the university.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Don't let a vacation bust your budget

By Howard Dayton

**Gainesville, Ga. (BP)**—A few years ago we called attention to the need for Americans to slow down a bit on the apparent obsession some of us have, thinking we need to take a better vacation this year than last. And usually, that will cost an exorbitant amount of money.

Today, things such as sticker shock at the grocery store, soaring gas prices, rising costs of flying, mortgage foreclosures and job cutbacks prompt us once again to offer some timely (perhaps we should say timeless) reminders.

Despite the fact that some travel companies say that travel is down—whether by plane, train, bus or car—for the first time in more than a decade, this time of year many of us still get that itch that we've been led to believe can only be scratched with a vacation.

We are an entertainment- and recreation-oriented nation. Of course, vacations aren't bad. In fact they're good and can be very beneficial when kept in proper perspective. However, if you're in debt you shouldn't even think about using money that rightfully belongs to creditors in order to entertain yourself.

Those of us who are Christians need to rethink and reset some of our standards and resist this tendency toward lavish overspending. Let me put it this way: Now more than ever let's begin to put some tight restraints on vacations.

Even if we were not facing the elevated prices that overwhelm us today, the problem has been that many Christian families do not save for their vacations. Instead, they charge—it's called instant gratification. And, it's no secret that the primary source of credit card debt accumulation comes from vacations and eating out. These pursuits may be enjoyable and even legitimate at times, but they can hardly be considered essentials.

Families overspend on vacations because they haven't saved enough

for a holiday and so they use their credit cards. Quite often, the previous year's debt is not paid off before vacation time comes again. And, as the debts pile up there is a greater desire to "get away from it all." Of course, that simply compounds the problem.

### COMMENTARY

Unfortunately, bills eventually will become due and the debt obligation usually far outweighs any instant gratification.

This year, the gas price situation has presented some staggering restraints to vacation plans for many people. Gas prices make it more important than in previous years to stay within budget limits and look for ways to cut expenditures.

(Oh, did I mention that you should have a family budget that manages how you will spend your income, and that it should include planning for entertainment and recreation? You do have a budget, right?)

There are cost-saving alternatives available for your family if you are willing to consider them and are serious about staying within the percentage allocation of your budget for entertainment and recreation. You may not like all of the following suggestions, but at least consider them.

- Consider camping vacations to avoid motel and restaurant expenses.

- Select vacation areas within a couple of hours driving distance.

- Look into swapping residences with a friend, relative or Christian family in another locale to provide an inexpensive getaway.

- Consider taking a vacation with another family to reduce expenses.

- Although this one can be difficult for families with school-age children, plan vacations during off-seasons if possible.

- If flying, use the least expensive late night or early morning coach fares and check fares on other than nonstop flights. You may have a favorite airline, but shop around. Ship stuff like golf clubs ahead instead of

paying high airline fees for extra luggage.

- Play family games in place of paid entertainment. This could have a two-fold benefit; you save money and you might be surprised to discover that you actually like hanging out with your family.

- Don't think that asking for a doggie bag is cheap; it's your food, you paid for it. Eat those doggie bag leftovers for lunch the next day and/or "brown bag" as often as possible.

- Consider purchasing the restaurant special of the day if it's the least expensive item.

- Look at eating at restaurants that have "early bird" dinner specials from 4 to 6 p.m., which are far less expensive than menu items after 6 p.m.

- If you absolutely must take an extended or expensive vacation, save for it now and take it when you have enough money to handle it.

- We're told that you'll improve gas mileage by 30 percent if you keep tires properly inflated, stay within the speed limit and don't accelerate or brake rapidly.

This is a pretty basic list and there are many ideas you probably could come up with to help you have an enjoyable vacation that won't bust your budget—if you're willing to take a little time to look for them.

One thing is certain: God always has an alternative to debt. Once you commit to living within the means that God has provided for you, He will open all kinds of less expensive alternatives for you and your family to have an enjoyable vacation time of rest and recreation.

God knows when we need to have a break and some enjoyable rest. And, once our attitudes are correct and our values align with His stewardship guidelines, God will often provide it from unexpected sources.

Whether you're in debt or not, try to stay within reasonable budget parameters for your vacation, and don't let your vacation bust your plan for managing your finances.

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

## Transformed Kentucky Changers

Every summer, Kentucky Changers spend a week working to transform homes of those who cannot afford the much-needed repairs. However, it is the transforming of the lives of those who are involved that continues long after the projects are complete.

"There was great improvement in the house, but the greatest improvement was in my life," one teenage participant said.

Homeowners also are greatly impacted by Kentucky Changers. A homeowner in one recent case had become bitter after being unfairly treated so many times by workers who never fixed her home. When the Kentucky Changers demonstrated love to her while repairing her home, she was overwhelmed and grateful.

The real value of Kentucky Changers is that the week of ministry to those in great need has an impact on teens and adults throughout the year, said Michelle Paschall, a 13-year veteran of Kentucky Changers and

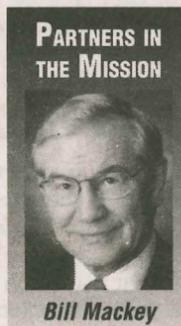
experienced crew leader.

Crew members always have an opportunity to share the gospel with homeowners, and several of them pray to receive Christ each summer. They include widows, single moms, older couples and disabled persons.

During the Friday evening celebrations following each week of Changers, most homeowners are present and crews have the opportunity to rejoice with them while viewing before and after pictures of the homes.

In Williamsburg, the preacher for the week asked those who were saved and those who had made commitments to vocational Christian service to come forward. Three young men confessed their faith in Jesus Christ and seven young men and women acknowledged their calls to vocational ministry. The audience of their peers promised to pray for them.

The celebration was made possible by a partnership that included



Bill Mackey

the Mountain Outreach ministry at University of the Cumberlands, director Mark Hensley and 12 student "runners" who made sure all crews had materials.

Churches in the area are to be commended for providing noon meals at the job sites for participants.

Commending the Kentucky Changers, Peggy Murphy, ministry assistant for the Baptist Men on Mission department, said, "You worked in the rain, sun and mud, and still completed the assignments."

During the summer, Kentucky Changers conducted projects in Monticello, Maysville and Williamsburg, with 22 professions of faith, 15 commitments to vocational Christian ministry and a total of 972 participants. More than 80 homes were repaired by Changers this summer.

Pray for all teens as they return to school soon and pray that Christian teens will remain strong in their Christian values. Missions gifts through the Cooperative Program enable ministries like Kentucky Changers to exist.

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

## CHURCH

### Faith in Christ is displayed through tithes & offerings

By Doug Strader

I recently read an article about giving trends among Evangelical Christians and the results were very disturbing. The average giving among that group of Christians through

their church was about 2.3 percent. I realize from my years of dealing with stewardship matters as related to the church that the trend has been spiraling downward. But this trend is disturbing for all Christians for several reasons.

- How much faith does it take for Christians to give at least ten percent of their income to the Lord through their church? Evidently it takes more faith than it does to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for one's salvation. But that kind of thinking is absurd because if one can trust Christ for salvation, why does one not have enough faith to trust the Lord with his or her tithes and offerings?

- Why is it so hard for Christians to obey the Lord by giving a tenth of their income? In the Bible, God asked us to try Him and see if He would not pour out more blessings than we could receive if we are faithful with our tithes and offerings.

- When one reads through the Gospels, one finds that Jesus spent much time talking and teaching about one's possessions and how His followers should use those possessions. If you just read the parables of Jesus, you will find that more than half of them contain some reference to possessions and how to use them.

- When one reads through the New Testament Epistles and Letters one will also find that the work of the early church was supported by the generosity of the people. The Apostle Paul especially wrote a great deal about giving of one's financial resources in order to do the work of the Lord.

- Giving tithes and offerings to the Lord though the church is more of a spiritual matter than a matter of one's checking account. If you sincerely trust in Jesus for salvation, it is a small step to trust Him with your finances. When you make that step of faith you will experience the blessings of God in abundance. But that does not mean that one will have more money; rather it means you will have peace of mind because you are being faithful to the Lord, not just in word but also in deed.

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



## Individuals must take inventory of rules that govern their lives

**Q: When my wife and I go out with friends or family, she acts like she is having a great time. But when we come home, she will tell me about something that was said or done that upset her. I'll ask her why she didn't just tell the person. Her response is, "I couldn't do that, that wouldn't be nice." Yet she will let herself get upset about it and I get all the anger. What am I supposed to do?**

We all have rules we follow and most of us have never acknowledged what they are. For example, one of your wife's rules is "be nice." No matter what happens or what is said to her, she believes she must follow this rule. Other rules may include: "Do not hurt someone's feelings;" "Do not cry in front of someone else;" or "Be strong, do not be weak."

Too often these rules create a lot of problems—hurt feelings, stress, even abuse. Sometimes when we question why we do certain things or respond in certain ways, we can identify the rules we follow. We must first know what rules we hold fast to before we can do anything about them. Second, we need to evaluate these rules.

- How do these rules encourage/prevent a healthy relationship or marriage?
- Are these rules biblical or cultural?
- Which of these rules came by way of your family?
- What do you believe would happen if you broke any of these rules?
- Does this rule help you grow or does it hinder your spiritual maturity?
- Does this rule have anything to do with fearing confrontation?

A good evaluation of the rules we live by can help us be clear as to the source of those rules and why we follow them so faithfully. The rules we live by must be assessed according to God's Word. Jesus was not always "nice," but He was honest and loving. Jesus did cry, but that did not make him weak. Jesus may have hurt Peter's feelings when He rebuked him, but that honesty helped Peter mature in his faith.

Know the rules you live by and check them out carefully. Some rules may be very helpful while others could be harmful.—Valerie Vincent

## Q: We have a teenager who is somewhat rebellious and quite disrespectful. Besides spanking, what is appropriate discipline?

With a teenager, let me encourage you to "spare the rod." In my opinion, while spanking may be carefully and strategically used with children, it is ineffective and even counterproductive with teens.

Remember that the goal of discipline should be to shape behavior and ultimately attitudes. Discipline should be measured so that it is appropriate to the offense. Parents should use rewards to reinforce good behavior. Catch your teen doing something right and they will want to do it again.

Rewards may be verbal. A "good job remembering to take out the garbage" may be used with a trip for ice cream to reward the sensitive and caring treatment of a sibling.

Occasionally allow your teen to see that their good behavior has merited the commuting of a disciplinary sentence. A "grounding" from a cell phone might be reduced by a day or they might receive help with an assigned task.

Being creative in the use of discipline means linking the loss of privileges to the infraction. Being late for curfew might mean losing double that amount of time the next evening. Be careful to not create long periods of discipline that will serve to discourage rather than motivate.

Remember the words of Josh McDowell and Dick Day: "Rules without relationships lead to rebellion." Spending time building relationships helps teens see discipline for what it is: The natural extension of love.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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## KBC institutions cut wide swatch across Ky.

Quilts, like old friends, are pieced together through time, attention, love and devotion. From my tenure at University of the Cumberlands, I view our institutions and agencies much like an old-fashioned quilt which brings comfort, warmth and consolation.

Like a crazy quilt pattern, our Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies serve from Pikeville to Paducah, from Williamstown to Williamsburg and literally around the world, so much so that we can say at University of the Cumberlands, "the sun never sets on the work of our alumni."

Our Baptist institutions and agencies serve the Kentucky Baptist Convention in a wide variety of ways, weaving together keen minds, warm hearts and helping hands. What's more, our institutions and agencies are carefully pieced together with love, thoughts and prayers, and made stronger with each stitch helping make the fabric of God's creations whole.

Our institutions are alike, yet they are different with different constituencies, different governing boards, different donors, different charters, different histories, different alumni bodies, different pools of students reaching out and serving largely different geographical areas.

Yet, like the patchwork quilt, we so often take what may have been tattered, torn or discarded and help make life whole in competence and in commitment. Together we are stitching and piecing together something beautiful for the cause of Jesus Christ, especially at this time as we watch the unraveling of the moral fabric in so many ways.

Today, alumni from our institutions and agencies serve as dedicated deacons, consecrated Sunday school teachers, ministers, missionaries, choir members, vacation Bible school teachers, denominational servants and as committed laity. In the instance of University of the Cumberlands, recent KBC presidents who are grad-

uates of this institution include Paul Chitwood, who serves as pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington; Bill Messer; Charles Barnes; Floyd Price; and current KBC President Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington and Southern Baptist Convention first vice president. Additionally, Congressman Eugene Siler as well as his father, A.T. Siler, and son, Judge Eugene Siler Jr., have each served as KBC president.

The convention and our institutions and agencies are entwined and interwoven in the fabric called community. Likely, too little is said about the value of our institutions and agencies; too much is likely taken for granted.

I am a debtor. I realize all the taxes I will ever pay will pay for one mile on which I drive so freely. I am indebted to our convention and its work, redeeming us from the curse of the commonplace.

Indeed, we all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us as we drink from wells we did not dig, as we are warmed by fires we did not kindle, as we sit under the shade of trees we did not plant, and as we enjoy the freedom our personal efforts did not win.

When thinking of freedom which is not free, I am reminded of seven military generals who are alumni of this institution, to say nothing of the hundreds of military officers, many of whom are currently defending our freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

So, let us never take for granted our institutions or agencies, because many we will never know have dedicated their heads, hearts and hands to make our institutions and agencies possible.

Clearly, it is imperative for our Kentucky Baptist Convention to have great institutions with which to relate, to criticize, to cajole, to compliment, but most importantly, to love and call our own. That is the thread which runs so true.

James Taylor is president of University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg

### GUEST EDITORIAL



James Taylor

## Prayer, (un)answered and otherwise

By Cathleen Falsani

Chicago (RNS)—"Do your prayers get answered?"

That was the first line of an e-mail waiting for me one recent morning. It was a response from a friend who had been anxious about an impending, crucial business meeting.

I told my friend I'd be praying for him. He thanked me, but insisted he didn't want to bother the Almighty.

"How do you know your prayers get answered anyway?" he asked. "What do you think when they don't get an answer? Is no answer the answer? Doesn't it trivialize prayer to pray for, say, a parking spot in the same lineup as praying for someone who is sick?"

In a series of exchanges that followed, I explained, as I understand it, that there is nothing too big or too seemingly trivial for God to care about; that prayer is us having a conversation with our Maker and that I didn't think we could say anything that would make God stare blankly or throw up His hands and storm out of the room.

And I believe all of that.

But it got me thinking: Why do we pray?

Not long ago, I followed the story of Kim Kalicky, a nurse, mother of four and wife of a Chicago paramedic who has been battling Hodgkin's lymphoma for several years. Not long before last Christmas, the cancer came out of remission with a vengeance and Kim desperately needed a bone marrow transplant.

In May, Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago sponsored a marrow donor drive, in part with the hope of finding a match for Kim and several other women. The drive was a success—101 people turned up to give tissue samples to an international registry of more than 8 million donors.

The day after the donor drive, Kim had an appointment to see her oncologist. Her physicians had decided that radiation to reduce the size of new tumors along her spine was too risky, and were recommending an intense five-day inpatient course of continuous, intravenous chemotherapy.

Kim wasn't thrilled. But, being the irrepressibly plucky woman that she is, she resigned herself to this new twist in her long battle with cancer.

As the doctor left the examination room, a transplant coordinator was waiting in the hallway. A moment later, the doctor poked his head back in the door and said, "You have a match."

"A match. A perfect match," Kim squeaked at me over the phone, her voice cracking with emotion. "I was jumping up and down and didn't know whether to laugh or cry, so I did both."

The donor hadn't been one of the 101 kind souls who turned up for the marrow drive; it was a different match from the international registry. The timing may have been purely coincidental, but it sure felt prov-

idential to Kim and those of us who have been praying for her.

Now Kim isn't out of the woods. She weathered the five-day chemo cycle well, with fatigue and a little pain, but without any debilitating nausea.

Doctors want to get the cancer under control before attempting a transplant, and Kim may have to endure another round of chemo before she's deemed ready to go. And the donor has to undergo further examination to make sure everything's acceptable for a transplant.

A tiny woman with enormous, staggering faith, Kim is certain whatever happens next will be a blessing. While her donor wasn't at the donor drive, someone else's might have been.

"I am so blessed," she said. "God is good. All the time. Just trust God."

Would things have turned out differently if people hadn't been praying for Kim to find a donor? I have no idea. No one does. Still, we pray.

Some say it's a fool's errand, but I don't think so.

In the 1993 film, "Shadowlands," about C.S. Lewis' relationship with his late-in-life wife, Joy Gresham, who is battling cancer, there's a scene about prayer that I often ponder.

When Joy's disease goes into remission, a clergy friend tells Lewis that God is answering his prayers.

"That's not why I pray," Lewis says. "I pray because I can't help myself—the need flows out of me. It doesn't change God; it changes me."

Cathleen Falsani is a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times

## Campbellsville Univ. develops partnership with Zion Baptists

**Campbellsville**—Campbellsville University and Zion District Association of Baptists—a historically African-American Baptist group—have signed an agreement to grant academic credit for courses taught at the association's Bible Institute.

As part of the arrangement, David Sandifer, coordinator of the Center for Bivocational Christian Ministry at Campbellsville, will teach a three-hour course each semester at the Bible Institute which is housed at Jacob Grove Baptist Church in Summersville. The classes are being offered as part of Campbellsville's Certificate in Christian Ministry.

"In the eight-plus years I've been teaching, this is the most fulfilling and exciting class I've taught," Sandifer said. "The students are eager to learn and have a commitment to learn. This is a win-win situation for all concerned."

John Glover, moderator of Zion District Association and pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Hart County, pointed out that there are many individuals in rural areas of the state who can take advantage of this new program.

"God is an international God," he said. "It is great that Campbellsville University is reaching out to everyone."

"We are called to do what we can and this partnership is a part of what CU can do," noted John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president of church and external relations, adding that Zion District Association and the university have enjoyed a close working relationship during the past couple of years.

Chowning, who also serves as pastor of Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville which is part of Zion District Association, noted in his years of working with churches across the state, one of his greatest joys has been "working across racial and ethnic lines."

Zion District Association will be responsible for selecting faculty for the Bible Institute. Instructors must meet required academic standards and be approved by Campbellsville University's dean of the School of Theology, as well as the university's vice president for academic affairs.

## Groups appeal funding of Ky. Baptist agency

By Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

**Cincinnati (ABP)**—Two civil-liberties groups are asking a federal appeals court to stop state funding for a Kentucky Baptist agency, saying it uses the money to promote its religious beliefs to the detriment of employees and children.

On July 17, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union asked the Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to take another look at *Pedreira v. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Inc.*

In the suit, which a lower federal court dismissed in March, a group of Kentucky taxpayers asked that state funding for the agency (which has since changed its name to Sunrise Children's Services) be halted. Like many of the dozens of child-care agencies affiliated with state Baptist conventions, Sunrise has long contracted with Kentucky officials to house and care for children who have been taken into state custody.

According to the plaintiffs' brief to the court, the agency "uses its public funding to indoctrinate youths—who are wards of the state—in its religious views, coerce them to take part in religious activity, and convert them to its version of Christianity, and does so in part by requiring its employees to reflect its religious beliefs in their behavior."

The lead plaintiff is Alicia Pedreira, who was fired from her job

with the agency in 1998 after her employers discovered she was a lesbian.

Another plaintiff listed in the case is Paul Simmons, a former Christian ethics professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Simmons taught at the seminary for nearly 23 years before his retirement amid controversy in 1992.

An ordained Baptist minister, Simmons often has spoken out in favor of abortion and same-sex marriage. He currently is a professor of medical ethics and humanism at the University of Louisville's School of Medicine. Simmons also serves as president of the Louisville chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Attorneys for Sunrise have countered that they do not use government funds to coerce or indoctrinate the children in its care.

A spokesperson for the agency said July 22 that it did not have any response to the latest development in the case other than the same arguments asserted to the lower court.

"They have followed their judicial right to appeal, and we continue to stand our ground in terms of our policies and our service to at-risk youth and children in Kentucky," said Karen Taylor, director of communications for Sunrise. "We are unapologetically faith-based (but we do not coerce our children to be-

lieve any one certain way. They certainly are invited to go to church but don't have to go. They are invited to Bible studies but don't have to go—but they're also invited to go do fun things that every kid wants to. While we've been accused of coercion, it's just not there."

"This case illustrates the all-too-real dangers of the government funding religious organizations without adequate safeguards," Ken Chloe, an ACLU attorney said in a statement. "The Constitution's promise of religious freedom guarantees that the government won't preference one form of religion over another. Yet that's exactly what happened to Alicia Pedreira, who was fired because she didn't conform to the religious beliefs of her government-funded employer."

The plaintiffs' brief also noted a report from an independent Kentucky government contractor charged with monitoring child-care agencies. It said children under the agency's care reported being coerced to attend church services and being barred from attending other faiths' services.

The lower federal court dismissed the suit in March, citing a 2007 Supreme Court decision that limited taxpayers' ability to file suits based on the First Amendment's guarantee against government establishment of religion.

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

DISCOVER. EMBRACE. PURSUE GOD'S CALL TO A CHRISTIAN-RELATED VOCATION.



## KALEO: NORTH CAROLINA '08

Where: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Wake Forest, North Carolina

When: September 19-20, 2008

**KALEO: North Carolina '08** is a specialized conference for high school, college and seminary students exploring or pursuing God's call to a Christian-related vocation and ministry leaders responsible for nurturing their call.

KALEO events are packed with powerful speakers, innovative workshops, one-on-one time with influential ministry leaders, missionaries and more—all wrapped up in one conference experience that will give you the encouragement and tools you need to answer God's call successfully!

Begin the ministry God called you to—today!

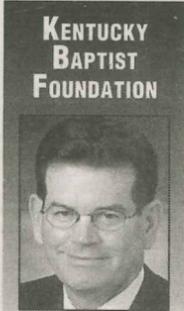
GOD CALLED. YOU ANSWERED. NOW WHAT?  
[WWW.KALEOCONFERENCE.COM](http://WWW.KALEOCONFERENCE.COM)

KALEO: North Carolina '08 is sponsored by The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, The North Carolina Baptist Convention, LifeWay, The International Mission Board, and The North American Mission Board

**Dangerous assumptions**

**Proper estate planning can prevent family arguments**

Several years ago, Les Kotzer, a wills and estates attorney, co-authored a book titled, "The Family Fight: Planning to Avoid It." He claimed his area of expertise was families fighting over inheritances. The book identified the common causes of family fights and what parents and grandparents should do to avoid such unpleasant circumstances. What I found most informative and consistent with our experiences in assisting individuals and families in estate planning was this alarm he sounded: "To avoid family fights over your estate, be careful what you assume."



Barry Allen

of your will with beneficiary designations of life insurance and retirement survivor benefits, as well as how your bank accounts and assets are titled. Too often, parents or grandparents add a child or grandchild to their bank account with "right of survivorship," not understanding that at death, that asset passes directly to the child or grandchild and not per the terms of their will.

Second, never assume your executor or attorney can locate all of your assets. Make a detailed listing and tell your executor and/or attorney where to find the list.

Third, never assume there will be goodwill among your children. This does not absolutely mean there will be no goodwill among them, but Kotzer acknowledged there could be issues that result in ill will. For example, if you have one child with debt and another without debt, do not assume one will look after the other. Such pressure could hurt the relationship between siblings and the relationships with their spouses, if married.

Call Laurie Valentine for assistance in maintaining goodwill in your family when the time comes. *Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org*

First, never assume a "home-made will" will be effective. Because of the availability of online will-making products today, there has been an explosion in home-made wills. Regardless of the size of your estate, Laurie Valentine, KBF's trust counsel, recommends you use an estate planning attorney to prepare your will and other estate planning documents. People tend to think it's easy and inexpensive to prepare a will on their computers.

However, there are serious issues that must be considered beyond just drafting a will, including coordinating the provisions

**Interstate journey**

**Sunrise helps teen escape effects of substance abuse**

Drug and alcohol abuse does not affect just the addict. Today, substance abuse and its consequences are a top reason children become "orphans." Sunrise Children's Services is thankful we can help these children settle into safe, substance-free homes.



Bill Smithwick

That is what happened with George, whose mother could not care for him properly because of substance abuse. In Ohio, the state placed George with an uncle who also had substance abuse problems, leading him to become physically and emotionally abusive. George ran away and lived on the streets for a time until coming to Kentucky, where state social workers placed him with an aunt. But he fled back to Ohio, only to begin using drugs himself to cope with his problems. Stealing money to pay for his drug habit landed him in juvenile detention. George then found out his mother died, sending him to his lowest point.

George's social workers in Kentucky intervened, deciding that our Spring Meadows Center would be a place where he could overcome his serious emotional struggles. Although he had dif-

ficulty opening up to others, he desperately wanted to please the staff and his peers. As George progressed through the program at Spring Meadows, a responsible young man emerged. He began grieving the loss of his mother. His aunt and her family did not give up on George and visited him at Spring Meadows.

George attended school daily and improved his grades. He developed strong relationships with the staff and his peers. Frequently, George found himself in the middle of a group of young men laughing together. When he successfully completed the program at Spring Meadows, George ended his long journey by going home with his aunt.

We ministered to George physically, emotionally and spiritually. Sometimes we get to see the results of our caring and investment in children and youth. Other times we trust God to bring new life through the seeds of hope we planted. Your donation individually, through a Sunday school class or the Thanksgiving offering helped George. Without your financial support, we could not help kids like George learn to make good decisions. Thank you. *Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org*

**For Heaven's Sake**

Mike Morgan



**Church of the Covered Dish**

Thom Tapp



**Bible Crosswords**

By Evelyn Boyington

**Across**

- 1 Member of Congress (abbr.)
- 4 "Behold, \_\_\_\_\_ is in thine own eye?" (2 words, Matthew 7:4)
- 9 Scheduled stopping place (abbr.)
- 12 Poetic preposition
- 13 "I will \_\_\_\_\_ thee seven years" (Genesis 29:18)
- 14 Handle roughly
- 15 "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 18:24)
- 17 Part of a book
- 19 Coop comment?
- 20 Nicholas, for one
- 21 "The children of Giddel, the children of \_\_\_\_\_" (Ezra 2:47)
- 23 "O thou \_\_\_\_\_ among women" (Song of Solomon 6:1)
- 26 Excuse me!
- 27 "Ehud the son of \_\_\_\_\_, a Benjamite" (Judges 3:15)
- 28 Preposition
- 29 Measure of Everest (abbr.)
- 30 "This is \_\_\_\_\_, which was for to come" (Matthew 11:14)
- 31 "With the \_\_\_\_\_ of an ass have I slain a thousand men" (Judges 15:16)
- 32 Continent (abbr.)
- 33 Nonsense (Brit.)
- 34 Table or pike
- 35 "He ... shall be called the son of the \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 1:32)
- 38 "The birds of the air have \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 8:20)
- 39 Towel identification
- 40 Horned mammal
- 41 Describing a taskmaster
- 43 "A man of \_\_\_\_\_" (Isaiah's description of the Messiah)

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46				47	48				49		
50				51						52	

- 46 Long, long time
- 47 "The sons of Shemidah were ... Likhi, and \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Chronicles 7:19)
- 49 Greek form of Noah
- 50 You're all \_\_\_\_\_!
- 51 House of \_\_\_\_\_
- 52 Compass pt.

- 21 Where Joshua was buried: "on the north side of the hill \_\_\_\_\_" (Judges 2:9)
- 22 "And the children of Sheshan; \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Chronicles 2:31)
- 23 Small, snappish dog
- 24 Maze instruction
- 25 Boroughs
- 27 To cover up
- 30 "He became the author of \_\_\_\_\_ salvation" (Hebrews 5:9)
- 31 "They have slain them which showed before of the coming of the \_\_\_\_\_" (2 words, Acts 7:52)

**Down**

- 1 "Will a man \_\_\_\_\_ God?" (Malachi 3:8)
- 2 Always (poet.)
- 3 "That a great \_\_\_\_\_ is risen up among us" (Luke 7:16)
- 4 One of the twelve tribes of Israel
- 5 Horn holler?
- 6 "Ye do \_\_\_\_\_, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29)
- 7 Thoroughfare (abbr.)
- 8 "We have found the \_\_\_\_\_" (John 1:41)
- 9 Steeple
- 10 More than freckled
- 11 "Stand in \_\_\_\_\_, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 16 Five make one in b'ball
- 18 Average
- 20 Stopover on the journey from Egypt to Jordan (Numbers 33:27)

- 34 Rend
- 36 Belgian city
- 37 Pronoun
- 38 Standards
- 40 Pester continuously
- 41 "A time to rend, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_" (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
- 42 What a "piggy" is
- 43 Title of respect
- 44 "A brother offended is harder to be \_\_\_\_\_ than a strong city" (Proverbs 18:19)
- 45 Understand
- 48 Favorite first word

**Last week's solution**

B	A	R	A	K	S	H	A	G	I	A	H
L	O	D	E	S	S	E	E	T	H	E	
A	H	D	E	E	P	M	E	A			
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E	N	O	S	A	T	E	D	A	R	K	
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N	O	O	N	P	A	W	D	O	E	R	
C	R	Y	C	I	T	E	S	W	E		
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## China increases pressure on Christians as Olympics near

Washington (ABP)—While China appears to be making some religious-liberty concessions on the eve of the Olympics, critics in the United States say Chinese persecution of Christians in the country is on the rise.

China is on the U.S. State Department's list of "Countries of Particular Concern" as one of the world's worst persecutors of religious freedom. American experts on religious-liberty conditions in China said that, in recent weeks, there has been a significant Chinese crackdown on many dissenting groups—including Christians in churches not officially registered with or sanctioned by the government.

That, the China-watchers noted, has resulted in many new arrests.

Daniel Burton, staff writer at the China Aid Association, said Chinese officials kicked more missionaries out of the country last year than in all of the previous 59 years of communist control. Some of the missionaries ordered to leave had been there for 20 years.

"We are seeing an increase in persecution across the board," Burton noted. "All foreigners are going to be closely watched."

Burton's group, founded in 2002, keeps track of Chinese persecution

of religious groups—particularly Christians in China's thousands of unregistered churches.

In April 2007, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security issued a general nationwide order urging strict "background checks" on those who apply to participate in the Olympic Games.

Sarah Cook, an Asia researcher for the foreign-policy group Freedom House, said China's ruling Communist Party does not want to take chances that the games will become a platform for critics of Chinese policies. The recent increase in arrests of dissenting Christians and other groups is intended to reduce that risk, she indicated.

However, China is making some concessions to Christians on the eve of the games.

Olympic Edition Bibles, printed by the state-sanctioned China Christian Council and its sister organization, the Three Self Patriotic Movement, will be "Chinese-English bilingual and contain the four Gospels with the logos of the Beijing Olympic Games both on the cover and the back," according to an e-mail from Ou Enlin, of the International Relations department of the CCC/TSPM. The two organizations represent officially registered Chinese churches.



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## Baptist Campus Ministry, high school style

### Unique BCM chapter gives Oneida students opportunities to share faith

By Clark Bunch, OBI teacher and BCM sponsor

My wife, Teresa, and I are thankful that we followed God's direction to Oneida five years ago. I also am thankful for this opportunity to share the work we do with Baptist Campus Ministry. There are many things that make Oneida Baptist Institute unique; one of them is having BCM.

BCM (previously known as Baptist Student Union) is typically for college students. It is an organization that provides an opportunity for Christian students to meet together on a regular basis for Bible study and fellowship, and to plan projects for their campuses designed to spread the gospel. Keith Inman does a great job as the state BCM director. Only two high schools in Kentucky have a BCM chapter—and one of them is OBI.

BCM gives our students a chance to meet with other students who share their faith. It also is an opportunity for new Christians who come to Christ while on our campus to learn more about their faith. We try to teach our student members about leadership, so we elect student officers and try to have as many student-led activities as possible.

We also look for opportunities to serve. Twice a year we have what we call Parents' Night Out. Our faculty and staff are invited to leave their children with us—ages infant through fifth grade—and go out for the night or enjoy a quiet evening at home. Our BCM members provide babysitting and activities for the bigger kids with adult supervision. It is a service which is very much appreciated. The credit goes to my wife for organizing it

and our students love it.

BCM has a weekly meeting that we call Celebration. Meetings begin with praise and worship music. We then have a short devotion or Bible lesson. Before dismissing, we take prayer requests from the whole group and divide into small groups for prayer. Everyone is invited to attend Celebration. We frequently have guest speakers from our own staff or the community and we study missions for a few weeks out of each year. It is not unusual to

have pizza or some other snacks for the kids to enjoy. Celebration is meant to be a time of fun and fellowship.

We provide several opportunities for Bible study each week. My wife and I lead a small group Bible study on Sunday mornings. One of our Bible teachers leads a discipleship study group every other week, and just this year one of our houseparents started a girls' dorm devotion. The purpose is to equip our students to understand the Word of God and encourage them to become lifelong students of the Scriptures.

In addition to our weekly activities, BCM travels off campus a few times each year. A nearby church hosts a youth-oriented tent revival each fall and that is typically the first event we attend each new school year. We try to go to Christian concerts and take the kids on at least one "just-for-fun" trip each year, such as roller skating or bowling. Perhaps the best trip we ever took was to see "The End of the Spear," a movie about the missionaries killed by natives in Ecuador.

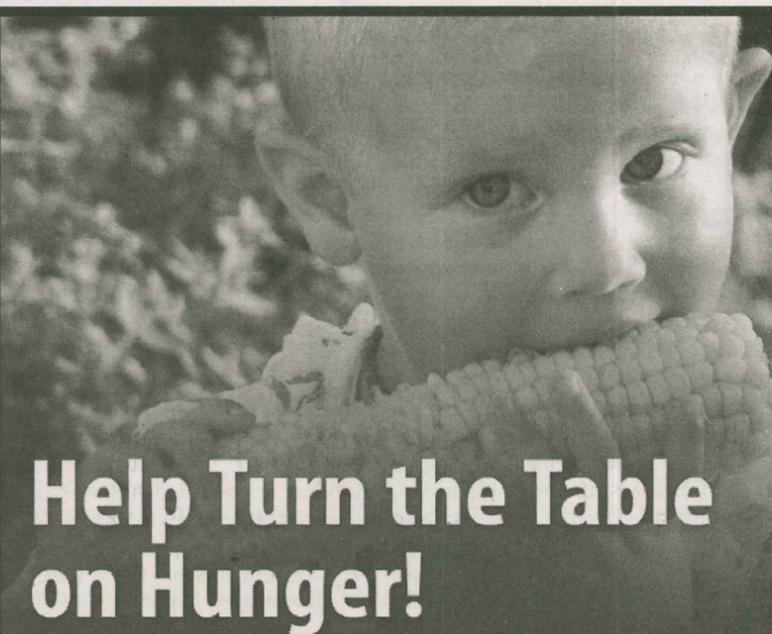
Baptist Campus Ministry is another one of those things that make OBI a special place.

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



## Help Turn the Table on Hunger!

Hunger is a very real problem not only abroad but right here in Kentucky. You can help turn the table by participating in Fast One to Feed One.

- 1) Fast one meal a month, using that meal time to pray for hunger needs.
- 2) Donate to the Southern Baptist World Hunger fund through your church the amount you would have spent.



Find out more about hunger and download free resources at [kybaptist.org/hunger](http://kybaptist.org/hunger).



Mission Service & Ministries Department  
502-489-3530 or 866-489-3530

## How firm a foundation

### Local church is making a difference in its community

I recently was given the honor of speaking at the 100th anniversary celebration of Spann Hill Baptist Church in Monticello. It was a great time of worship and fellowship with God's people—and you know we ate well too.

I was truly inspired as I listened to people tell how this church had impacted their lives. In a day where some churches are literally closing their doors because no one is coming, it is refreshing to see a church that has built such a strong foundation in the community it serves.

The celebration at Spann Hill encouraged me to remember what an impact God's church can really have on people's lives. I know we have all heard the words before: The church is not the building, the people are the church—and we would all say that is true. Oh, how easy it is, though, to get caught up in our buildings and forget what the church really is.

As I sat there that Sunday and listened to people speak about how important this church was to them because of the difference it had made in their lives, I thanked God for a church that had realized

it was more than just a building; it was a group of people who had been planted there by God to make an impact in the community.

One other aspect of the celebration that God encouraged me with was how important the church is to the pastor who leads it. One of my favorite parts of the service was listening to many of the former pastors speak about the difference Spann Hill Baptist Church had made in their lives and ministry because they had been privileged to lead the church. I was moved as I saw grown men shed tears when they talked about how important this church had been.

In the midst of these busy times when it seems we are all stretched to the max, it's very easy to get to the point where, without even realizing it, we tend to take church for granted and allow it to become just something we "do" on any given Sunday in a building. I am grateful for God's personal reminder to me about the strong impact of the local church in its community.

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

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](http://www.ccbbc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccbbc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbbc.edu)

## Saddleback to host Obama, McCain for political forum

### Meeting will mark candidates' first joint appearance

Lake Forest, Calif.—In their most direct effort yet to court people of faith, Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain will make their first joint appearance of the presidential campaign next month at Rick Warren's California megachurch.

Warren's Saddleback Civil Forum on Leadership and Compassion, co-sponsored by the non-partisan group Faith in Public Life, will focus on wider moral issues rather than policy, and give both candidates an opportunity to make their pitch to religious voters.

Warren will moderate the forum, which will focus on moral-values issues—such as poverty, the environment and global AIDS relief—in which many centrist and younger evangelicals have taken an increasing interest.

"I just got to thinking, you know what? These guys have never been together on the same stage, it would be a neat way to cap the primary season before they both go to the conventions and things go dark for a couple of weeks," he told the New York Times. "I've known both the

guys for a long time, they're both friends of mine, and I knew them before they ran for office, so I just called them up."

At the event, part of an ongoing series of forums hosted by Saddleback, the two candidates will field questions from Warren for one hour apiece.

Warren, whose "Purpose-Driven Life" books have sold more than 25 million copies, will be the sole moderator of the event, although he will solicit input from Muslim and Jewish leaders from Faith in Public Life.

In a statement released July 20, Warren said his questions will focus less on matters of policy and more on broader, personal issues.

"The primaries proved that Americans care deeply about the faith, values, character and leadership convictions of candidates as much as they do about the issues," Warren noted. "While I know both men as friends and they recognize I will be frank, but fair, they also know I will be raising questions in these four areas beyond what political reporters typically ask."

Those four areas include: poverty, HIV/AIDS, climate and human rights.

The forum will be the presumptive nominees' only joint campaign event prior to each party's national

convention, according to a press release.

Last November, Warren invited the major presidential candidates to address a Saddleback AIDS forum, but only Sen. Hillary Clinton spoke in person. Obama, McCain and other candidates sent video greetings.

Last April, the Washington-based Faith in Public Life sponsored a similar "Compassion Forum" at Messiah College in Pennsylvania, which was attended by Obama and Clinton. McCain declined an invitation to speak at the event.

A spokeswoman for the group confirmed that efforts to bring both parties' nominees together began shortly after the April forum. The idea was presented to both campaigns two weeks ago and an agreement was reached two weeks ago.

Both candidates are looking to improve their standing among evangelical voters as the campaign nears its final stretch. According to a recent survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, 12 percent of evangelicals are undecided, compared to 4 percent at this point in 2004 and 5 percent in 2000.

"This is a critical time for our nation and the American people deserve to hear both candidates speak from the heart—without interruption—in a civil and thoughtful for-

mat absent the partisan 'gotcha' questions that typically produce heat instead of light," Warren said.

However, some Religious Right groups have expressed skepticism concerning the forum. Tony Perkins, president of the Washington-based Family Research Council said he hopes Warren also will ask the candidates about issues—such as abortion and gay rights—that have been of paramount importance to conservative Christian voters in the past.

In a July 21 e-mail update sent to FRC supporters, Perkins wrote, "While the Left would have us believe that this is the faith community's new agenda, a candid discussion of traditional values issues such as life, marriage and religious freedom is what American voters need and deserve. Surely Rev. Warren won't ignore the most crucial initiative in his state (and perhaps the entire nation) as California determines the fate of marriage this November."

Perkins was referring to California, which earlier this year became the second state in the union to legalize same-sex marriage. Gay-rights opponents have gotten a proposed constitutional amendment on the state's general-election ballot that would again ban gay marriage.

Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Religion News Service



*"This is a critical time for our nation and the American people deserve to hear both candidates speak from the heart—without interruption—in a civil and thoughtful format absent the partisan 'gotcha' questions that typically produce heat instead of light."*

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

## Texas churches assess damage in the wake of Hurricane Dolly

By Jerry Pierce  
Southern Baptist Texan

Brownsville, Texas (BP)—Wind and heavy rain continued from what remained of Hurricane Dolly last week in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas while churches from the Gulf Coast westward toward McAllen, 70 miles inland, assessed damage from the storm to their buildings and communities.

Meanwhile, a disaster relief team from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention travelled to Brownsville, Texas, to assess storm damage. About 200,000 people were without electricity as of July 24, according to news reports.

Janice Young, a member and bookkeeper at Portway Baptist Church in Brownsville, spent a couple of days at the church, which sheltered about 60 people who rode out the storm there.

Brownsville is about 20 miles west of the Gulf Coast resort area of South Padre Island, which absorbed heavy damage from hurricane winds exceeding 100 mph and up to a foot of rain in places, the Associated Press reported.

"We had some damage on the steeple and water damage inside the church," Young noted. "We lost a couple of ceiling tiles and the rug was wet from the entrance to about three pews back. It's a mess around here."

The storm also damaged Young's mobile home and knocked out electricity in her neighborhood.

As of last week, the church was planning to begin distributing food to area residents through its food bank.

"I'm sure we are going to be very busy," Young acknowledged.

In McAllen, Texas, pastor Luis Canchola of Cornerstone Baptist Church said his city was not as heavily hit as Brownsville to the east, but the damage was notable.

"We meet in a plaza and there was some damage to the roof," he observed. "The landscaping around it was damaged, trees uprooted, marquee blown out all in pieces this morning. As far as the interior of the church, thank God, it's OK."

Canchola pointed out that church members placed 50-pound sandbags around the entrances to the space where the church meets to prevent water damage.

Bob Alderman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rio Grande City, Texas, said the hurricane was expected to move right over his town but instead passed to the north.

"We caught the southern edge of it. At 9:30 this morning, my rain gauge showed five and three-quarter inches of rain," he noted. "We had some winds blow branches out of trees. Some areas in town are flooded, but only the real low-lying areas. We had one shingle blow off. We feel pretty blessed."

But Alderman explained that the floodwaters to the north were expected to flow south toward the Rio Grande, potentially flooding Rio Grande City.

SBTC disaster relief director Jim Richardson said that after needs are assessed in the area, the convention's disaster relief teams likely would dispatch for cleanup and recovery ministry.

Soon "we should be able to go out and assess the neighborhoods and the city of Brownsville," noted Julian Moreno, who is heading the SBTC's assessment team.

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Dobson elected to Radio Hall of Fame.** James Dobson's 32-year "Focus on the Family Daily" radio show will become the first religious program inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame. Dobson's broadcast first went on the air in 1977. Today, the internationally syndicated radio program can be heard on more than 4,000 stations worldwide in 27 languages. Dobson is set to be inducted at the Radio Hall of Fame Awards Dinner Nov. 8, but the pro-gay group Truth Wins Out has vowed to protest the ceremony. The group, which aims to "expose the 'ex-gay' myth and educate America about gay life," has tangled with Focus' Love Won Out program, which maintains that homosexuality can be "overcome" through prayer and counseling.

**Heisman winner declines Playboy spot.** One year after winning college football's highest honor, University of Florida star Tim Tebow was pulled from consideration for Playboy Magazine's pre-season All-American team because the magazine conflicts with his Christian beliefs, a school official confirmed. Tebow, 20, who last year became the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy, comes from a family of missionaries and is a devout Baptist. The quarterback is not the first high-profile college athlete to reject Playboy for religious reasons. Danny Wuerffel, another Heisman-winning Gator, turned down a spot on the team in 1996. Georgia Tech senior Andrew Gardner made the cut for this year's team but declined the award.

**Birmingham airport renamed for pastor.** The Birmingham, Ala., Airport Authority voted unanimously July 16 to rename Alabama's largest airport for civil rights leader Fred Shuttlesworth. The new name will be the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. Shuttlesworth, 86, grew up in Birmingham and was pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Collegeville from 1953 to 1961. During that time, he led sit-ins on segregated buses and was beaten by a mob while trying to integrate a city high school. His church and home were bombed by

the Ku Klux Klan. He later was pastor of two churches in Cincinnati, but returned to Alabama frequently to help lead marches. In 1963, he and Martin Luther King Jr. led marches in downtown Birmingham that resulted in King being jailed and Shuttlesworth being knocked down by a fire hose and hospitalized.

**EEOC issues new manual on religion.** Citing changing demographics and a steady increase in complaints from people of faith, a federal agency on July 22 released an updated compliance manual on religious discrimination in the workplace. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued the guidance after consultation with religious groups, employers and labor organizations. The number of religious-discrimination charges reported to the agency has more than doubled over the last 15 years. The new manual provides safeguards for workers who request time off for religious observances, and protects workers whose faith requires they wear specific religious garments, such as a hijab, a head covering worn by some Muslim women.

**Court upholds prayer ruling.** In a decision hailed by supporters as a victory for the separation of church and state, a federal appeals court upheld a Fredericksburg, Va., policy that restricts praying "in Jesus' name" before city council meetings. City Councilman Hashmel Turner, who also is a Baptist minister, claimed the requirement that all prayers be non-denominational violated his First Amendment rights to free speech and free exercise of religion. A three-judge panel for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on July 23 upheld a lower court's 2006 decision, saying that Turner's prayer constituted "government speech" rather than protected private speech. Turner filed suit two years ago after the city mandated that all prayer offered before legislative sessions be non-denominational. The policy was implemented under pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union, which took action after Turner repeatedly invoked the name of Jesus Christ in his prayers.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Master's Closet ministry of Olive Branch Baptist Church in Hanson.** The Hopkins County church conducts free yard sales multiple times throughout the year on its property. Breakfast and lunch are provided as families pick out household items, clothes and furniture to take home. Pray that the church will boldly share the love of Christ as they share items with the community. Pray that the community will sense genuine concern and care from the church.

**MSC missionary Bill Barnard of Sturgis.** Bill serves as chaplain at the Union County hospital in Sturgis. He ministers to patients and their families through Bible readings, prayer, devotionals and a listening ear. Pray that Bill will always show love, compassion and concern for every patient. Pray that local churches will extend their ministries to involve the "one-on-one" program with extended care patients.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Ponderosa Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 3. A meal will follow the 10 a.m. worship service and **The Childress Family** will provide special music at 1 p.m. **Norman Cotton** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Audubon Church recently called **Jason Robinson** as minister to students. **Andy Weaver** is pastor.

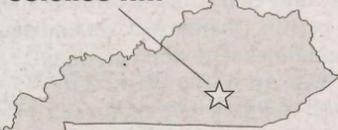
■ **LEXINGTON**—Broadway Church recently called **John Birchett Jr.** as pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Corinth Church recently called **Danny Heath** as minister of music and worship. **James Blaylock** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Dorothy Black** recently resigned as director of the child development center at Fern Creek Church.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Science Hill



Northside Church will host **The Nelons** in concert Aug. 8, 7 p.m. For more information, call (606) 423-2271. **David Muse** is pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church recently called **Kaleb Phillips** as minister of youth. **Steven Sholar** is pastor.

■ **WHEELWRIGHT**—Jack's Creek Church recently called **John Doug Hays** as pastor.

## Conference focused on multi-housing ministries set for Aug. 8-9 in Louisville

**Louisville**—Those involved or interested in multi-housing ministries will benefit from the Regional Multi-Housing Conference Aug. 8-9 at the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Hosted by the National Association of Multi-Housing Ministries and Congregations, in coordination with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, the event is designed to equip and encourage those involved in multi-housing ministries.

"This is a great opportunity for Kentucky Baptists desiring more in-depth training for multi-housing

ministries," said Eric Allen, KBC's director of mission service and ministries.

According to Allen, the goal of this type of ministry is to reach residents of multi-housing communities, such as apartment complexes, and give them the opportunity to become part of a local church congregation.

The conference will begin with a banquet Aug. 8 at 6:30 p.m., featuring Chuck Lawless, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Seminary.

On Aug. 9, breakout sessions will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.,



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.

### September

**6** Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Somerset, and Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

**11** Retired Director of Missions/Spouse Luncheon, Severns Valley Associational Office, Elizabethtown.

**12-13** Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.

**13** Punt, Pass & Kick, Campbellsville University.

**13** Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Pikeville, and First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

**15** Preparing for Retirement, Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro.

**16** Preparing for Retirement, Baptist Building, Louisville.

**17** Preparing for Retirement, First Baptist Church, Somerset.

**18** Preparing for Retirement, Unity Baptist Church, Ashland.

**19-21** FOCUS 2008, Jonathan Creek.

**22-23** Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Pulpit supply. Experienced SBC minister available for supply within 70 miles of Louisville. Contact Rev. Matthew Stevens, (502) 290-3345.

**FOR SALE:** Allen ADC3160A Church Organ. Two-manual, draw-knob, full pedals, midi, 4 external speakers. Excellent condition. Best Offer. (270) 351-3524.

**FOR SALE:** Eight 12-foot church pews; excellent condition. Phone: (270) 786-2502. Horse Cave, Ky.

**FOR SALE:** 35 used choir robes. Burgundy with beige/burgundy collars; good condition. First Baptist Church in Russell Springs. Call (270) 866-6495.

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

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

**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](http://www.kingsbaptist.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Responsible for planning, coordination, operation and direction of the church music ministry. Send resumé and salary requirements to: First Baptist Church, 47 S Main St., Walton, KY 41094; or email to [loisfbcw@fuse.net](mailto:loisfbcw@fuse.net).

**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 for First Baptist Church, Mayfield, Ky. Degree from a Southern Baptist seminary. Please send resumé and non-returnable video or DVD to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church Mayfield, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

**SEEKING:** Minister to families with children for Aloma Baptist Church to facilitate ministry to children from birth through age 12, and to equip families to become spiritual nurturers. Preferred qualifications: minimum bachelors and 2 years experience. Please send resumé to Discipleship Ministries, 1815 SR 436, Winter Park, FL 32792; or e-mail [nmillican@alomachurch.org](mailto:nmillican@alomachurch.org).

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

**SEEKING:** 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](mailto:Darrell@williams-townbaptist.com). Resumés accepted through Aug. 8, 2008.

**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](http://www.sievechurch.org/staff.htm). Resumés may be sent to Main Street Baptist Church, 11093 Alexandria Pike, Alexandria, KY 41001.

**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:** 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](mailto:dianehein7@aol.com).

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

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

**WANTED:** Louisville church possibly interested in purchasing used handbells. Please call (502) 425-0050.

# Hamilton goes from heroin to home run hero

By Art Stricklin  
Baptist Press

New York (BP)—As Major League Baseball showcased its stars in famed Yankee Stadium, the player who emerged from the All-Star break as the biggest star of all, Texas Ranger outfielder Josh Hamilton, spent most of his time pointing to someone greater than himself.

Hamilton, 27, whose career and life nearly ended because of drug addiction, wowed the masses in person and on TV during the July 14 Home Run Derby—but he used his national platform to give credit to God for his athletic ability.

"I can't believe what God has done in my life and how quickly He has done it," Hamilton told a national television audience after his record-shattering performance of 28 home runs, including three measuring more than 500 feet, in the first round of the contest.

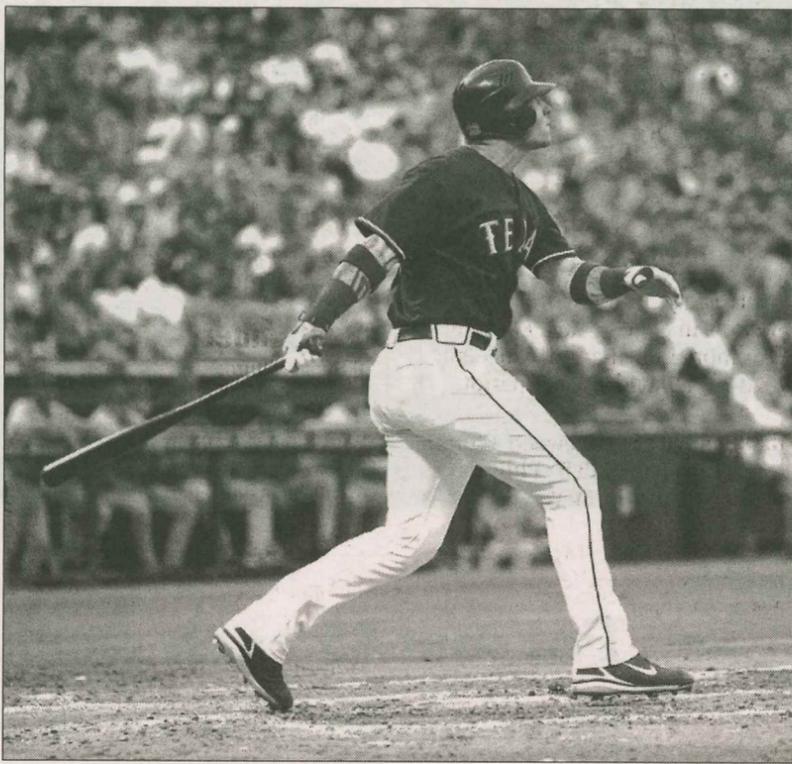
During the All-Star Game, Hamilton also added a sharp single and some speedy play in the outfield.

While he smiled and accepted praise of crowds and his fellow players, Hamilton, much like Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy after his Super Bowl win, turned attention to the most important facet of his life.

"I just want to give thanks," Hamilton said, pausing briefly in his nationally televised post-Home Run Derby interview that also played throughout Yankee Stadium, "to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I want to seek to honor Him every day."

People hearing Hamilton's story of ruin and redemption often find it hard to believe, but he admits openly to anyone who asks that it is all painfully and remarkably true.

The Raleigh, N.C., native was the first-round draft choice in all of baseball by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 1999. But while his career looked promising, he was becoming addict-



**GONE** Josh Hamilton tracks the progress of one of his many hits as an outfielder with the Texas Rangers. With 28 home runs, he recently set a record for the Major League Baseball Home Run Derby held in conjunction with the All-Star Game.

ed to drugs and alcohol.

It ultimately cost him three years of play in the minor leagues between 2004 and 2006, as he was suspended by Major League Baseball and never rose above Class A ball.

As his addiction to cocaine and heroin became worse, Hamilton recalled that he would wake up not knowing the person lying next to him and not remembering what he had been doing with them.

The large tattoos that cover both arms are a painful and permanent reminder of his time away from baseball and his family.

"I made a series of bad decisions," Hamilton told the national media in New York prior to the All-Star Game. "I had a value system and knew right from wrong, but I made wrong de-

isions." Hamilton is quick to credit his praying wife, Kathie, his family, and spiritual mentors, including Rangers special assignment coach Johnny Narron with his turnaround.

In 2006, the turnaround landed Hamilton back in baseball, briefly with the Rays and then the Chicago Cubs who traded him to Cincinnati in 2007. This year he came to the Rangers determined to make a difference on and, more importantly, off the field.

Jim Sundberg, Rangers vice president of public relations and a fellow believer who has cheered Hamilton's progress, said, "Sometimes you don't ever know what a difference you can be or what a role model really is until you find the right sit-

uation."

For support and accountability, Hamilton said he stays with Narron when in Texas or on the road. His wife and 1-year-old son remain at their off-season home.

To remind himself of the power drug addiction had over his life, Hamilton explained that he never goes out anywhere by himself and takes all of his meals with Narron. They also have Bible study each night when the Rangers are not playing.

Hamilton, who can be tested for drugs at any time without notice by Major League Baseball, said he never carries more than \$10 at any time. Narron hangs onto all of his Ranger-supplied meal money or other cash.

Hamilton has become active in the Baseball Chapel and has shared the story of Christ's change in his life with his fellow Rangers and local youth groups.

"God doesn't give me anything I can't handle," he told a Dallas newspaper.

"He's definitely here for a reason," teammate Ian Kinsler told the paper. "Only God knows that reason and (Hamilton's) let God take control of his life."

At Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, members of the home team select their own theme music to be played as they are introduced each time at bat. Hamilton chose "Saved The Day" by Christian group Phillips, Craig & Dean. The song speaks about Christ's incredible power of redemption.

At the All-Star Game, national media were quick to speculate on the source of Hamilton's physical power demonstrated in the Home Run Derby. But the born-again Texas Ranger was happy to set the record straight; the credit, he said, goes to God.

ESPN commentator Rick Reilly listened to Hamilton's story of renewal and then proclaimed to a national audience, "It's a bad night to be an atheist."

## Carroll pens memoir about year in Iraq, son's gridiron victories

By Jess Gable  
The Alabama Baptist

Oneonta, Ala. (BP)—Serving apple juice to children at vacation Bible school, tying yellow ribbons around front-yard trees, taking the family out to cheer on the local high school football team—it wasn't long ago that Ernie Carroll found himself in another nation far from such everyday things that hold Southern communities together.

Carroll, director of missions for Friendship Baptist Association in Oneonta, Ala., served as an Army

chaplain in Iraq from March 2004 to March 2005 with the Alabama National Guard.

In a new book, "A Season in Baghdad: Confessions of a Combat Chaplain," he recalls his ministry to troops in the war-torn city of Baghdad—plus the gridiron victory his son, Nathan, was achieving on the other side of the world.

It was during Carroll's year in Iraq that Nathan helped lead the Oneonta High School football team to the Class 3A state championship. It was only through phone calls and

e-mails that Carroll was able to hear of his son's victories on the field—including the three touchdowns the team scored in a come-from-behind state championship battle in the final nine minutes of the game.

The book parallels how God helped father and son both be victorious, with the elder Carroll noting, "God was with Nathan and God was with me. God's with us in good times and in bad times."

Whether they were trying to increase their touchdowns and field goals or increase the faith of soldiers, the Carrolls were united in the common goal of bringing glory to God. On the battlefield, Carroll learned about God's presence in bad times. Between leading Sunday morning worship and Wednesday night Bible study, he conducted memorial services for soldiers who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

"Before I left, my wife told me I had to look at this like a year-long missions trip, and when I first went, I looked at it like that," the chaplain recalled. "Then I started realizing that I could lose my life. I felt like I was just any other pastor, but there were people trying to kill the mem-

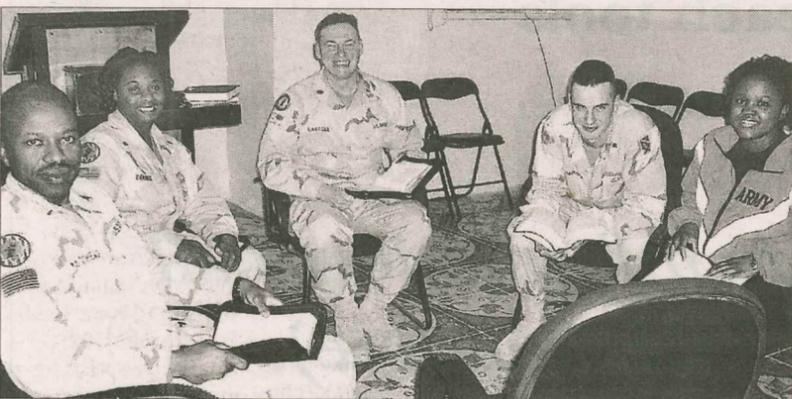
bers of my group."

Back in Alabama, Nathan was serving God on the football field as left guard on the offensive line. In the third quarter of one game, coach Josh Niblett asked Nathan to pray after every offensive play. He did not pray for victory over the other team but rather to bring glory and honor to God in everything the team did.

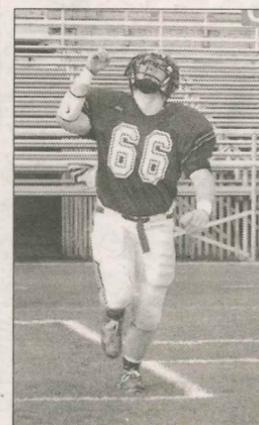
Pairing combat and competition in a single book might seem odd to some but it makes sense to Carroll.

"High school football in the South is such an important part of the community and such an important part of what's going on in the community," he said. "People can ... remember certain plays almost as well as they can remember the birth of a baby."

Meanwhile, Carroll sought "to increase the faith of Christian families that are trusting God in the face of overwhelming circumstances as my family had to do" through a book relaying insight into the impact chaplains can have "on the lives of young people from all over the United States. This is about high-octane Christian faith lived under hostile enemy fire."



**MINISTERING IN IRAQ** In this 2005 photo, Chaplain Ernie Carroll (third from left), leads a Bible study with soldiers from his Alabama National Guard unit.



**LOOKING UP** In this 2005 photo Nathan Carroll exhibits his faith on the football field even as his father, Ernie, was serving as an Army chaplain in Iraq. Ernie Carroll's book, "A Season in Baghdad" recently was released. In it, the author remembers what it was like to be far away as his son's team enjoyed a championship season.

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