



# WESTERN RECORDER

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WMU Kentucky Notes



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## Are the mountains changed?

### *Kentucky Baptists note successes, challenges after 60 years of mountain missions*

By Dannah Prather  
*Partnerships Editor*

Some Eastern Kentucky landscapes have changed little since A.B. Cash arrived in 1948 to direct Kentucky Baptists' formal mountain missions effort.

The breathtaking pinnacles and hidden hollers remain. Drive just minutes from most county seats and you see some of the same houses

wedged stubbornly between mountains and highways.

There also are similarities in the spiritual landscape. Many people continue a generations-long reverence for God coupled with an equally strong ambivalence to religion.

"Some counties are 90 percent unchurched," said Bill Barker, director of Appalachian Regional Ministry that serves 11 eastern moun-

tain states. In Eastern Kentucky, the rate was 82 percent back in 1948 according to a story in the Western Recorder.

There have been positive changes, and a challenge once thought to be the key to reaching Appalachians with the gospel message—an understanding of culture—has become imperative in evangelism everywhere.

The buzzword, "church plant-

ing," did not exist in 1948 but Cash knew the importance of a congregation extending itself to start a "sister" church:

"We can never place State Missionaries in all the churchless communities," wrote R.T. Skinner in the Aug. 26, 1948 edition of the Western Recorder. "There are many small churchless communities ... adjacent  
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### **Christian Job Corps centers helping women return to work force**

By Ken Walker  
*State Correspondent*

**Campbellsville**—Next Monday marks the 114th anniversary of Labor Day's designation as a federal holiday, intended to celebrate workers and give them a day off.

While to Sylviana Bridgewater Sept. 1 means little more than a day of rest, she rejoices in her working status, thanks to help she received from the Christian Women's Job Corps.

Started by Woman's Missionary Union in 1997, last year it served nearly 2,800 women and men nationwide (a companion male effort started in 2004). There are 215 sites nationally and programs in Moldova, Liberia and Mexico. Kentucky Baptists maintain four sites for women in Campbellsville, Somerset, Cadiz and Hopkinsville.

The largely volunteer ministry offers job training, life education class-

es, Bible study and personal mentoring, all which helped Bridgewater re-join the work force two years ago. Prior to her Job Corps experience, the mother of a teenage daughter was unemployed and separated from her husband.

"At that time in my life, I didn't see a way out," Bridgewater recalled. "I felt hopeless and my self-esteem was low. It was hard.

"My Job Corps mentor encouraged me to get up and get out. It helped a lot. It definitely showed me how to be more independent."

Today, she is an administrative assistant for Independent Opportunities, an Eastern Kentucky social services agency that helps people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Although Bridgewater received computer training, site coordinator Debbie Carter said its current em-  
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**HIGH-TECH CLASSES** Two participants of the Christian Women's Job Corps receive hands-on training in basic computer skills from a volunteer teacher at Christian County Baptist Association offices in Hopkinsville. The Job Corps center helped 27 women last year find support and education to help improve their lives. (Photo courtesy of Arlene Miller)

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**"Most Baptists are tired of programs. They want to see something that is God-sized and Spirit-anointed."**

Ron Herrod, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists

## Evangelist: SBC baptism decline can be turned around

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Sevierville, Tenn. (BP)—Ron Herrod has seen the statistics and is well aware that baptisms are on the decline in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Like many Southern Baptists, Herrod, who was elected president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in June, is puzzled that baptisms continue to go downward or remain stagnant.

A report issued in April by LifeWay Christian Resources showed baptisms fell for the third straight year in 2007—the convention's lowest level since 1987. The 2007 stats showed 345,941 baptisms reported in SBC churches, compared to 364,826 baptisms in 2006.

Herrod said he knows the decline has not happened because of lack of concern among Southern Baptist leadership. He cited the efforts of past convention presidents Bobby Welch and Frank Page in bringing attention to evangelism, particularly Welch, who made baptisms the primary focus of his two-year stint as president.

Herrod also is very supportive of Johnny Hunt, the new SBC president, and his commitment to evangelism.

Besides the support of convention leadership, there have been numerous evangelistic thrusts and witnessing programs initiated over the years to share the message of Jesus Christ, the COSBE president observed.

"We have all kinds of strategies and programs," Herrod noted. "One

of my concerns is that there is a long way between the strategies at our conference tables to the guy in the pew."

Another new strategy, "God's Plan for Sharing," was launched recently by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Herrod is convinced the GPS national evangelism initiative by NAMB is good, but for it to be truly effective, laypeople in the local church must be personally involved.

"Most Baptists are tired of programs," he observed. "They want to see something that is God-sized and Spirit-anointed."

Herrod said he is optimistic the trend can be reversed.

### Involving the laity

One way to get laymen excited about sharing their faith, Herrod indicated, is to take them on mission trips. As a pastor for 36 years and now as an evangelist for nearly 14 years, Herrod has used mission trips to spur people to share their faith.

"As a pastor, I observed that those I took on volunteer missions trips became my best workers and witnesses when I brought them home," Herrod recalled.

As an evangelist, he uses volunteers in his international crusades and also in overseas institutes in which he trains and equips national church leaders and missionaries.

Training laity to share their faith as a lifestyle will be important in reversing baptism trends, Herrod suggested. Another key is the use of full-time evangelists.

While in the pastorate, Herrod

said he supported the work of vocational evangelists, using at least two per year.

As an evangelist and president of COSBE, Herrod encourages current pastors to take advantage of God-called evangelists who are trained to "draw the net." There are certain people God has gifted that when "the invitation is given, the harvest comes," he said.

Herrod cited statistics used by fellow evangelist Keith Fordham of Georgia that show 33 to 50 percent of all baptisms come from revivals and "harvest days."

In addition, Herrod noted churches that hold revival meetings require 24 resident members to win one person to Christ, compared to 36 resident members to win one to Christ in churches that do not hold revival meetings.

"Use God's gift to the church—the evangelist—on a regular basis to help draw the net and bring in the harvest," he challenged.

The former pastor said he is dismayed over a trend he sees in some churches to not offer an invitation at every service.

"I don't understand pastors who do not give an invitation. An invitation is biblical," he declared. "What if a lost person is there and he walks away without an opportunity (to make a profession of faith). We have failed to do what God calls us to do."

Herrod said he knows some churches do not use evangelists because of a prior "bad experience" or the negative perception of a very few well-known television evangelists.

This is where Herrod is optimistic COSBE can make a difference because the organization emphasizes accountability. The group has stringent membership requirements and an accountability team churches can contact if they have a problem with a member evangelist.

"We won't be in the churches unless we are worthy of the trust of their pastors," Herrod suggested. "The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists is committed to purity, integrity and honesty in our evangelists."

The organization also is working with NAMB on a strategy to help churches that "are struggling" to reach people for Christ. He noted COSBE has a long list of evangelists willing to go out to these churches.

The biggest difference, however, in reversing the baptism trend must come from God, Herrod emphasized.

"We need an outpouring of God's Spirit that we normally have called revival," he explained. "It is the key to everything—harvest in the church and laymen being motivated to share their faith."

Herrod is convinced that baptisms will increase when everyone comes to the conclusion that "the one will of God for the church is to bring in the harvest."

The two functions to accomplish that goal are to win the lost and grow the saved so they can win the lost, Herrod said. Anything on the church calendar or in the church budget that does not meet those two functions is a waste of time and money, he noted.

## Missouri convention appeals Windermere ruling

Kansas City, Mo. (BP)—The lead attorney for the Missouri Baptist Convention wants a hearing by the end of the year of an appeal to overturn a trial judge's ruling in favor of a conference center that broke its ties to the convention.

The breakaway entity, Windermere Baptist Conference Center, has received an extension to Sept. 5 to respond to an appeal filed by the Missouri convention to overturn a circuit court judge's summary judgment for Windermere.

The Missouri convention's appeal argues that multiple errors were made by Circuit Court Judge Richard Callahan and that justice requires a reversal of the Cole County judge's March 4 ruling.

MBC attorneys made the arguments in a brief filed in the Mis-

souri Court of Appeals, Western Division, in Kansas City on July 22. The brief was filed several weeks earlier than is required by court rules, MBC lead counsel Michael Whitehead said, voicing his hope that a hearing might be scheduled before the end of the year.

Among the legal errors argued in the brief:

- The judge misinterpreted a statute in Missouri law which in fact makes the state convention the "member" with final authority over the Windermere corporation by virtue of the right to elect trustees.

- The judge was wrong about the law regarding the rights of the state convention as a "third party beneficiary" to the corporate charter, which is a contract under Missouri law.

- The judge was in error on three points of law on the rights of the convention to deeds and mortgages and restitution of Windermere real estate.

Windermere was one of five former MBC subsidiary corporations which broke from the MBC in 2000-2001 by changing their charters to create self-perpetuating boards. The organizations then aligned themselves with a new state convention, the Baptist General Convention of Missouri, headed by Jim Hill, who was the Missouri Baptist Convention's executive director at the time of all five breakaway attempts.

Callahan, in his summary judgment against the Missouri convention on March 4, said the Windermere board's breakaway might be "ungrateful" but was not illegal.

## SWBTS mentorship director Allen dies at age 77

Fort Worth, Texas (BP)—John Allen, who supervised the mentoring of hundreds of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students, died Aug. 18 after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was 77.

Allen was director of mentorships at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary from 1994-2007 and an adjunct professor of missions.

Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions and director of Southwestern's Scarborough Institute for Church Planting & Growth, described the seminary's mentorship program as "the fulfillment of a lifelong dream

(of Allen's) of equipping people for ministry."

For nearly 30 years, Allen served in Southern Baptist missions throughout the United States. He was an area missionary for South Dakota in the 1960s, an associate director of church extension with NAMB in the early 1970s and a state director of missions for the Alaska Baptist Convention from 1976-1987. From 1987-1993, he served as director of cooperative missions and stewardship in Colorado, after which he retired from NAMB.

Sanchez invited him in 1994 to

lead Southwestern's mentoring program. With a knack for organization and loyalty to both students and colleagues, Allen oversaw the mentorship of hundreds of students at the seminary and authored "Primer for New Mentors," which was used as a text for the program. Allen retired from the position in 1997 but continued to show interest in the program even as he battled with cancer.

Allen is survived by his wife, Anna, and two children, Mary and Brian.

His funeral was held Aug. 21 in Colleyville, Texas.

## Baylor University names Truett dean interim president

Waco, Texas (ABP)—The Baylor University board of regents has named David Garland as interim president. Garland has been dean of the Texas Baptist school's George W. Truett Theological Seminary since June 2007. He will continue as dean of the seminary and serve as president until the board names a permanent leader.

Garland joined the seminary faculty in 1997 as professor of Christian Scriptures. He was appointed Truett's associate dean for academic affairs in 2001, and was named Truett's Hinson Professor of Christian Scriptures in 2005.

Garland succeeds Harold Cunningham, who has been acting president since July, when John Lilley was terminated by the regents.

Regents Chairman Howard Batson said that Garland will be able to bring unity to the "Baylor family."

"It's very important to (the regents) that he can be accepted by a broad consensus of the various Baylor constituents," Batson said.

Garland's wife, Diana, is dean of Baylor's School of Social Work.

# Are the mountains changed?

*Kentucky Baptists note successes, challenges after 60 years of mountain missions*

*Continued from page 1*

to our self-supporting churches. Brother Cash has already given aid to a number of churches in the mountains in forming a church-centered mission project."

## Workers flood Appalachia

Despite an abundance of Baptist churches—everything from Regular and Old Regular to Separate and Primitive—there are not as many Southern Baptist churches in Eastern Kentucky compared to other areas of the commonwealth with similar populations.

In 2004, Little Bethel Baptist Association, headquartered in Madisonville, reported 48 churches in an area of 46,519 residents. Red River Baptist Association, comprised of six Eastern Kentucky counties, reported 12 congregations in a population of nearly 65,000.

That year, Little Bethel and its neighbor, Christian County, formed a partnership to assist Red River churches in evangelism and outreach. Today there are 19 Red River churches according to Director of Missions Jack Fletcher.

The partnership drew hundreds of volunteers from Western Kentucky to Breathitt, Lee, Menifee, Morgan, Powell and Wolfe counties. By adopting a "multi-faceted approach to using volunteers," Fletcher said established Red River congregations experienced growth, and some started new churches.

"Revivals, special training, sports camps ... We'll do all of those during the year," Fletcher added.

Since the late 1990s, a steady stream of short-term ministry volunteers coming to Appalachia has become a flood. Even with the presence of thousands of Southern Baptist workers on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina, Barker reported 25,000 volunteers served in ARM's 11-state region in 2007.

Willing workers have hosted hundreds of backyard Bible clubs, sports camps, revivals and block parties—along with countless home repair, door-to-door survey and other projects—but the growth in Red River seems rare according to Barker.

"We're feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and building handicapped-ramps for the widows," he said. "But we are not assimilating people

into the local church."

Kentucky Baptist Convention records show that, despite signs of revival in Eastern Kentucky over the past several years, most of the 17 Baptist associations in the mountain missions area report about the same number of churches they did 10 years ago.

The difference in Red River, according to Fletcher and former Christian County DOM Larry Baker is the long-term nature of the east-west partnership.

"It's about relationship building," noted Baker who now directs KBC's new work/associational missions effort. When the same Western Kentucky volunteers are welcomed back to Red River each year, Baker said it is as if local residents are saying, "You kept your promise." ... There is a natural bonding and acceptance."

Baker said long-term partnerships also enhance prayer support because volunteers, knowing firsthand the challenges faced by local believers, intercede with specificity.

"There are relationships between churches now that had nothing to do with me or other DOMs," Fletcher acknowledged. "They talk to each other like neighbors."

Such partnerships seem all the more remarkable in light of a hard lesson learned by Appalachians: Neighborliness can come at a cost.

## JFK, LBJ focus media spotlight

A wave of volunteers flooded the region in the 1960s when media coverage of John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign trip to West Virginia revealed the economically depressed condition of the region.

Charles Kuralt's "Christmas In Appalachia" exposé followed, featuring some of the most impoverished communities of Eastern Kentucky.

"A lot of what the nation saw about this area was true but a lot wasn't," recalled Jay Sulfridge, dean of institutional advancement at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

When President Lyndon Johnson declared his war on poverty, Sulfridge said volunteers came from across the country, many "with a heart to help but an attitude of superiority."

Residents chafed at the conde-

scending attitude of some of the journalists and volunteers, he said. Some resentment continues today.

History is only part of understanding the people noted Sulfridge, who also is pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Middlesboro.

For effective ministry, Christians must understand the beliefs and practices a church or community values, he said, noting, "People who go to China understand up front they'll have to learn the culture."

A few years ago, sensing an ongoing struggle in church plants across the region, Sulfridge studied pastors' understanding of Appalachian culture. He was surprised to learn that many pastors and students—even those who grew up in Appalachia and were studying at Appalachian Bible colleges—could not identify certain attitudes as part of that culture.

For example, Appalachians' love of God, Sulfridge indicated.

"I'm a lifelong, native Appalachian working at an Appalachian college," he said. "I've served Appalachian churches for 20 years," yet he admitted he was blindsided by the importance of patriotism expressed in church life.

"If you missed a patriotic holiday, you'd be in trouble," he recalled. "They saw that as part of the picture (of church). ... Those things can cause you to sink or succeed (as a pastor) because that's how the people are put together."

A lack of cultural understanding throughout Southern Baptist life likely is one reason SBC churches are in a third consecutive year of declining baptism rates, Baker suggested. "People are going out the back door (of the church) as fast as they're coming in the front," he said. "It's a problem across the board, statewide, nationwide."

New believers might not be settling into a church home because they have yet to see how an active, growing Christian faith is relevant in their everyday lives. That connection—known as "contextualization" in ministry circles today—is important to Sulfridge and Clear Creek; he plans to teach a course on Appalachian culture beginning this fall.

Barker said old-fashioned kindness and patience also might be lack-

ing in some congregations that fail to bring new Christians into the fold. "The issue is acceptance," he added.

Thriving churches in Enterprise Baptist Association are those who try to reach "everybody and anybody, not just people 'like them,'" explained Director of Missions Tom Biddle. The 2004 evangelism emphasis, MissionsFEST, coordinated by national Woman's Missionary Union, provided Enterprise Baptists lessons in contextualization, Biddle said.

"Since then we have more churches that have gone beyond their doors. They are thinking outside the box, realizing they have to take evangelism to the street."

Even as they agree with contextualization, Baptist leaders emphasize that the unadorned gospel message shared with compassion by Christ's followers remain the core of ministry. No one knows that better than Mike Lindon, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Morgan County.

Eighteen people formed Grace 15 years ago as a mission of Faith Baptist Church in West Liberty. In 2005, Grace started its own mission in the nearby community of Wrigley.

"It should have never worked," Lindon acknowledged. At the time he was bivocational; some people might have said the church was still getting on its feet. However, a handful of members saw that people in Wrigley needed a church, Lindon said. Of great concern were several families with deaf or hearing-impaired loved ones.

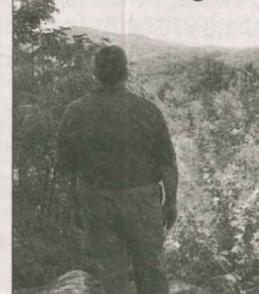
"God required that the best people go and do that," Lindon recalled, noting that those who went to Wrigley were among the most faithful financial supporters of Grace. "God has strange arithmetic," Lindon said. "He always divides and subtracts to multiply."

A year after the mission was formed, Grace Baptist called Lindon as its full-time pastor. Today, about 115 people come to worship each week; last year eight new believers were baptized.

In 2006, Wrigley constituted as a church. Weekly services are translated into sign language. The small storefront that once was a local hangout for drinking and gambling draws about 50 people each week.

"It's a beautiful picture," Lindon said.

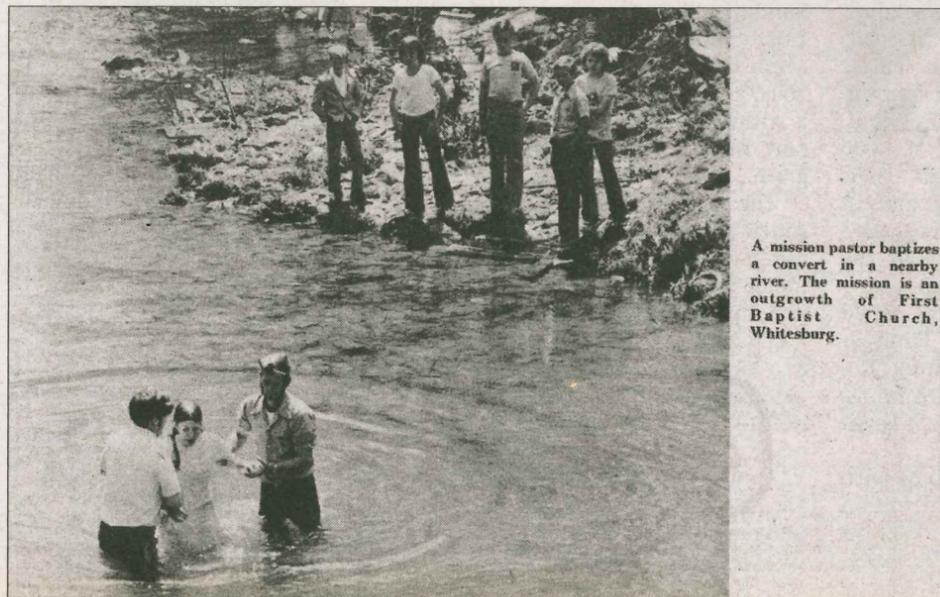
## Are the mountains changed?



*Jay Sulfridge, dean of institutional advancement at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, enjoys a view of his native Appalachia from Pine Mountain State Resort Park. Sulfridge also is pastor of Southside Baptist Church in nearby Middlesboro. (Photo by Dannah Prather)*

**See page 6 for more stories on mountain missions.**

**THEN AND NOW Left:** A new believer is baptized by the pastor of a mission of First Baptist Church of Whitesburg in 1978. **Right:** In 2004, Bill Boldt, pastor of Stanton Baptist Church, baptizes a new Christian following a revival at Stanton's Mill Knob Baptist Mission in Red River Baptist Association.



*A mission pastor baptizes a convert in a nearby river. The mission is an outgrowth of First Baptist Church, Whitesburg.*



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

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## How much church is too much?

By **Trey Graham**

**Melissa, Texas** (BP)—“No, there’s no time to have fun as a family, we have to go to church.”

“Sorry, can’t talk right now. I am busy listening to Christian music on my Christian iPod while I use my Christian phonebook to find a Christian plumber to fix the leak in my Christian sink.”

“You think I want to sit here and bask in the awe of God’s presence? No way, I have choir practice in 15 minutes.”

Have you ever said or thought statements like these?

While I know that this is not exactly breaking news, I must admit that sometimes Christians forget they live in the real world. This may sound strange coming from a Christian, especially one whose chosen occupation is centered on helping non-Christians become Christians. Yet, each of us has met a Christ follower (or seen buildings full of them) too busy with church stuff to pay attention to the needs of the world around them.

The highest calling of Christians, as given by the Savior Jesus Christ, is to “go and tell.” The words of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) were given to organize the followers of Jesus into a committed army of people who constantly seek ways to share the simple yet powerful message of salvation through faith in Jesus. Sadly, many followers of this Messiah have forgotten “go and tell” and instead adopted the opposite, and less stressful, philosophy of “come and hear.”

Some churches in our society still boldly preach “go and tell”, yet actually live out “come and hear.” The pastors and members of these churches readily proclaim the urgency of the Great Commission and believe that faith in Jesus is the only way to heaven. Somehow, however, they get sidetracked by laziness or busy schedules or fear of change. Perhaps they are unwilling to open up to strangers or simply are spiri-

tually apathetic.

Tragically, some self-proclaimed Christian churches are too busy with chicken fried steak dinners and softball games that they never get around to preaching “go and tell.” In these churches, the atmosphere felt by newcomers—if they ever attend—may best be described as “we don’t really care if you come and hear, but we sure have no plans to go and tell.”

## Love God and others

At First Baptist Church of Melissa, Texas, our church family has adopted the vision statement of “Love God, Love One Another.” This philosophy, which guides our decisions and strategies and ministries, is powerful and motivational, but it is not very original. Actually, it was best stated by Jesus Himself in John 13:34-35.

Loving God is the desire to worship Him and sing His praises and study His book and follow His commands. Loving others requires one to observe the needs of neighbors and friends and seek ways to meet those needs.

While these may seem like separate and unique objectives, one of the best ways to love God is to follow Jesus’ commands and one of the best ways to love others is to “go and tell” them about salvation found only in Jesus. See how they combine into one lifelong strategy? We have found that people outside the faith are much more motivated to “come and hear” after the faithful followers of Jesus have been willing to “go and tell.”

One of the greatest obstacles to living out “go and tell” is the tendency for Christians to spend all their time inside the physical walls of the church or inside the social walls of the Christian community. In my sermons, I call this temptation “living inside the bubble.” If Christ followers only live inside the bubble, how will people outside the faith ever hear about Jesus? If Christ

followers spend every day at church and choose only to socialize with other believers, how can they truly obey the spirit of “go and tell?”

I am convinced that one of the reasons the First Baptist, Melissa, family is made up of people from so many denominations and so many cities is that we really have bought into the “go and tell” instructions given by our Savior. As Christian believers, we should be thrilled when non-believers take the initiative to “come and hear,” but it is not their responsibility to obey the Savior’s commands; it is ours.

The extreme reaction to “go and tell” would be a willful decision to shun the bubble and avoid organized churches altogether. To discover the balanced, biblical reaction to “go and tell” requires one to ask a few questions.

Should Christians be involved in a local church? Of course they should, which is why it is so exciting when churches like ours reach people from a variety of religious, economic, geographic and ethnic backgrounds. The local church is where the Word of God is taught and caring relationships are formed.

Does Jesus want Christians in church? While hesitant to speak for God’s Son, I am not sure Jesus is overly pleased with His disciples being in the “come and hear” church or the “we don’t care if you come or not” church. However, I am quite certain that the Savior endorses all “go and tell” churches.

Can one be too involved in a church? I believe the answer is yes if that involvement causes me to remain forever inside the bubble and oblivious to the real needs of those outside the faith.

May I therefore call the followers of Jesus to renounce “church-ianity” and return to “Christianity”, a faith and devotion centered on Christ, not our church calendars? May I ask Christ followers to begin living faithful, holy lives outside the bubble, following the admonition to “go and tell”?

*Trey Graham is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Melissa, Texas*

One of Wilkins’ strengths has been his ability to provide turnaround leadership in churches where he has been pastor. First Baptist, Fountain Run, is just one example.

During his seven-year tenure, annual baptisms have grown from one to 15; worship attendance has increased from 42 to more than 100; Sunday school attendance has gone from 45 to 80; and undesignated receipts have more than doubled from \$60,005 to \$128,812. Hermon also is a strong advocate of missions support through the Cooperative Program.

The church has a minister of youth and activities and outstanding lay leadership and involvement. On a recent Saturday night, the church hosted a “Back to School Bash” with about 150 in attendance at a local park. The church is utilizing its new family life center to minister to the community and to meet needs.

I praise God for these pastors who have a passion for evangelism. May God renew that passion in all of us. *Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## Two growing KBC churches

I recently had the opportunity to worship in two excited and growing Kentucky Baptist Convention churches—Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia and First Baptist Church of Fountain Run.

It was gratifying to be with the members of Franklin Crossroads and their pastor, Ron Davis, for a wonderful “Wednesday of Worship.” The church relocated in 2001 and continues to grow significantly. It recorded 41 baptisms in 2007-2008.

Davis is a fourth-generation pastor and has been at Franklin Crossroads for 21 years. He puts a lot of emphasis on helping new people assimilate into the church family and teaches the new members class with his wife each Sunday evening.

As part of its outreach, Franklin Crossroads has launched a satellite congregation in the sanctuary of the former Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Davis preaches twice at Franklin Cross-

roads and once at Elizabethtown on Sunday mornings and everyone meets in Elizabethtown on Sunday nights.

The church also has a television ministry with its Sunday morning worship service and Davis is on WJCR radio each weekday.

The Franklin Crossroads congregation and pastor also have a strong commitment to world missions. They have a goal of 1,000 baptisms through their ministries locally and in Africa. The church gave \$53,936 for missions through the Cooperative Program last year.

The church recently has called an associate pastor, Rob Sumrall, who will assist with preaching. The church also has a new youth minister, Travis Vanmeter, who will begin Aug. 31.

It also was a privilege to be with the First Baptist Church of Fountain Run where Pastor Hermon Wilkins has recently announced his retirement plans.

## FIRST PERSON

## STEWARDSHIP

## Theologian offers lessons for how to be good stewards

By **Doug Strader**

All Christians are stewards of everything that God has given us. Whether we are good stewards or bad stewards depends on how well we manage the things that have been given

to us. The greatest steward who ever lived was Jesus and He did not even have a place to lay his head. So stewardship is not just about material possessions; it is about all of life.

John Wesley also was a very good steward who wrote some of his stewardship teachings to encourage those of us who would come after him. His lessons were rather simple, yet profound. Wesley had three basic ideas about financial stewardship that I want to share with you here:

“**Earn all you can.**” The Bible gives four reasons for earning money:

- To care for one’s family.
- To pay taxes.
- To provide for church leaders.
- To help people in need. But do not become a workaholic and neglect your family.

“**Save all you can.**”

- Avoid extravagance in your standard of living.
- Make a habit of saving and be frugal with your spending.
- Save for the future in a practical way and open a savings account for emergencies.
- Avoid unproductive debt. Credit card debt is to be avoided at all cost. If you have credit card debt, pay it off as soon as possible and destroy the card(s) to avoid the temptation to go in debt again.

■ Take good care of all that God has given you.

“**Give all you can.**”

- The Bible teaches that Christians are to regularly give tithes and offerings.
- Giving helps those who are in need, and it aids the one who is giving.
- Give obediently, not out of a sense of guilt or in a legalistic manner.
- Be a cheerful giver.
- Give consistently.
- Give with a heart of gratitude and love for all that God has done for you.

When Christians give to the Lord through the church, God is allowing us to be good stewards on mission with Him to take the gospel to the world.

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



## Spouses' unmet needs only met by Jesus Christ, not each other

**Q: Regardless of what he does, my husband cannot seem to give me enough attention or prove to me he really loves me and won't leave me. I know this is related to the way I grew up. I also know that we seem to have a strong Christian marriage. What is wrong with me and how can I make progress so that I am not so needy and insecure?**

Your needs for approval, security and significance are not wrong, they are simply misplaced. Even with a strong Christian marriage, you must realize that your husband was never meant to meet your deepest needs. That is a God-sized job only Christ can fulfill.

### MARRIAGE

Individuals who come from families where there is abuse, rejection, abandonment, mental illness or toxic anger and anxiety often report increased levels of neediness in their marriages. The unspoken hope is that the love of a spouse can heal them from past hurts.

Let me encourage you to realize that only Christ can give you what you long for. My prayer for you would echo the apostle Paul in Ephesians 1:18, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

In Christ, you are unconditionally accepted (John 1:12 and 15:5; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:14). In Christ, you are absolutely secure (Romans 8:1-2, 35-39; Colossians 3:3; 2 Timothy 1:7). In Christ, you are incredibly significant (John 15:16; 2 Corinthians 6:1; Ephesians 2:10).

Memorize these verses and meditate daily on God's Word. Reject the lies of the world and believe the truth.—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: My wife and I are both busy with our jobs and the tasks of taking care of our children, so we have totally neglected our relationship. What can we do right now?**

It is clear that you need to "recharge the batteries" in order to have a chance for good communication time. Pick one of these ideas and apply it ASAP:

- Have a weekly, two-hour date without the children. Ask your pastor or church education director to look into the video-driven program by David and Claudia Arp, "Ten Great Dates," which covers essential topics for marriage in 10- and 20-minute segments, followed by time for you and your mate to have a creative date while the church provides child care.

- Have a quarterly romantic getaway, such as going to a nice bed and breakfast in the mountains. Or attend a marriage enrichment retreat. Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington sponsors a three-day weekend each fall based on the Myers-Briggs personality type inventory, led by Karen and Mike Gilbert of Design Diversity. The retreat is held at Buckhorn State Resort Park in the Eastern Kentucky mountains, far enough from work that you won't take it with you, and high enough in the mountains that your co-workers won't be able to reach you by cell phone. Kentucky is blessed with numerous state resort parks, all of which are quite affordable and make for a great three-day getaway.

- Vacation alone together. A family reunion is not a vacation, trying to spend time with every aunt, uncle, sibling, niece and nephew that you haven't seen in a year. If possible, take several days with your spouse and get some sand between your toes. Utilize family and friends to care for the children.

Do not let your marriage take a back seat to the rest of life. Marriage can be the foundation from which you do your most effective work and parenting. For the sake of everyone, take some time away—just the two of you.—*James Stillwell*

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## Bond between students, church is critical

Georgetown College graduates were asked in a recent survey to list the influences that were most significant in their spiritual lives during their four years as undergraduates. Of the 206 students who completed the survey, 174 said that friends and other students were the most meaningful. The second most important influences were faculty, staff and coaches. Third was their home churches.

What this tells us is the relationships students develop at college, and those they had at their churches growing up help shape their spiritual lives most significantly. These three factors were more influential than mission trips, chapel services and religion classes experienced while at college.

Sometimes churches think when students leave home and head off to college, the relationship it has had with students ceases to remain an influence. The home church needs to realize the important role it and its members have played in the lives of students during those very formative years.

Even while at college, students acknowledge the influence of church on their lives. When students go to college, they take with them all the experiences and relationships they have had growing up. Every Sunday school teacher, children's minister, youth minister, missions teacher and church staff member leaves an imprint. The college years build on all that has gone before. The home church should never forget the partnership it has with higher education in

the formation of the spiritual lives of young people.

The college years provide students with opportunities to express their faith through service, missions, worship and study. Students travel around the world on mission trips and study-abroad programs. Students participate in community ministry and business internships. They learn in the classroom and in the dorm room.

While the academic focus may be on a major discipline, students also learn about life choices, responsibilities and how their faith intersects with the world around them.

Internships permit college students to be challenged with how they live out their faith while serving in the business world. They are able to test the waters of a prospective vocation while serving Christ during a spring break or summer missions experience. It is the home churches that have brought them to this place in their lives, and opportunities at college allow them to further their understanding of the faith learned while growing up in the church.

In a very real sense, college students help their home churches live out the Great Commission as the church sends college students out all over the world equipped to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We in Christian higher education are thankful for our partnership with local bodies of believers as together we equip students to go out into this world as Christian young men and women.

*William Crouch is president of Georgetown College*

### GUEST EDITORIAL



William Crouch

## We need more men like these

By Kelly Boggs

Alexandria, La. (BP)—What do college football players Tim Tebow and Andrew Gardner have in common? Besides achieving a high level of success on the gridiron, the pair let it be known they were not interested in being a part of Playboy magazine's preseason all-America football team.

Tebow is the junior quarterback for the University of Florida and last season became the only sophomore ever to win the Heisman Trophy. Gardner is entering his senior season and is an offensive lineman for the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

Both players, who cited their Christian faith as the main reason they did not want to be associated with the publication, should be applauded for refusing to accommodate a publication that has significantly contributed to America's sex-saturated culture.

After Playboy made Gardner one of its preseason picks, he declined the invitation to participate. "Playboy isn't something I want really to associate myself with," Gardner told ESPN.com. "I just don't think that would be a way I wanted to represent myself or my family."

Tebow was never nominated for Playboy's preseason team. University of Florida assistant sports information director Zack Higbee did not submit Tebow's name. "I've been working with Tim since his first day here," Higbee told USA Today, "and I know his priorities and his family." Tebow confirmed that Higbee's decision was the right one.

Tebow and Gardner are not the first players to tell Playboy to take a hike. Others have done so as well. Among the more notable are Charlie Ward from Florida State Univer-

sity, the 1993 Heisman recipient, and Danny Wuerffel, the 1996 Heisman winner from Florida.

Since preseason honors are based on projections rather than performance, they all carry with them a certain element of irrelevancy. And Playboy's has a higher degree of irrelevancy than most.

In order for a player to be named to the Playboy preseason team, in most instances he must agree to participate in an all-expenses-paid gathering at a resort that includes a team photo shoot—with the resulting picture to appear in an issue of Playboy.

If a player cannot make the get-together, then he is bumped and another player takes his place. Yeah, real prestigious all-America team (wink, wink, nod, nod), ain't it?

Why does Playboy have an attendance requirement? The only possible reason that I can come up with is credibility.

Playboy's founder, Hugh Hefner, started the preseason all-America team in 1957, just four years after the first issue of the publication was launched. Every year since, he has used the credibility of college football players and their teams in an effort to establish credibility for his magazine.

The mainstream media has long portrayed Hefner as a smiling, swank, polished man about town. Rarely has he been depicted as a sex-obsessed man with a drooling desire to destroy the conventions of culture. Hefner himself was very calculating in how he introduced his hedonistic vision for America.

In December 1962, Hefner began what would be a 25-segment essay titled, "The Playboy Philosophy." When completed it was a 345-page attack on all that was decent

in American society. Hefner's manifesto was particularly scornful of "Puritanical religion."

In Hefner's mind, a cultural utopia was only possible if religion was rejected outright and pleasure—especially unrestrained sexual pleasure—was embraced. While Playboy has been celebrated as an idol to heterosexual hedonism, it is worth noting that Hefner argued for absolutely no boundaries in the pursuit of pleasure.

While Playboy has long catered to heterosexual appetites, Hefner was no prude. In chapter 18 of "The Playboy Philosophy," he argued for the abolition of all laws against sodomy, including laws against bestiality. As a result, Hefner has for some time funded organizations committed to fighting for unrestricted sexual expression in America.

Perhaps as significant as the obvious impact Hefner has had on American culture might be the less quantifiable ways he has stained society. How many marriages have been undermined by the fantasies fostered by Playboy? How many women have pursued the airbrushed ideal depicted by Hefner via unhealthy dieting or unnecessary plastic surgery? How many children have lost their innocence due to the influence of the magazine?

It is too bad that university administrations do not have the guts to say no to Playboy. To date, only the University of Notre Dame has a policy against players appearing on the magazine's all-America team.

Thankfully, players like Tim Tebow and Andrew Gardner have the faith and conviction to say no to a sham "preseason honor" from a porn magazine. They refuse to allow themselves to be used by Playboy in an obvious effort to bolster its image. May their tribes increase. *Kelly Boggs is editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message*

## KBC wants to boost efforts in state's poverty-stricken areas

**Somerset**—Every night in Eastern Kentucky, one out of every five children goes to bed hungry. In this same region nearly 800,000 people have no relationship with Christ.

It is numbers like these that motivate thousands of volunteers each year to minister in Eastern Kentucky. It also is what has motivated Teresa Parrett, Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions mobilization coordinator, to develop a vision to expand that same level of volunteerism across other impoverished areas of Kentucky.

Poverty in Eastern Kentucky is extreme, she acknowledged, but "you can find it in other parts of the state as well." Parrett is hoping to connect volunteers to ministry opportunities in those unreached areas.

Currently, Eastern Kentucky receives nearly 25,000 volunteers annually. Parrett, who previously served as KBC's missions coordinator for Eastern Kentucky, said her job is to match volunteers and resources to the needs of people in the region.

"I get calls weekly ... of people just wanting to do missions work," Parrett noted. She said her desire is for the same type of work that has been taking place in Eastern Kentucky to be carried into the central and western parts of the state.

Though she is working to expand volunteerism across other regions, Parrett pointed out that Eastern Kentucky has long been and will continue to be a focus for the KBC.

Since 1999, the convention has worked closely with Appalachian Regional Ministries and its director, Bill Barker, a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionary.

ARM serves Eastern Kentucky counties, working to meet the area's many needs by creating jobs and spreading hope. Barker said 29 of the 100 most impoverished counties in America are in Eastern Kentucky—the poverty level in 21 of those counties is considered severe.

The KBC also works in coordination with the Mississippi River Ministry, which addresses poverty needs along areas that border the Mississippi River.

"We are seeing that as we address the physical needs of the people that there is an openness to the message of Jesus Christ," Barker noted.

This summer, many volunteers have ministered to children through camps, backyard Bible clubs and block parties, along with the common assistance with food. In some areas, ARM volunteers provided hot lunches to children who did not have food at home, according to Barker.

Across the country, individuals and church groups contact ARM looking for opportunities to serve, often after hearing about the ministry from one of Barker's presentations or from reading about the ministry.

Parrett said most volunteers work three to five days at a time. These individuals and groups often return to the same area several times, increasing their effectiveness. "They work through the local church or community center and join in on the work already being done," she explained.

ARM's primary outreach ministries include assisting families with home repairs, as well as helping churches develop or host vacation Bible schools.

Parrett cited Livingston Baptist Church in Rockcastle County as an example of the type of work coordinated through ARM that could easily be accomplished in other areas of Kentucky.

The congregation had not held a vacation Bible school in more than 20 years, due in part to not knowing how to get the program up and running. Low attendance on Sundays even began to create the fear that the church would soon have to close its doors for good.

Parrett matched Livingston Baptist with Pine Hill Baptist Church in Mount Vernon to help the Livingston congregation coordinate a VBS. Another group from Illinois worked simultaneously in the community through other evangelistic efforts like door-to-door evangelism and Christian video distribution.

The success of the VBS and the efforts of the volunteers helped breathe enough life into the church to keep it going. Two people were baptized shortly after Livingston's VBS last year, and the church conducted its own event this summer, with more than 30 participants.

"Volunteers are needed across the state to make this kind of a difference in similar situations and unreached areas," Parrett indicated.

For more information about ministry in Kentucky's impoverished and unreached areas, contact Teresa Parrett at (606) 875-3079, or at [teresa.parrett@kybaptist.org](mailto:teresa.parrett@kybaptist.org).

## KBC's mountain missions making changes

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**London**—After 60 years, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mountain missions emphasis is undergoing significant changes.

Instead of a mountain missions director, church planting will be spearheaded by Glen Cummins and Mike James, KBC church strategists for Eastern Kentucky.

In addition, the annual Mountain Missions Conference at Oneida Baptist Institute will take a break in 2009 as directors of missions decide what should take its place.

The format and site of the conference will be determined next May during the state directors of missions meeting, when Eastern Kentucky DOMs will discuss options.

Those decisions were reached at an Aug. 14 meeting in London, called to discuss the future of mountain missions.

### "Times have changed"

Randy Jones, KBC's missions growth team leader, said improved travel and communications has diminished the need for a mountain missions director. In addition to not replacing recently retired director David Aker, his former assistant, Teresa Parrett, has shifted to missions mobilization coordinator for the KBC.

"One of the themes that ran through the meeting was that times have changed, communications have changed and we have to make changes," Jones acknowledged. "We have to be more effective and meet the needs of the pastors."

Lagging attendance has plagued the Mountain Missions Conference, which this year only saw 85 people. The all-time high of 150 came eight years ago, although as far back as 1993 it only attracted 100 people, according to Kay Underwood, Oneida's administrative coordinator.

Four directors of missions agreed

that the conference and director's position were in need of changes. Tom Biddle of Enterprise Baptist Association in Prestonsburg said fading attendance at Oneida meant something had to be done.

With bivocational pastors—dominant in the region—moving from agriculture to other occupations, many no longer have the kind of flexibility that allows them to attend the conference, he explained.

"It's like a lot of churches; it's time for a change," Biddle said. "There are many conferences available to pastors today. It needs to be updated and refreshed if it's going to continue."

To a man, all of the DOMs had a good relationship with Aker, according to Jim Castlen of Three Forks Baptist Association in Hazard.

"But when you consider the position and what's in place now, I'm not sure survival of the position was good," he added. "Today, roads are better, telephones are better with the advent of cell phones and electronic communication."

In addition, Castlen and others indicated the timing of the Mountain Missions Conference fit Oneida's schedule better than pastors. Many are busy with visiting mission teams, vacations and other summer activities.

Although the conference provided excellent fellowship, preaching and teaching, associations may want to rethink the approach and hold their own one-day seminars, Castlen said.

Bruce Walzer of Bell Baptist Association in Middlesboro, pointed out that only three of 65 churches in his association have full-time pastors. That meant few could take time off to attend the conference, although he would like to see it survive in some manner.

At last month's conference Walzer recalled seeing several pastors he had not seen for a year and noticed

others sharing insights and information in a relaxed setting.

"It would be great to keep it going, even if they moved it to every other year," he said.

However, Hamilton Valentine of Bates Creek Baptist Association in Berea said the conference no longer occupies its place as a break for pastors and families. "In many families both (pastor and spouse) work and many bivocational pastors can't get off the first of the week," he noted.

### Work still to do

Despite the changes, Jones praised mountain missions for the good it has accomplished since 1948. The effort created an awareness of needs in Eastern Kentucky and stimulated partnerships that brought numerous mission teams to the area, he said.

In addition, it provided mentoring and training opportunities for pastors at a time when many of them could not travel far. Jones noted, adding that the region has developed considerably in recent years.

Many associations have become more autonomous since the late 1980s and no longer depend on the KBC for funding, he explained.

"I think during this time the associations have matured and grown," Jones said. "The DOMs have changed, too. They are now seen as truly a director of missions—administrators, helping churches and ministering to pastors."

As mountain missions moves into a new phase, Alan Witham, KBC's team leader of church development and evangelism, acknowledged that there are still needs to be met.

"I think there's a great opportunity to reach people because of unreached folks in the area," Witham said. "I think the future of mountain missions will depend on associations and churches meeting those needs and taking advantage of the opportunities God brings them."

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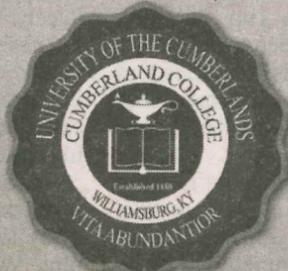
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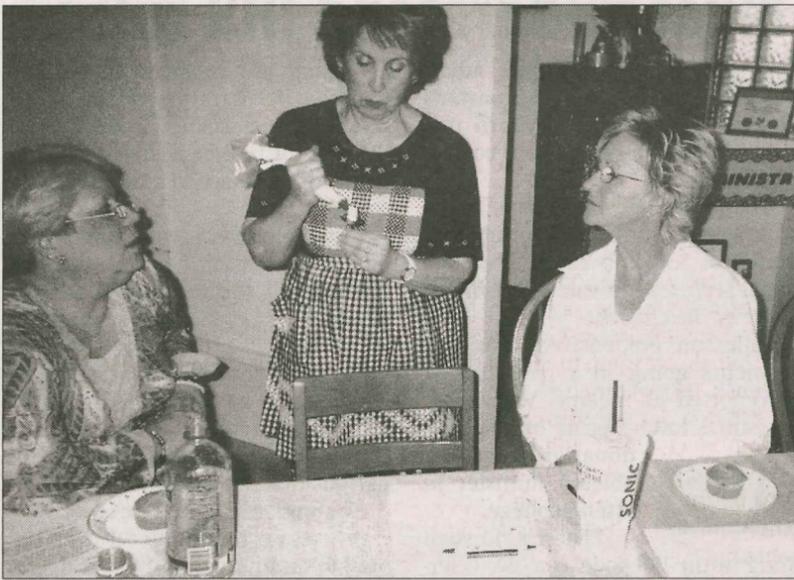
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**NEW SKILLS** A volunteer teacher at the Christian Women's Job Corps center in Hopkinsville shows two participants different techniques for decorating a cake. The Christian County center is one of four Job Corps sites in Kentucky. (Photo courtesy of Arlene Miller)

## Christian Job Corps helping women return to work force

Continued from page 1

phasis is on mentoring and helping clients set goals.

"The relationships are the heart of Christian Women's Job Corps," noted Carter, a professor of social work at Campbellsville University. "It's having someone in their life to build a relationship with, whom women can trust and will give them unconditional love and acceptance."

In addition to periodic job training, the Campbellsville site sometimes helps women obtain counseling or other assistance to pave the way to better employment.

Carter said she hopes to expand services after a homeless shelter opens this fall. Also serving as a community center, the new facility will enable them to offer regular classes and computer training, she noted.

The Campbellsville center reflects the average Job Corps site, according to C. Jean Cullen, ministry consultant at WMU's headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

Although there are some large operations serving up to 100 women at a time, most are small and work with about eight women, Cullen explained. In addition to job training and mentoring, she said many have additional services, such as food closets and GED classes.

Since its inception, the program has served nearly 26,000 people. Though difficult to say how many of those found jobs as a result of the Corps, nearly 1,300 of them are currently employed, Cullen said.

"The good thing about this model is that it fits into any community," she added. "We require sites to complete needs assessments and offer things that are not offered in their area ... the model works well in both metro and rural areas."

In Hopkinsville, the latest set of 12-week classes started Aug. 5, according to Arlene Miller, co-site coordinator.

Eight women currently are in the program, which offers various job training and life skills classes. The latter includes parenting courses that are popular among single mothers and grandmothers who are raising grandchildren.

Based at Christian County Bap-

tist Association offices, the ministry is promoted through a food and clothing ministry with which Miller also works.

Although the site helped 27 women last year, many already had jobs but came for the support of a small group and instructions that help them cope with life, Miller explained.

"One woman said, 'I'm not looking for a job, I'm looking for a group of ladies who can pray for me,'" Miller recalled. "What really encourages me is when I hear someone say, 'Your program has helped me so much I encouraged my friends to come.'"

The one-hour training and education classes are followed by one hour of Bible study, the latter taught by volunteers from Christian County Association member churches. Mentors assigned to each woman also come from association churches.

The spiritual emphasis is a key to the success of the program, according to co-site coordinator Linda Moore.

"Bible study is important for young women who have had few successes in life and are down on themselves," she noted. "They need love in their life."

They also need personal support, such as the woman struggling just to attend classes to earn her GED. Sometimes she would get physically ill when she thought about going because her self-esteem was so low, Moore pointed out.

"It took her a long time to get the courage up to go," Moore said. "It took a lot of encouragement on our part to help her see she could do this."

Getting an education is a common problem for many clients in Hopkinsville; the majority dropped out of school and are single mothers. Sometimes the Job Corps site will provide transportation so their clients can get to their jobs, Miller explained.

No matter what the assistance or where it is offered, women like Sylvana Bridgewater appreciate it.

"I think it's wonderful," she said. "They were about (offering) classes free of charge. That means a lot when you're struggling."

STATEWIDE CHURCH PRAYER GATHERINGS

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## September 10, 2008

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## Safe Church Initiative promotes safety, security for churchgoers

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has launched a special effort to encourage churches to implement policies and procedures to protect all participants in church programs—especially children—from sexual predators and other dangers.

"This is just such a vital issue for all churches, both large and small," said KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves. "Every person should feel safe in God's house and churches have a responsibility to be diligent in creating and maintaining an environment where everyone can worship and grow in the Lord."

Reeves added that implementing strong safety practices in a church sends a positive message that the church is caring in its attitude and professional in its approach to ministry.

"Implementing safety and security practices is very doable by churches of any size and will be appreciated by parents, church members, potential church members and the community," he noted. "There are just so many dangers in today's world and people expect that proper safety practices are in place."

The Safe Church Initiative uses a special section of the KBC's Web site ([www.KyBaptist.org/SafeChurch](http://www.KyBaptist.org/SafeChurch)) to provide practical "how to" resources to help churches reduce risks. Sample policies and procedures, Web links, audio training sessions and more are included on the site.

Printed Safe Church Initiative kits that contain much of the same information provided online also are available. These free kits can be ordered online or by calling (502) 489-3375, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3375.

The KBC also has made arrangements with a firm that conducts background checks—Protect My Ministry—to provide a special discounted rate for Kentucky churches (visit [www.ProtectMyMinistry.com/KyBaptist](http://www.ProtectMyMinistry.com/KyBaptist) to find out more). The convention recommends that background checks be conducted for all paid church staff members and volunteers as an initial step in implementing safety procedures.

## CPA: Churches must understand IRS rules

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Lexington—Even though Internal Revenue Service regulations can be confusing, a certified public accountant said hiring a CPA is not an automatic solution for churches wanting to comply with the law.

Though he helps clients—including some churches—file tax returns, CPA Tom Adkisson told an Aug. 16 Super Saturday workshop on IRS reporting that accountants do not necessarily understand rules related to churches.

"You can't always trust a CPA to know how to do a W-2 for a minister," said Adkisson, president of DePrie and Adkisson, a Louisville accounting firm.

To illustrate the complexities, he asked the audience of church treasurers to calculate returns for a pastor and staff members.

Although a pastor's salary was listed at \$25,800, or \$27,000 less \$1,200 to a church retirement plan, the total salary for reporting purposes came to \$29,490. That sum included a \$3,000 Social Security equivalence payment and a \$600 book allowance (\$50 per month).

The \$600 can be avoided as taxable income, but only if a church maintains an accountable reimbursement plan, where the minister produces receipts for those expenditures.

A pastor's housing allowance is

not taxable. In the samples Adkisson reviewed, neither the pastor's \$10,800 allowance or a youth pastor's \$6,000 allowance were considered income.

The part-time youth pastor had a \$2,400 salary, but his reportable income was \$3,043 because of a \$643 Social Security equivalence payment made by the church.

Adkisson emphasized that any payments going to a pastor must be reported as income, whether a Christmas love offering or a special donation that enables a minister to attend college.

"There's no such thing in the IRS code as a love offering," the CPA noted. "You can't accept a gift designated for an individual to attend school. That's a good way to lose your tax-exempt status. You can give it to him if he reports it as income."

The IRS also maintains strict requirements on donations earmarked for special purposes, Adkisson said.

For example, if a member gives money designated for a youth trip, the church cannot decide to spend it on something else. Restricted gifts also cannot benefit a particular member, such as donations to help pay a hospital bill, he pointed out.

The exception is if a church has an established benevolence fund. Yet, even then, donors cannot direct how their money is spent.

"There are nuances about this and the IRS is rather sticky about it," Adkisson acknowledged. "The IRS says for it to be a charitable contribution you have to relinquish control of it."

"In the church, we're not in the business of doing benevolence. We can't do all the things we used to like to do."

To avoid problems, Adkisson said that if someone wants to help a member of his church with a medical bill, he opens a special bank account and asks members to send donations to that account.

Among other issues he covered:

- A contribution is deductible only for the year in which it is given, including any mailed checks that are postmarked by Dec. 31. A donation mailed by that date in 2008 would be deductible even if received Jan. 2, 2009, but a check delivered in person on Jan. 2, 2009, is not deductible for 2008.

- For non-cash contributions, the church should provide written acknowledgement of the gift but never assign a value. If a member gave 300 shares of stock, it is up to that donor to calculate the value based on the stock price on the date it was given.

- No one can deduct a donation of more than \$250 without written acknowledgement from the church.

For churches not sure of a particular regulation, Adkisson advised visiting the IRS Web site or the Kentucky Baptist Convention's site.



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# KENTUCKYNOTES WMU

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union  
P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 489-3534 • Toll-free: (866) 489-3534  
Supplement to Western Recorder

Funding for this publication made possible through contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

## Celebrate!

Eliza is a millionaire!!

The 2007-08 Eliza Broadus Offering for Kentucky missions has exceeded the million dollar goal.

As of 8/18/08:

\$1,097,632.49

This exceeds our 2008 goal of \$1,052,008.

Let's do it again and Celebrate God's Love!

Fall 2008

## A Personal Word

*Celebrate God's Love* is our theme for the 2008 Season of Prayer for State Missions, and what a celebration we are having. We are celebrating that we have exceeded the million dollar mark in state missions giving for the first time! As of August 18, the 2007-08 Eliza Broadus Offering total is \$1,097,632.49 and still counting!



**Joy Bolton**  
Executive  
Director-  
Treasurer

Our offering year runs from September 1 through August 31, so we will start on our new goal and offering year as we start a new church year. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for faithfully giving to state missions during 2007-08. May we celebrate God's love again through our giving in 2008-2009.

The 2008 State Missions Packet and DVD were mailed to church WMU directors and contacts in early July. An additional DVD was mailed to pastors. All of the materials are also posted on our web site ([www.kywmu.org/statemissions](http://www.kywmu.org/statemissions)) and additional copies may be requested from the Kentucky WMU office.

The packet includes a Master Article, teaching plans for all ages, prayer guide, and poster. The DVD and Master Article feature ministries that reach out with a personal touch through the Moore Activity Center and HR Ministries, ministries to the homeless, and high impact church planting. I hope you will use the four promotional videos included on the DVD as well as the longer mission study video sometime in September.

I also want to encourage you to participate in With One Voice, a special prayer service on Wednesday, September 10 during the Season of Prayer for State Missions. On September 10, churches across Kentucky are challenged to pray for the lost and for spiritual awakening in our state. The suggested order of service includes scripture readings that focus on what the Bible teaches about lostness.

The recent study "Spiritual Maturity Among Southern Baptists in Kentucky" revealed some disturbing information. Through the survey, we learned that only 76 percent of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement "Eternal salvation is possible through God's grace alone; nothing we do can earn salvation." Only 45 percent responded negatively to the statement "If a person is sincerely seeking God, he/she can obtain eternal life through religions other than Christianity."

The results of this study were pivotal as we selected Scripture passages to be read during the service. Unless we absolutely believe that all have sinned and that those without Christ are lost, we will not be highly motivated to witness. The Scripture readings and prayer emphasis will point With One Voice participants to what the Bible says about salvation and our responsibility to share Christ with those who have not heard.

Join us as we celebrate God's love and missions in Kentucky, pray With One Voice for spiritual awakening in Kentucky, and give to the Eliza Broadus Offering. Our offering goal is \$1,052,008 in 2008! Let the celebration begin!

# Celebrate GOD'S LOVE

## Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2008  
Offering Goal: \$1,052,008

Contact Kentucky WMU for the 2008 state missions DVD, teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes, and promotional ideas. 502-489-3534 or toll-free: 866-489-3534. Materials are also posted on our Web site: [www.kywmu.org](http://www.kywmu.org)

Join in prayer on Wednesday, September 10 as we pray "With One Voice" for spiritual awakening in Kentucky. Check the KBC web site for more information. [www.kybaptist.org/onevoice](http://www.kybaptist.org/onevoice)

With **OneVoice**  
Praying with urgency for Kentucky  
Statewide Church Prayer Gathering - September 10, 2008

## WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED

In July, over 300 people participated in World Missions Unlimited at First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville and First Baptist Church, London. A variety of special interest and leadership training workshops were offered to prepare church WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders for the year ahead in missions education and involvement.

Featured speakers included Matt Johnson, church planter, Murray; Harrell Riley, MSC missionary, Princeton; Coy Webb, Disaster Relief Associate, Kentucky Baptist Convention; Shirley Cox, MSC missionary, Mt. Vernon; and Mark Elkins, church planter, Pineville.

A variety of hygiene items were collected during



the event and given to the various ministries focused upon during World Missions Unlimited.

## Churchwide



If missions growth took place in your church, how would it look? In the 2008-2009 yearbook, there are resources that can assist you in making this coming year a banner year. You don't have to do things the same old way. Do things different. What do you think would set your church on fire for missions? Is it out of the box... a bit radical? That is okay. Present WMU and its age level organizations as an exciting part of the Christian experience. Does it seem impossible? Don't think that way! We know that nothing is impossible with God! Make it exciting for everyone. Mix it up! Do an extreme missions makeover. Write and present a skit on missions. Those resources are also available from [www.wmu.com](http://www.wmu.com). Use the emphasis *Called to Love*. Spend time on your promotion; don't just throw it together. You reap what you sow. If your church is small, consider Churchwide WMU.

As mentioned, the emphasis for the next two years is *Called to Love*. Sounds simple. But what does it really mean? In the 2008-2009 WMU Yearbook you will find the resources you need to encourage your church to be *Called to Love*. If your church did not get the 'how-to' guides for missions involvement in your church and/or for age level leadership, they are available through WMU.

May you experience God's richest blessings this church year.

—Wanda Walker

## Adults

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:37-39, NIV, adapted)

These are some strong words for us to follow, right? As adults we find ourselves easily swayed by emotions and experiences that sometimes tells us that this particular scripture was meant for someone else, not us. This is a big order. This is not from our parents, our employer or friends... this is from Jesus! I don't know about you, but my accountability keeps growing and growing. Still, that makes me a stronger Christ follower and missions-minded person.

This coming year, adults will have the opportunity to learn more about our watchword

and emphasis *Called to Love*. This fall will focus on "God's Unconditional Love: The Nature of God's Love." You can get more information from the yearbook, and *Missions Mosaic* will have the stories and ways to better understand this aspect of our emphasis. If you are not subscribing to *Missions Mosaic*, now is a great time to get started.

The 2008 WMU Fall Retreats are just around the corner. Have you made your reservation? We are expecting God to bless and inspire you as you come together to relax, fellowship and be challenged to respond to Matthew 25:40, "I tell you the truth when you did it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me."

Katie Richards will lead us through three sessions and challenge us to respond to the needs of those around us. LED to Testify will lead the music at Jonathan Creek and Laura

Spragg from Winchester will lead us at Cedarmore.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship has accepted another ministry project for nurses. In addition to Baby Boot Camp, health care professionals and workers will be working to promote women's health education in Kentucky. This is close to the heart of many of the nurses and fits right into the Project HELP: Poverty emphasis. This project will require lots of prayer support and sponsorship. Information will be shared with associations and their churches as time grows closer.



Peace, Joy and Blessing!

—Wanda Walker

## Youth

What an active summer for Acteens in Kentucky. Acteens went on a Mission Adventure at Cedar Crest. The "adventure" consisted of Bible study, time with a missionary, and ministry projects. Other Acteens made a "Splash" at Jonathan Creek, June 20-21. The weekend was a time to reflect on how we can find our place with God's help. An activator team from Kentucky served in Ocean City, MD. The team of 14 worked in surf and sand clubs, participated in lifeguard and international ministries, and assisted Ocean City Baptist church by hosting a parent's night out and family night.



Cathy Chinn of Hartford Baptist with international students



Sapphire Box of Post Oak Baptist in Russellville

It was a busy week of ministry.

The Youth/ College Committee of Kentucky WMU has selected the Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel for 2008-09. They are: Dallice Ballou, Central Baptist, Corbin; Lynzie Gray, Little Bethel Baptist, Harrodsburg; Brandie Hagerman, Hartford Baptist, Hartford; and Carolyn Smith, Central Baptist, Corbin. The panel met August 8-9 and began preparing for Exalt 2009. More information will follow.

Church and associational Acteens

leaders attended training at World Missions Unlimited in July. If you are an associational leader who was unable to attend SALT or World Missions Unlimited, please contact LaRaine for some resources. Church leaders who were unable to attend training, please contact your associational WMU leadership team for information about training.

The season of prayer for state missions is upon us. There is a lesson specifically designed for youth included in the information packet sent to church WMU directors. The lesson will help youth understand the need for new churches within our state.

—LaRaine Dail Rice



Acteens with Gayla Parker, Executive Director of MD/DE WMU

## Preschool and Children

### For MISSION FRIENDS Leaders —

Welcome to a new year in Mission Friends. As a Mission Friends leader, you are "Called to Love" God with all of your heart, soul, and mind. You have an awesome opportunity to teach preschoolers to love God and to love others as well. *Start, Share and First Steps in Missions* are essential tools that enable you to provide developmentally appropriate activities for each child.

September is the time you will want to involve preschoolers in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. The study material for preschoolers focuses on ministries to the homeless in Kentucky and is available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

Plan now to introduce preschoolers to missions in Venezuela through the *International Missions Study 2008 Teaching Guide for Preschool*. The study coordinates with the December unit in *Start* and contains activities and stories that can be taught during a churchwide study or during any regular class for preschoolers.



### For GIRLS IN ACTION and CHILDREN IN ACTION Leaders —

Welcome to "Mission: Possible"! During the 2008-09 church year, members of GA and CiA will set out on a worldwide mission as they learn biblical principles that reinforce loving God and loving others. They will meet missionaries who are living their lives sharing the love of God with others. Be a prepared leader by:

- Reading *How to Involve Children in Mission*: Includes Guides for Girls in Action and Children in Action.
- Using the 2008-2009 WMU Year Book to help you know, month by month, what is in store for Girls in Action or Children in Action.
- Becoming familiar with the curriculum. (GA Leader for GA leaders and Children in Action Leader for Children in Action leaders.)
- Involving all children in your church in the 2008 State Missions Emphasis in September and the International Missions Emphasis in December.
- Discovering more information about Girls in Action at [www.gapassport.com](http://www.gapassport.com) or Children in Action at [www.childrenmissions.com](http://www.childrenmissions.com).



### For GAs —

Imagine a day with a carousel of countries, bright-colored streamers, booths and attractions that feature missions and Girls in Action. This is what you will see at a special event called "GA JAM" on November 8, 2008.

- All GAs in grades 1-6 are invited.
- Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green
- Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Cost: \$10.00 per person. Lunch will be provided. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.

### For CiA Agents —

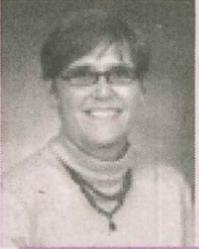
Members of Children in Action are invited to the Children in Action Missions Day Camp on Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg. Children in Action is WMU's coed organization for boys and girls in grades 1-6. Children will meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, participate in a ministry project, play games and lots more. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration deadline is September 12. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.



—Brenda Price

## President's Perspective

It was good seeing so many of you in Indianapolis at the Mission Celebration (national WMU annual meeting). A date you need to put on your calendar right now is June 21-22, 2009. That is when the WMU meeting will take place, and it is in Louisville! We hope that all of you can be there. Joy and I had the opportunity to host Wanda Lee as we looked for a place in Louisville to host the meeting. After a marathon day, it was decided that St. Matthews Baptist Church would be the perfect place. They have graciously agreed to host us and plans are being made!



**Pat Reaves**  
Kentucky WMU  
president

While we are talking about annual meetings: Another date to remember is March 27-28, 2009. That is Kentucky's WMU annual meeting date. We will be at First Baptist Church in Richmond. We have met with Dianna Ackerman and other ladies of the church. They have great ideas and are anxious for us to come.

### SAVE THE DATES!

March 27-28, 2009 in Richmond  
June 21-22, 2009 in Louisville

I know that you all have had a busy spring and summer. It started in May. Dudley and I were in Winchester for a MissionFest with many of you. What a great time. We painted our houses (despite injury) and that was a real blessing. A mom and daughter from our church, Barbara and Christina Thurston, went with us and it was fun to get to know them even better. What mission hearts they have! Some of the other things that happened during the summer were:

- Korean guests came to visit. They spent some time at GA camp and visiting churches that were having VBS. They really got into the "Outrigger Island" theme!
- I was privileged to take Cathy Chinn and her Acteens to the airport as they headed for Ocean City, Maryland, for an activator trip. When I picked them up they were tired, but also excited about what they had done. Thanks to all those who took that trip.
- World Missions Unlimited was held in Hopkinsville and London. Many of you were there and trained for the new year.
- Margaret Hardesty-Day traveled to Korea trying to lay some groundwork for the others going this summer.
- We had six folks go to Korea to teach English in church camps. Stacy lead this group. They were there the first two weeks in August.
- If things go as planned, Joy, Sandra Duguid, Dolores Gilmore and I will be getting home from Korea about the time you read this. While there we will be attending the Korea WMU annual meeting. We may be able to report about a visit to North Korea.

As you plan for the new year, be sure and remember our Heritage Fund. Our daughters and their families gave to the Heritage Fund in our honor for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Dudley and I could not have thought of a better gift. Thanks kids!

Our new emphasis for the next two years, beginning in September, is *Called to Love*. Our scripture is Matthew 22:37-39 NIV, (adapted): "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

We will be teaching our preschoolers: "Love God. Love others. That's what it is all about!"

Working together,  
—Pat

## Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund March 1—May 31, 2008

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the third quarter of the 2007-08 fiscal year. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. In addition, gifts for the 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign for the Heritage Fund continue to come in. Pledge gifts are noted each quarter and may also be given in honor or memory of someone. You can participate in the 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign by making pledge or gift today!

### In Honor of:

Their 60th Wedding Anniversary  
Gary & Glenda Triplett  
Brenda Price  
FBC Paris WMU  
Bob & Alma Hardesty  
Mary Lou Crutcher  
Lisa Crenshaw  
Pat Key  
Bro. & Mrs. Louis Shepherd  
Mary Lou Crutcher  
Wilma Head  
Twyla & Cecil Sheffield

### In Memory Of:

Mildred Cason  
Bro. Joe Bagwell  
Eva Taulbee

Jane Kent  
Gary Hall  
Ruby Proctor  
Gary Hall

### Other Heritage Fund Gifts

National WMU Foundation  
Denise Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nutter  
Delois Nunley

### Donor:

Gerald & June McNeely (campaign gift)  
Mr. & Mrs. William Lamkin (toward pledge)  
Cheryl Hatfield (toward pledge)  
Maxine Pulliam (campaign gift)  
Anonymous (campaign gift)  
Mr. & Mrs. William Lamkin (toward pledge)  
New Salem Baptist WMU (toward pledge)  
Linda Alexander (toward pledge)  
Russell County Assoc. WMU  
Long Run Assoc. WMU Leadership Team  
Beth Wyatt  
Cathy Chinn (toward pledge)

### Donor:

Anna White  
Linda Alexander (toward pledge)  
Sanderson Group, Central Baptist Church,  
Winchester  
Frankie Johnson  
Wolf Creek Baptist Church  
Burgin Baptist Church  
Kentucky WMU

### 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign Contributions (includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments, and other campaign gifts)

Joy Bolton  
Dry Ridge Women on Mission  
Kentucky WMU Staff  
Jo Pelham  
Crestwood Baptist WMU  
Maribeth Hambrick  
Elmburg Baptist WMU  
Central Baptist Church WMU  
Korea Baptist WMU  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerrell White  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Walzer  
Estella Brashear  
Patty Renfrow  
Lillian Weller  
Kathy Lloyd Women on Mission, FBC Henderson  
Shelby Association WMU  
Twyla Sheffield  
Cheryl Hatfield  
Crittenden Association WMU  
Three Forks Baptist Association  
Blood River Association WMU  
Carol Russ  
Westport Road Baptist Church WMU  
Peggy Hicks

**1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign Update—As of 6/30/08:**  
Total Pledges & Other gifts: \$82,247.48  
Received to date toward campaign: \$61,925.31



When is the last time you experienced poverty? Perhaps with the gas prices and the economy, you may feel like you do now. But what if you were to experience what it is like to live every day in poverty?

Some of our associations and churches have been involved in simulated and real life poverty experiences. Here are two stories from our state:

Shelby Association held the Poverty Simulation experience with Anne Smith for Focus on WMU in February 2007. (If you attended World Missions Unlimited in 2006, you experienced something similar.) After the experience, the group feasted on a soup kitchen style lunch that consisted of soup, crackers, oatmeal bars and a store brand cola. In the words of Ruth Hinkle, associational WMU director, "I am sure this was the first time that our associational lunches were so sparse!!! Normally, we have potluck and always have more food than we could possibly eat." The participants brought items not covered by food stamps for Ms. Smith to give to the people she works with on a daily basis.

In Owensboro, Lewis Lane Baptist Church has been helping a woman affected by poverty. She became physically unable to take care of herself and lost her home. Her personal belongings had been sold in order to pay for food to eat. Being in her 50s, she received no entitlements. Church members helped her find affordable housing, obtain food stamps and provided her with items that food stamps did not. Her physical condition required surgeries and temporary care. Members are meeting her needs that are not being met through services in the community.

For more information on ProjectHELP: Poverty, visit [www.wmu.com/VolunteerConnection-Project-HELP](http://www.wmu.com/VolunteerConnection-Project-HELP).



**GOD'S CARE**

Seeing with new eyes

## 2008 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

Join with Baptist Women around the world on Monday, November 3, as we pray for ministries for and by women. The 2008 Day of Prayer program was written by the Baptist Women's Union of the South West Pacific, one of the seven Continental Unions of the BWA Women's Department. Join as we pray for ministries by the women of Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, as well as ministries on each continent.

The Day of Prayer program is available from Kentucky WMU or visit: [www.kywmu.org/dayofprayer](http://www.kywmu.org/dayofprayer).



When a child is lost and believed to be in danger in Kentucky, an alert notification goes out across the airwaves. Law enforcement officers, news media personnel and everyday citizens go into high gear to bring the one who is lost to safety. On Wednesday, September 10, 2008, Kentucky Baptists will be focusing on a similar kind of alert as churches all across the Commonwealth participate in special prayer gatherings to focus on the urgent need to bring those who are lost to Christ.

Make plans now for your church to participate and join with thousands of Kentucky Baptists to pray with urgency with one voice for God to bring a spiritual awakening to our state so that those who are lost may be found!

Learn more about With One Voice...Praying with Urgency at [www.kybaptist.org/onevoice](http://www.kybaptist.org/onevoice). Planning materials have been mailed to every pastor. You may also download copies of all print material and a special video from this web page.



Make this day of prayer a part of the Season of Prayer for State Missions in your church and join us in praying With One Voice.

## Missions Safari at Cedar Crest

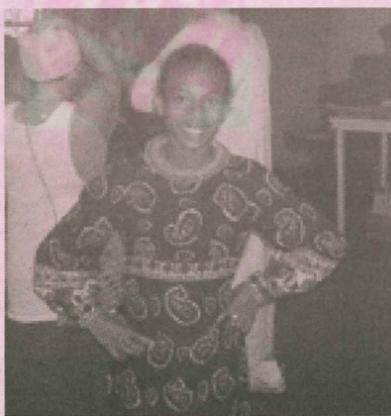
Campers and their church leaders took a Missions Safari this summer at Cedar Crest as they explored the culture and missions work in Africa. Campers met missionaries from Africa, made African crafts, and played African games. Campers also learned about the many human needs of people all over Africa and how missionaries are meeting those needs. Campers and their church leaders were



able to help meet some of those needs by decorating caps and backpacks for street kids in Tanzania and bringing offerings of school supplies. A monetary offering was also given to provide vehicles for missionaries in Africa. Campers were challenged to meet the needs of people in their own community.

Cedar Crest is located at Cedarmore Camp and Conference

Center in Bagdad, Kentucky. Mission Adventure Camp welcomes children in grades 1-10 and their church leaders. Join us in 2009 as we take a European Excursion! Please contact Kentucky WMU this fall for specific dates and prices.



## Called to Love Women on Mission Fall Retreats

September 12-13  
Jonathan Creek

October 10-11  
Cedarmore

*It's not too late to reserve your spot!*

### Calendar

#### September

- 6 Super Saturday, FBC, Somerset
- 7-14 Super Saturday, Lone Oak FBC, Paducah
- 12-13 Season of Prayer for State Missions & Eliza Broadus Offering
- 12-13 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek
- 13 Super Saturday, FBC, Pikeville
- 20 Super Saturday, FBC, Bowling Green
- Children in Action Day Camp, Central Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg

#### October

- 10-11 Women on Mission/BNF Fall Retreat, Cedarmore
- 24-26 Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting, Cedarmore

#### November

- 3 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
- 8 GA JAM, (girls in grades 1-6)
- Rich Pond BC, Bowling Green

#### December

- 11-30/12-7 Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Offering

## Called to Meet

Pack your bags and plan to attend TWO great meetings



**2009 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting**  
Friday-Saturday  
March 27-28, 2009  
First Baptist Church, Richmond  
Program includes lunch with a missionary and ministry projects

**2009 National WMU Missions Celebration & Annual Meeting**  
Sunday - Monday  
June 21-22, 2009  
St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville  
Program includes a Kentucky ministries fair on Sunday evening.

Registration and hotel information will be mailed to churches in January.

## Kentucky Baptists Connect... Sharing Christ with Urgency

### 2008 KBC Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 11  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Lexington

Visit the WMU booth,  
Participate in the sessions,  
Support Kentucky Baptists,  
Be inspired and challenged!

## Baptist Global Response assesses situation in Georgia

*Relief team on the ground in Georgian capital as part of effort to aid refugees*

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

**Tbilisi, Georgia (BP)**—A Southern Baptist overseas team has engaged the relief crisis in the Black Sea country of Georgia, where an estimated 50,000 people, driven from their homes by fighting, have been forced to take refuge in schools and government buildings not equipped to meet their needs.

The four-member team arrived in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi Aug. 18. Very quickly, the team was asked to respond to the immediate needs of about 600 refugees for crucial medicine and personal items, one team member reported. Local officials gave the team a warm reception, and the group is working with a partner in Georgia who can help establish relief operations in the country.

The team is trying to assess the situation in Gori, a central city overrun by Russian troops a week earlier. Many of the displaced people in Tbilisi are from Gori, and if the city is largely undamaged, they will be able to return home once the city is reopened, the team member said.

"The critical thing is going to be to find out if Gori was destroyed in any way or if it's just that people will be able to get back to their apartments and they might be some time without electricity or water or whatever," the team member said in a telephone interview. "They are suspecting that there's going to be more in the neighborhood of 5,000 long-term true refugees from Georgian villages in South Ossetia."

The refugee crisis was created by fighting between Georgian and Russian troops and allied militias in the region. Russian troops and regional paramilitaries took con-

trol of Gori, a strategic city in central Georgia, despite the announcement of a truce that should have sent those forces back to their earlier positions. News reports indicated the city was bombed and looted before those forces moved toward Tbilisi and dug into positions 30 miles from the capital.

South Ossetia declared its independence from Georgia in the early 1990s—a declaration that has not been recognized by the U.S. government or the United Nations. Abkhazia, which lies west of South Ossetia, has been seeking independence as well. Georgia gained its own independence when the Soviet Union collapsed but has been in conflict with Russia and separatist groups ever since.

The current conflict erupted when Georgia launched an offensive in early August to re-establish control over South Ossetia, and Moscow responded with a massive counterstrike. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Aug. 14 that his country believed South Ossetia and Abkhazia independence leaders would not agree to be "forced back into the Georgian state."

Meanwhile, the Southern Baptist relief team has tried to locate one tent city of refugees on Tbilisi's western edge but discovered it had been moved because the location was ill-suited to housing them, the team member noted. They were, however, able to make contact with about 600 refugees housed in a former military hospital.

"These are Georgians who lived in South Ossetia," he indicated. "Their houses, many of them, were set on fire. They are most likely long-term refugees."

"We were asked to come in and



provide medicines that they need right away, like antibiotics, high blood pressure medicine, Tylenol and things like that," the team member continued. "Also we were asked to provide things like soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste—things like that just to get them through."

One team member was focusing on obtaining permission for Southern Baptists and their local partners to set up a relief operation that could focus on crucial immediate needs like feeding refugees and purifying water.

The relief effort in Georgia appears to require a "Level 2" response, according to Jim Brown, U.S. director for Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization.

"It looks like this mainly will be a response conducted by partners already on the ground overseas," Brown explained. "It could require

help from Southern Baptists state-side, but that need has not yet been established."

While the groundwork is being laid for a relief effort, prayer is needed for the people in crisis in Georgia, according to the relief team member.

"The first thing is to pray the city of Gori will be free," he said. "Pray for the long-term relationship between Russians and Georgians. Pray for the government leaders of both countries."

"We need to pray for those people, no matter where they are—South Ossetia or Georgia or Abkhazia—who have been in conflict and are on the edge, that they would find peace," he added. "Pray that we would have wisdom to know with whom to work, how to do our work, how to best see how a long-term response will help bring hope and peace to this country that has long been in conflict."

**ON THE MOVE** Russian soldiers sit atop tanks in a column of armored vehicles on the road from Tbilisi to Gori just outside Gori, Georgia, Aug. 19. Southern Baptists in the area have begun efforts to aid Georgian refugees. (Photo by Uriel Sinai/Getty Images)

## Pastors & Church Leaders Conference

NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 25-26 EVENTS

### "Servant Evangelism in the 21st Century Church"

is the theme for the CU Pastors & Church Leaders Conference at Campbellsville University  
WITH TWO DAYS OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS!

Register in advance or at the door at 1 p.m. on Sept. 25 in Ransdell Chapel.



Dr. David Goatley

• Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, left, one of two featured speakers, is executive secretary-treasurer of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

• Dr. Frank S. Page, at right, is past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and will be the second featured speaker at this year's event.



Dr. Frank Page

To Register, call (270) 789-5520 or e-mail [jechowning@campbellsville.edu](mailto:jechowning@campbellsville.edu)  
Registration is \$30 Continuing Education Credit Available



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502.753.0264 • 800.735.0610

## American missionaries protest confiscation of Bibles in China

Beijing (RNS)—Four American missionaries who intend to carry more than 300 Bibles into China say Chinese authorities confiscated the holy books at an airport.

Patrick Klein, 46, and three volunteers with Vision Beyond Borders, a Sheridan, Wyo.-based evangelical organization, moved to a motel Aug. 18 after staying in the Kunming airport in southwestern China for two nights in protest, according to a ministry spokeswoman.

"The government was asking them to leave (the airport) but they were asking for the Bibles back before they were willing to leave," said Dyann Romeijn, a regional coordinator with the ministry. "I think the purpose is ... to let people realize that although China claims to have religious freedom, that in practice it's not there."

Roemijn said authorities told Klein, the founder and director of the ministry, that a law prohibited them from bringing the Bibles into the country.

The Associated Press reported that a Chinese customs officer confirmed that 315 Bibles were found in checked luggage but said authorities were "taking care" of them and denied they had been confiscated.

Klein has worked as a missionary with different ministries for more than 21 years.

According to previous reports, it was unclear exactly how many or if any Bibles were being allowed into China with Olympic visitors. The Chinese government strictly regulates the sale of Bibles, making them available only through bookstores of government-registered churches.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

## Saddleback's Warren reflects on presidential faith forum

By David Finnigan  
Religion News Service

Lake Forest, Calif. (RNS)—A day after hosting presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, megachurch pastor Rick Warren said Aug. 17 that a politician's soul is as important as his solutions.

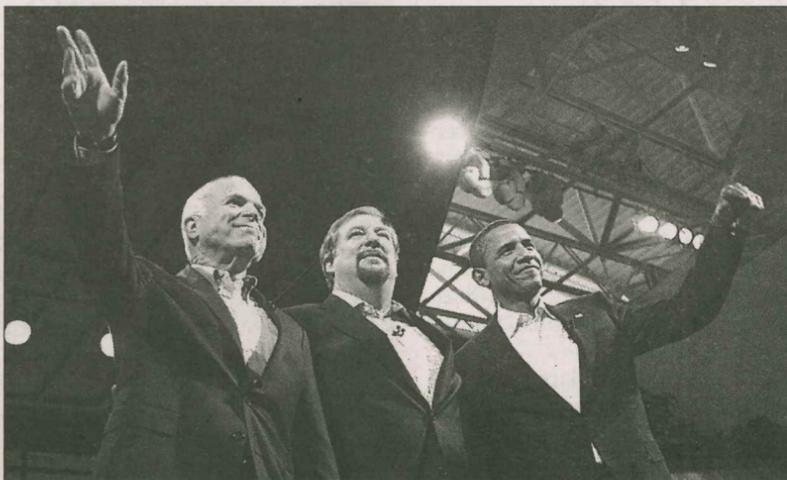
"Don't just look at issues, look at character," Warren sermonized at his Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. "Issues are important but you also have to look at character."

The megachurch pastor made only a passing reference to his "buddies named Barack and John," but he made clear what he looks for in a leader.

"Our leaders used to be known for the integrity ... 'Honest Abe' or George Washington," Warren noted. "Does the private life of a leader matter? Absolutely it matters. Because what you do affects everybody else, even in your private life."

The evening before Warren and Saddleback hosted a civil forum with Republican presumptive nominee McCain and Obama, the presumed Democratic nominee. It was the presidential campaign's third faith-focused forum—the first two included only Democratic nominees—highlighting the importance of religion in recent elections.

Warren, founder of the 20,000-member Saddleback Church and author of the best-selling "The Purpose Driven Life," calls himself a friend of



**TALKING FAITH** Rick Warren, (center) pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is flanked by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., (left) and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., at a faith forum Aug. 16. (RNS photo by Ann Johansson)

both candidates. That did not, however, stop him from grilling Obama and McCain on hot-button issues such as abortion and gay marriage.

Asked about abortion, McCain said human rights start at the moment of conception.

Obama emphasized his abortion-rights position but also discussed the complexity of the debate and said his party is committed to reducing abortion through anti-poverty initiatives.

Saddleback member Robert MacHale said he was supporting Obama, but that neither candidate may be able to resolve such difficult issues.

"I guess the better question to ask is will either John McCain or Obama do anything about abortion," he added.

Evangelical pastor Jim Gilbreth of Riverside, Calif., mentioned the Saddleback forum was unlikely to dampen his McCain support. "On several key issues I am in complete disagreement with Sen. Obama," Gilbreth said. "But I am very interested in what he has to say."

Both candidates discussed their personal religious views, with Obama saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and that I am redeemed through Him."

McCain remarked that his faith "means I'm saved and forgiven." He also told a story about silently celebrating Christmas with a prison guard while a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

When Warren asked Obama if evil existed, the Illinois senator said it did, adding that people should have "some humility in how we approach the issue of confronting evil ... you know a lot of evil has been perpetrated based on the claim that we were trying to confront evil."

In response to a question about wealth, McCain answered, "Some of the richest people I've ever known are the most unhappy. ... I think that rich is defined by, should be defined by a home, a good job and education and the ability to hand our children a more prosperous and safer world than the one that we inherited."

Hundreds of audience members waited in lines Aug. 16 snaking up Saddleback's hilly suburban compound. On a nearby boulevard about 1,000 demonstrators from several movements protested both candidates.

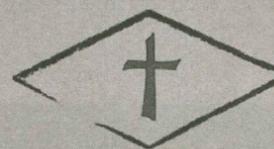
Warren did not endorse either candidate but he did mention the kind of presidential candidate he would not support.

"I could not vote for an atheist ... because an atheist says, 'I don't need God.' And nobody is self-sufficient (enough) to be a president by themselves."

**"I could not vote for an atheist ... because an atheist says, 'I don't need God.' And nobody is self-sufficient (enough) to be a president by themselves."**

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

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### Experiencing life together

#### Staff member's wedding offers time for reflection

In personal reflection, there are several specific aspects of the camp ministry that greatly impact me. One of these areas is the blessing of watching a group of teens grow up in our ministry. As a parachurch ministry, we don't often find ourselves involved in life transitions with families as one would experience in a church setting. However, on occasion we do get the opportunity to watch as a camper becomes a staffer and that staffer transitions into full-time employment with our ministry. The five- to eight-year span from driving age to post-college graduate is filled with an ongoing state of change.



David Melber

great privilege and honestly, a humbling weight as Kristen's father, who performed the service, shared of Chris' commitment to serve youth through his life by working with Crossings. By having an opportunity to shape the lives of young adults like Chris, I am reminded that we can do nothing on our own; it is only by God's work in us that produces fruit. Presently, 10 of our full-time employees have come through positions like a past camper, an intern or a summer staffer in our ministry. As they move through the exciting life stages of young adulthood, I continually thank the Lord for the opportunity to watch their walk of faith grow and mature each day.

The wedding was a time of reflection, not only on the past, but as an ever-present reminder of the stewardship entrusted to us as we walk alongside young adults as they mature and take significant life steps. I count it a great honor and privilege to play a very small part in the lives of these young adults, and our prayers are that they develop and continue to grow as faithful Christ followers.

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

Recently, our family witnessed a new life transition with a fellow staff member. Louisville native Chris Thurman began with Crossings as a camper with Walnut Street Baptist Church. During college, Chris served several years as a camp staffer, and for the past 18 months has been a full-time employee of Crossings. This past weekend, my family, along with many other current and past Crossings staff, celebrated Chris' marriage to Kristen Landgrave.

Throughout the evening, I felt a

### Legacy of love

#### Owensboro couple honored for commitment to children

Two special foster parents for Sunrise Children's Services have received national recognition for opening their homes and hearts to more than 300 children over 18 years. The Foster Family-Based Treatment Association awarded Owensboro residents Houston and Debbie Hogg the first-ever Leadership Legacy Scholarship, which sent them to the association's annual conference in Dallas this summer.



Bill Smithwick

in their care were loved and many chose to become Christians. Houston became disabled in a fall at work eight years ago and, more recently, Debbie underwent treatment for breast cancer. They briefly stopped foster parenting after Debbie's diagnosis, only to experience a void they realized serving the kids always filled.

The couple's influence not only has extended to their foster children. Their youngest daughter also is a foster parent, and one of the Hoggs' sons and his wife are preparing to become foster parents.

The Hoggs have truly lived out Galatians 6:9-10: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people."

They are an example to us all. If God is calling you to be an "in-home missionary" to foster children, Sunrise has offices across Kentucky where you can get started. Call us at (800) 456-1386, or visit [www.Sunrise.org](http://www.Sunrise.org) to find out more.

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

The Hoggs began foster parenting after a recruiter spoke in their church. All but one of their six biological children were grown at the time. They were ready for God to use them to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children who had no home.

Through the years, Houston and Debbie have typically had three foster children at a time. They admit not every child has been easy to love, but they loved them anyway.

"They seem to react to the love that we show them," Debbie Hogg told the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer. As a result, all the children

### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



### Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

- Across**
- 1 Great amount
  - 5 Lea denizen
  - 8 "All \_\_\_\_ that we should be saved was ... taken away" (Acts 27:20)
  - 12 Son of Joah (1 Chronicles 6:21)
  - 13 Gold, in Guantanamo
  - 14 Grandson of Adam
  - 15 "Neither count I my life \_\_\_\_ unto myself" (Acts 20:24)
  - 16 Bled, as fabric
  - 17 Used to be
  - 18 Usually 15 percent
  - 20 To \_\_\_\_ for
  - 22 Father of Rachel, and his namesakes
  - 25 Cause great anger
  - 29 Author of Tristram Shandy
  - 30 911 happy ending
  - 31 Naval officer (abbr.)
  - 32 Laughing syllable
  - 33 "Make a great flame with smoke \_\_\_\_ out of the city" (2 words, Judges 20:38)
  - 37 Belonging to the first son of Eliphaz (Genesis 36:11)
  - 41 "We who are Jews by \_\_\_\_" (Galatians 2:15)
  - 42 "\_\_\_\_ Abana and Pharpar ... better than all the waters of Israel?" (2 Kings 5:12)
  - 43 Number of performances of a play
  - 44 Day \_\_\_\_
  - 45 Get out of
  - 48 Former Mideast republic (abbr.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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41								42					
45	46	47					48	49		50	51	52	53
54							55			56			
57							58			59			

- 50 Feminine name
- 54 "When ye \_\_\_\_ the harvest of your land" (Leviticus 23:22)
- 55 Hwy.
- 56 She was called "tender eyed"
- 57 Feminine name
- 58 Still
- 59 Writer Bombeck
- 22 Place of the seal (abbr.)
- 23 Entrance court (pl.)
- 24 Untamed one
- 26 Son of Carmi who was stoned by all of Israel (Joshua 7)
- 27 Fertilizer from sea birds
- 28 Shoe width
- 33 Hosp. employee
- 34 Continent which includes Italia

- Down**
- 1 "I will \_\_\_\_ evil beasts out of the land" (Leviticus 26:6)
  - 2 Netherlands metropolis
  - 3 Feminine name
  - 4 \_\_\_\_ board
  - 5 "They came and took up his \_\_\_\_, and laid it in a tomb" (Mark 6:29)
  - 6 Mouth (pl.)
  - 7 "And there appeared another \_\_\_\_ in heaven" (Revelation 12:3)
  - 8 "Let them live; but let them be \_\_\_\_ of wood" (Joshua 9:21)
  - 9 Holy \_\_\_\_ of Israel
  - 10 \_\_\_\_ favor (Sp.)
  - 11 Compass pt.
  - 19 "There was no room for them in the \_\_\_\_" (Luke 2:7)
  - 21 Chemical suffix
  - 27 Musical instrument of the Old Testament (Isaiah 5)
  - 28 Rather than
  - 29 "\_\_\_\_ not with him that flattereth with his lips" (Proverbs 20:19)
  - 40 Elm, for one (abbr.)
  - 45 Eastern state univ.
  - 46 Uncle of Saul (1 Samuel 14)
  - 47 Plug up
  - 49 Consumed
  - 51 Poetic preposition
  - 52 Candidate for a burnt offering
  - 53 Exclamation

### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
S	U	S	A	C	R	A	B	R	U	N	
S	P	E	D	Z	O	B	A	O	N	E	
E	S	A	U	A	B	E	L	A	D	O	
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P	L	Y	E	N	D	S	Y	O	R	E	

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## NATIONAL NOTES

**Evangelicals converge on Capital.** Tens of thousands of evangelical Christians converged on the National Mall Aug. 16 to highlight moral issues before the fall presidential election with a day of fasting, prayer and music. Organizers of TheCall DC said 70,000 people turned out for the event, though that number could not be confirmed independently by the National Park Service. The 12-hour event featured a variety of speakers, including former Republican presidential candidate and Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, and Anita King, niece of Martin Luther King Jr. Fighting abortion took center stage, but a range of issues was addressed, including immigration and gay marriage. TheCall was first held eight years ago, when an estimated 400,000 people attended the event.

**Director of faith-based office resigns.** The director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives, Jay Hein, has resigned to care for his ill father. Hein, the White House office's third director, will leave Aug. 29 and return to Indianapolis to support his father, who is battling cancer. Hein, 43, had led the office for two years. He was named in the *Hein v. Freedom from Religion Foundation* case, which the Supreme Court decided in the White House's favor in June 2007. That ruling, which insulated the faith-based initiative from taxpayer legal challenges, has played a role in a series of subsequent court decisions.

**Complaint filed against praying judge.** An Alabama judge who previously made headlines by wearing the Ten Commandments embroidered on his judicial robe is facing a complaint over a prayer he led in February in his courtroom. Covington County Circuit Judge Ashley McKathan was appointed to preside over a case in which the pastor and several deacons of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in Monroeville, Ala., sued the church's former secretary to gain possession of financial records. At a status conference before the judge in February, McKathan

told the 100 people attending the hearing that he was not afraid to call on the name of Jesus Christ, witnesses said, and ordered all in attendance to join hands and pray. In its complaint, the Alabama chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union claims that McKathan violated ethics rules and the U.S. Constitution by ordering the group to pray.

**California doctors lose discrimination lawsuit.** California's Supreme Court ruled Aug. 18 that doctors cannot discriminate against gays and lesbians even if they believe their religious freedom will be violated during a course of treatment. The case involved a San Diego County lesbian who informed doctors that she and her partner wanted to pursue fertility treatments. Two doctors in a Vista, Calif., practice said that their religious beliefs would prevent them from performing an artificial insemination for Benitez. She filed suit, claiming her civil rights were violated. A judge in the case said the civil rights act imposes "certain antidiscrimination obligations" on business establishments, including medical groups. Lawyers for the doctors are considering an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**USCIRF names new executive director.** Adventist leader James Standish was named the new executive director of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Aug. 20. For his part, Standish said that it was "an honor to join the commission, particularly as we approach the 10th anniversary of the creation of the International Religious Freedom Act." The 1998 law created the panel, which monitors religious-freedom conditions worldwide and advises Congress, the White House and the State Department on freedom-of-conscience issues. Standish previously was director of legislative affairs for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for seven years prior to accepting the commission's top staff post. He succeeds Joseph Crapa, who died last year.

## It's that time of year

**The first day of school at Oneida is exciting for students and faculty**

Ask the average child what the most important day of the year is and you are likely to get an answer like, "my birthday" or "Christmas." I not only understand that kind of answer, it also is the answer I likely would have given if someone had asked me that question five decades ago.

Ask me the same question today, however, and I will quickly tell you, "graduation" or "the first day of school." The amount of work done during the past three or four months by our teachers, support staff, students and volunteers is nearly incalculable. But when the students start to arrive with all their luggage and smiles, you know that time has run out and whatever has not been completed will have to wait until a later date.

While the preparation for graduation provides me with the greatest amount of stress, the first day of school gives me the most pleasure. The returning and new students provide a timely reminder about why we toil day in and day out. The hard work and sleepless nights are now rewarded, knowing our students will benefit from all the energy that has gone into preparing for this very special day.

In addition to all the parents and grandparents who often make long trips by car to our campus, several trips are made to the airport and bus station to pick up dozens of students. Picking up an international student at the airport who may speak very little English can be quite a challenge. Many of our international students speak enough English to communicate. Others may communicate by simply nodding their heads or

smiling. If you ask, "It's really snowing hard today, isn't it?" and the student smiles and nods his head "yes" when it is 85 degrees outside, you know you have a communication issue.

It always is exciting to see the students greet each other after not seeing one another all summer. Best friends often have made plans to room together, but only two returning students can be in the same room. The other two beds in the room are for new students. It is much easier for the new student to get directions and have questions answered if he or she is in a room with students who are not new to our campus.

Not every new student is excited to begin the academic year. Years of being a low achiever may cause a student to feel that he is so far behind he will never get caught up. Hopefully every teacher in our school is ready to meet those challenges. It is hard for some to understand why a teacher would serve at OBI for only \$5,000 per year. It is simply because they welcome the challenges as well as the opportunities they have to help that struggling student find his or her way.

There are some things money can't buy and one is the satisfaction of working with students who basically have given up on getting an education. Oneida teachers are a very special group. They are willing to work longer hours in a sometimes stressful environment with modest pay to work a miracle in the lives of their students. Few people are as blessed to have such a rewarding job. We are so grateful for the many friends who help make these miracles possible.

*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

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

## Meet the Clear Creek family

**As college relations director, Witherite spreads the word**

Director of college relations Richard Witherite always has something to say—and that's a good thing. Witherite is always looking for a time and place to share a word about Clear Creek. The college relations office spreads the word about our school in three areas.

"Our Church relations area promotes Clear Creek through the local church, Baptist associations, state Baptist conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. We want to have a close relationship with all of these entities," Witherite noted. "We do this by attending local associational meetings where we get an opportunity to speak about Clear Creek. We also have 'Clear Creek Days' where our students are invited into an association for a Sunday and ... preach during the morning service. We also set up an exhibit booth at many of the state Baptist Conventions and we are always at the Southern Baptist Convention. This helps us to share the word about Clear Creek.

"Alumni relations focuses on keeping close relationships with our alumni," he continued. "We have an annual alumni conference the first Monday and Tuesday in Au-

gust when we gather for a great time of worship and fellowship. We coordinate our alumni conference around our new student orientation week to give our alumni an opportunity to interact with the new students. ... This has become a great time of encouragement to our new students. We also assist our alumni with ministry placement services. We accept resumes from our alumni and keep them on file to send to churches.

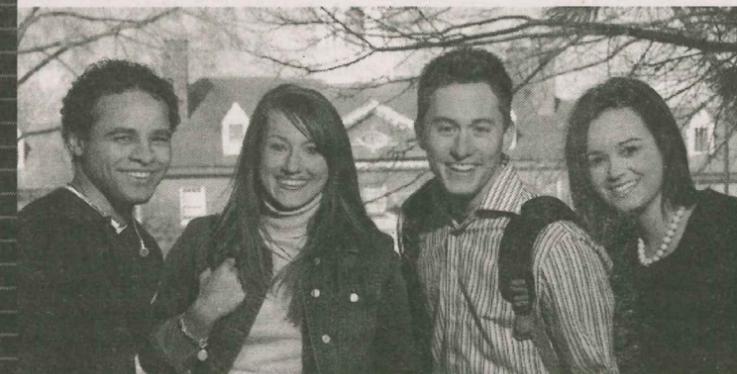
"Our public relations area keeps news about the college in the public eye," Witherite said. "Our newsletter, the Mountain Voice, is sent out twice a year to 12,000 readers. This is how we let the public know about the many things that are taking place at the college. We also do a radio show called the 'Clear Creek Chimes' that airs on radio stations all over the country."

If you would like to help us spread the word about Clear Creek in your church, or if you would like to receive our newsletter, you can contact Richard Witherite toll free at (866) 340-3196.

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

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# Relief teams respond as widespread flooding hits Florida

By **Joni Hannigan**  
Florida Baptist Witness

**Jacksonville, Fla. (BP)**—Tropical Storm Fay made it to the Atlantic coast last week but stalled in the Cape Canaveral area, after passing across the Florida Keys Aug. 18 and making a second Florida landfall the following morning.

Fay's heavy rains have spawned widespread flooding and power outages in South Florida. Last Thursday, the storm continued its slow northward trek in the Atlantic toward the Jacksonville area and the state of Georgia. A third landfall in Florida remained a possibility.

Florida Baptist disaster relief workers were beginning to respond to the damage left by Fay, beginning in the Barefoot Bay community south of Cape Canaveral where a tornado and high winds tore through 30 homes.

Gary Gates, director of missions for Brevard Baptist Association, said both of the association's disaster relief trailers would be staffed with 10-15 trained volunteers to help remove tree limbs and aluminum strewn across the neighborhood and repair

roofs with tarps and plywood.

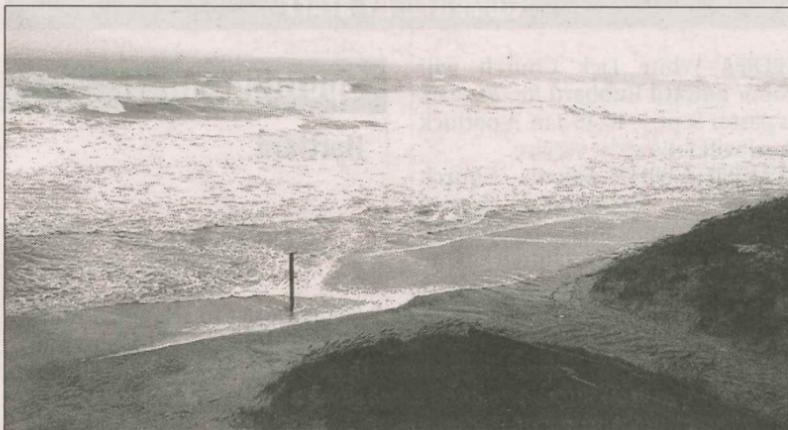
"We always have a time of prayer with the people who own the homes and witness of God's love to them," Gates noted, talking on the phone from his own home where he said the water on the street had been rising steadily for about 24 hours.

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, in a petition sent last week to President Bush requesting an emergency declaration for the entire state, noted that rainfall totals in excess of 30 inches were recorded in parts of Florida.

Fritz Wilson, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's disaster relief and recovery department, met with Red Cross officials last week, according to a convention news release, and Wilson said churches likely will open feeding stations for those who volunteer and those affected by the storm.

Further up the coast, where heavy rain began falling last Wednesday, Dennis Belz, director of missions for Halifax Baptist Association, said at least one church was being used to shelter people from the storm.

Spruce Creek Baptist Church in



**EMERGENCY** In Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 21, strong winds and heavy rains from Tropical Storm Fay pound the coast. Florida Baptist disaster relief volunteers have worked across the state since last week helping those affected by the slow-moving storm. (Photo by Joni Hannigan)

Daytona Beach, in a wooded area two miles west of Interstate 95, opened as a shelter and will remain open until the floodwaters subside, Belz noted.

David Garrett, director of missions for Jacksonville Baptist Association, said churches in the Jacksonville area are well-trained and experienced in handling storms.

Recalling Florida's historic hurricane season in 2004 when four named hurricanes hit the state in the span of six weeks—Charley, Frances, Jeanne and Ivan—Garrett acknowledged, "The key is understanding what could happen and be prepared just in case."

Knowing exactly how to prepare for a storm which can cause tree limbs to scatter, tornados to flurry, and which can change course on a dime, can be elusive, he admitted.

"You don't know which limb is going to knock out which power line," Garrett said. "And it may not be a big event, but all it takes is one limb to knock out one power line and you don't know which area of town is down."

Disaster relief leaders, according to the convention release, will continue to work with local officials and the State Emergency Operations Center to monitor situations across the state.

## Barna examines what Americans want out of life

**Ventura, Calif. (BP)**—What Americans want most in life clearly varies depending on their spiritual commitment, according to a recent study by the Barna Group. Evangelicals, notional Christians and atheists, among others, gave significantly different answers when they were asked to rate what goals are important to them in life.

"The data provide a distinct image of each faith group," George Barna said. "Evangelicals are intensely driven by their faith. Their life is substantially influenced by their beliefs, and their lifestyle choices and aspirations reflect the centrality of their spirituality."

"Non-evangelical born-again adults consider faith to be important but it is not the defining aspect of their existence; it is influential but not the determining factor," he added. "Notional Christians treat faith as just one of many dimensions of their life that serve a purpose, but it is not a driving force at all."

Barna said about 10 percent of Americans included in the study had decided that a pursuit of God was their main goal while about 10 percent wanted the exact opposite.

"And then there are the 80 percent or so who are at every other conceivable point along the continuum in between those two extremes," he noted. "America is a nation dramatically affected by the faith views of its people."



**Carpenter Bus Sales**

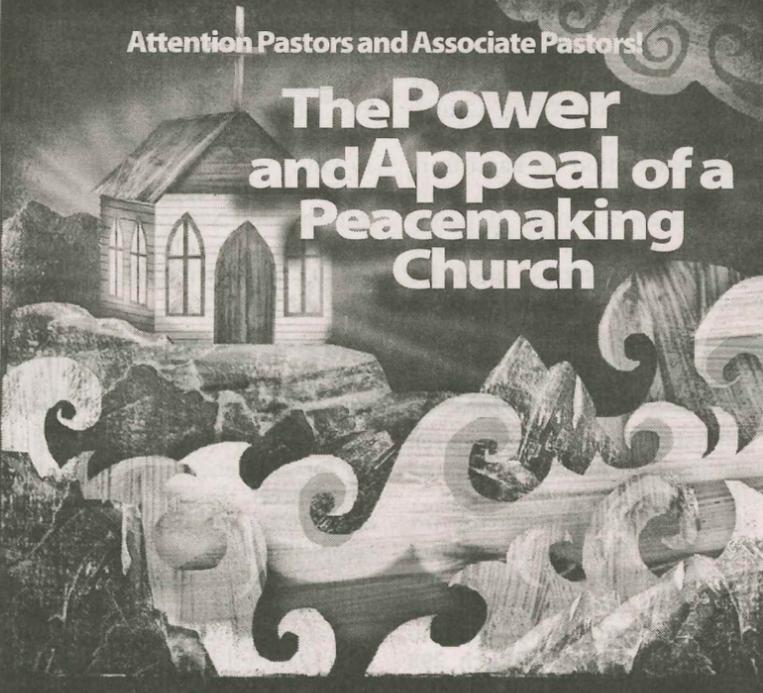
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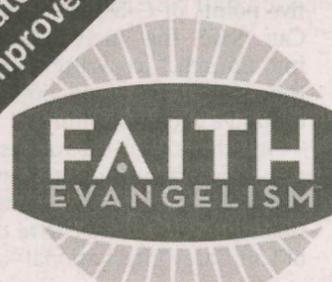
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Training ..... 12:30 - 2:30 PM

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Training ..... 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Lunch\* ..... 12:00 - 12:30 PM  
Training ..... 12:30 - 2:30 PM

\* Lunch and seminar provided by the Severns Valley Association of Baptists

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Exit 94 off I-65 onto US-62, .8 mile. Turn right onto Ring Road, 5.9 miles - Arrive at 1100 Ring Road, Elizabethtown.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

### Pregnancy Help Center in Richmond.

Chris Jolly shares that this Christian ministry provides hope and help to women in Madison and surrounding counties who find themselves in unexpected pregnancies. The center provides education and resources to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and life-affirming alternatives to abortion. Pray that every person entering the center would find acceptance, hope and help. Pray that center employees bring honor and glory to the name of Jesus Christ by guiding clients to the foot of the cross where forgiveness and peace are found.

### MSC missionary Judy Drummond with the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville.

Drummond serves the Baptist Fellowship Center, providing care, administrative assistance and support for the staff. The ministry provides job assistance, computer training, after-school programs, clothing, food, financial assistance and spiritual guidance. Pray that God will provide additional volunteers and partnering churches to assist in the various ministries. Pray that members of the community will see the center as a place of safety and hope, realizing Christ is the answer to life's difficulties.

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

■ **BEREA**—White Lick Church will honor **Edward Hubbard** for 20 years as pastor Sept. 7, 10:45 a.m. A potluck meal will follow the service.

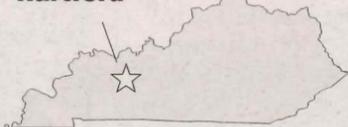
■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will hold a Singpiration Service Aug. 31, 6 p.m., featuring musical presentations from church members and special guests. For more information, call (270) 789-0082.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church recently called **Jeremy and Jamie Prince** as directors of youth. Rick Hatley is pastor.

■ **MONTICELLO**—New Salem Church will host **Southern Harmony Quartet** in concert Aug. 31, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (606) 561-8416. **Greg Haynes** is pastor.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Hartford



Living Faith Church will host its annual Hillsongs Christian music concert Sept. 13, noon, featuring several Christian bands and a Youth Band Bonanza. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the gate. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (270) 535-8696.

## Campbellsville Univ. to host annual pastors conference Sept. 25-26

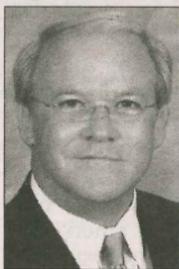
Campbellsville—"Servant Evangelism in the 21st Century Church" is the theme for Campbellsville University's 7th annual Pastors and Church Leaders Conference Sept. 25-26.

The two-day conference, featuring three plenary and several breakout sessions, will be held at the Ransdell Chapel on the Campbellsville campus.

The keynote speakers for this year's event are Frank Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention; and David Goatley, executive secretary of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

Page has served as pastor of First Baptist, Taylors, since 2001, and completed his second term as SBC president in June.

During his tenure at First Baptist, Taylors, Page has increased the church's involvement in community ministries and outreach, as well as in national and international missions.



Frank Page



David Goatley

He is the author of several books. His latest, "The Nehemiah Factor: 16 Characteristics of a Missional Leader," was released in June. Page's other books include "Trouble with the Tulip," an examination of the five points of Calvinism, and "Who Can Save the Incredible Shrinking Church," co-written with author John Perry about how to turn around a declining church.

In addition to his role as executive secretary of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, Goatley serves as executive director of Lott Carey International—a global

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

### August

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)

relief and development agency that helps improve the quality of life in marginalized communities around the world. He also is former pastor of First Baptist Church of Campbellsville.

Goatley serves on the national board of directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and is president of the North American Baptist Fellowship, a regional body of more than 20 Baptist denominations and organizations affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance.

Other conference speakers include Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Russell Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville, and moderator of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky; and Tony Cunha, assistant professor of music at Campbellsville's School of Theology, who also will serve as worship leader for the conference.

John Chowning, Campbellsville University's vice president for church and external relations, and pastor of Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville, noted that attendance for last year's conference and breakout sessions was strong and that he has received positive comments from those who participated. He said he expects an even better response this year.

"I believe the upcoming pastors conference will be the best Campbellsville University has ever offered," he said.

The first conference session begins Sept. 25 at 1 p.m., with breakout sessions to follow at 4 p.m. The second session starts at 7 p.m.

On Sept. 26, breakout sessions kick off at 8:30 a.m., with the final conference session to follow at 10 a.m.

The cost to register is \$30 per minister and \$20 per spouse. Registration is available online at [www.Campbellsville.edu](http://www.Campbellsville.edu), or by calling (270) 789-5520.

## Cumberlands & Winchester ministry team up to offer Old Testament class

Williamsburg—Officials at University of the Cumberlands have announced the university will offer a new opportunity for those interested in earning college credits. The course, "Advanced Study of the Old Testament: Pentateuch," will be taught at the People Helping People ministry, located at the Family Development Center in Winchester.

The class will be taught by Kerby Rich, a retired Navy/Marine Corps chaplain, who also has taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Although the course is not being offered on a college campus, students still can earn three hours college credit for their efforts.

"There is a real need for Christian education in our region, and I am looking forward to this opportunity," Kirby noted.

Robert Dunston, chair of University of the Cumberlands' religion and philosophy department, said, "I am delighted University of the Cumberlands can be part of the ministry of the Family Development Center in Winchester. Kerby Rich brings a wealth of ministry experience, a

breadth of scholarship and a depth of commitment to his teaching. I know his courses will bless those who participate in them and I encourage individuals to join him in a journey of learning and faith."

Dale Hanson, director of People Helping People and the Family Development Center, said he is excited about the possibilities of working with Cumberlands.

"We need to be able to offer opportunities for quality theological training to pastors and lay people who cannot afford the time or money to go to a traditional university setting," he explained. "I hope we can expand the offerings of the university so the surrounding counties can begin to experience the blessing of UC's ministry."

"We saw a need to take some of our offerings into the wider community to provide learning situations for men and women who might not have the opportunity to study in a traditional campus setting, but who still prefer a classroom learning experience, rather than an online class," according to Larry Cockrum, Cumberlands' academic dean.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** New and used church buses/vans. Call American Bus and Accessories, Inc., at (800) 582-7118.

**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 Reid Village Baptist (averaging 75). Located just outside Mt. Sterling, Reid Village is a missions-minded, giving and loving church. Please send resumé to PO Box 157, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of worship and outreach for a growing church in western Kentucky. We are currently constructing a new worship facility and have two morning services (one traditional and one contemporary) with a combined Sunday morning attendance of 400-plus. Experience preferred; salary negotiable. Send resumé to: Edgewood Baptist Church, 676 North Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240; or e-mail to [edbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:edbc@bellsouth.net). For more information, please call (270) 886-4461.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Bethlehem Baptist Church, 25 hrs/week. Fax resumé to (502) 657-0107; or e-mail to [jzoeller@applepatch.org](mailto:jzoeller@applepatch.org). For more information, call (502) 657-0103.

**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:** Director of missions for West Union Baptist Association in Paducah. West Union serves McCracken and Ballard counties. Send resumé to 2541 Olivet Church Road, Paducah, KY 42001; or [wubaky@bellsouth.net](mailto:wubaky@bellsouth.net). Deadline: Sept. 15.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Freedom Baptist Church. Send resumé to FBC, 3505 U.S. Hwy 27 North, Stanford, KY 40484, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director/minister for 20-plus involved youth with potential to grow. View job description at [www.fbsonora.org](http://www.fbsonora.org). Please send resumé by Sept. 2 to First Baptist Church, Box 187, Sonora, KY 42776.

# Eastern adoptions

*Kentucky pastor's family among those led by God to love children a world away*

By Grace Thornton  
The Alabama Baptist

**Louisville (BP)**—Tiny as she was, she might not have realized just how loudly she was wailing, lying in that box.

But Kevin and Lynette Ezell heard her, even though she was in China and they were in Louisville.

"Even though we had three children, our family wasn't really fully complete. And we knew there was such a great need in China," said Kevin Ezell, pastor of Louisville's Highview Baptist Church. "Libby was found in a box outside of a police station when she was only a baby. God led us to her and we got her from an orphanage when she was 1 year old."

That was six years ago.

Thousands of other Chinese babies like Libby have made it to the United States tucked in the arms of new adoptive parents. In 2007 alone, the Chinese government granted 6,520 visas to children to join American families, making the nation far and away the largest source for international adoption to the United States, according to National Geographic.

"It's not that we wanted a larger family," Lynette Ezell noted. "It's that God had blessed us so much we wanted to bless another child."

But as it turns out, Libby has been the blessing, Lynette said.

"Starting over with a baby at almost 40 was a challenge," Lynette acknowledged with a laugh. "But we've received more of a blessing than she'll ever get from us."

Since Libby came to the Ezells, they have adopted a fifth child—a girl, Micah Lyn, from Ethiopia.

"We like to say that there's international conflict every night in our house," Kevin Ezell joked. "When we get together, it's like a gathering of the United Nations."

It has helped his family see the world differently, he explained. To underscore that, the couple took their three oldest children—Anna, Shelly and Taylor—on a two-week trip to China to work with special-needs children in an orphanage.

"We wanted them to see the environment Libby was from, to have an even greater understanding," Ezell said. "My children have learned how to love others in a deeper way. It's been an enrichment to the whole health of our family."

## "Rocky road" getting smoother

Bringing a child from China home is a challenge but you "find love you didn't know there was," according to Sherry Meadows, a member of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., who with her husband, Phillip, adopted Julianna, a 22-month-old with minor special needs. The couple now is in the process of adopting a little boy from China.

"It's a rocky road—there are a lot of attachment issues they have from being in an orphanage," Meadows said. "It made it difficult for her to trust us at first."

Initially, Julianna, now 3, some-

times hoarded food or cleaned her plate because she did not know whether she would get more, Meadows recalled. Sometimes she would have trouble letting her mother out of her sight and even would experience night terrors.

"But those all fade away over time," Meadows said. "And she brings an incredible amount of joy to our lives, joy we never thought possible."

"We had teenage twins, and I thought we were done. My wife didn't, though," joked Dwayne Hastings, a vice president with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "She'd been convinced for years, and I finally saw beyond my selfishness."

Today, Hastings said, 4-year-old Gracee has him wrapped around her finger. And so will James, her new brother, who will arrive from China in a few weeks.

"The biggest blessing is just to see this child who, when we met her, was basically a human being simply existing—barely existing—to see her bloom like a flower. She's becoming the person who she is, the way God fashioned her to be," Hastings said. "He has used us in a small way both to rescue her and give her hope for the future."

He encourages anyone who feels called to adopt children from China to "go for it"—regardless of the daunting amount of paperwork.

## Waiting in a safe place

According to Betsy Owens, when her son, Blayne, was 5 years old, he thought babies were born through paperwork. After all, it was how Blayne finally met his brother, Joshua, who was adopted from China in 1994.

"He had prayed for a sibling for a year," Betsy Owens recalled. "And he (thought) that's what you do to get brothers—your mom does paperwork." It is just a different kind of labor, she added with a laugh.

"When Joshua was little, he equated his birth with us getting him from China. When he was told that something happened 'before you were born,' his response would be, 'Oh, I was still in China,'" Owens noted.

Later the questions did come—but he never questioned his place in the family, nor did his two sisters who followed from China—Grace in 1998 and Mary in 2001, according to Owens' husband, Waylan, who is an associate professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"The children have all been simply brothers and sisters from the beginning," he acknowledged. "How they became parts of the family has not been relevant to the fact that they are all equal parts."

"While we hear questions from time to time, the questions have little sticking power because they have been answered from the beginning both with words and with relationships," Owens added.

The main question has been why a parent would abandon a child.



**FAMILY PORTRAIT** The Ezell family (top row from left) Kevin, Taylor, 13, and Lynette; (second row from left) Shelly, 17, and Anna Catherine who is a freshman in college; (front row) Libby, 6, and Micah Lyn, 4. Kevin Ezell is pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Joshua asked me that once when he was 6 or 7," Betsy Owens said, "and I told him that there were parents in China who could not provide the care their children needed, so they loved their children enough to put them in a safe place until their

new parents could come get them.

"I have told them that their birth mothers were like Moses' mom, who loved them enough to put them in a safe place so they could be found, cared for and raised to love and serve God."

## China tightened adoptions rules in 2007

**Washington (BP)**—China tightened its restrictions on foreign adoptions in 2007, prohibiting those who are single and those who are obese, among other changes.

Following are China's revised restrictions on foreign adoptions, as listed on the U.S. State Department Web site. The new changes took effect on May 1 of last year.

Foreign adoptions from China are limited to heterosexual married couples and must meet the following criteria:

- "They must have been married at least two years. If either person has previously divorced, the couple must have been married at least five years. No more than two divorces are allowed.

- "Both partners must be between the ages of 30 and 50. Those couples who apply to adopt a special needs child must be between the ages of 30 and 55.

- "Both partners must be physically and mentally fit, with none of the following conditions: AIDS; mental disability; infectious disease that is actively contagious; blind in either eye; hearing loss in both ears or loss of language function (those adopting children with hearing or language function loss are exempted from this requirement); non-function or dysfunction of limbs or trunk caused by impairment, incomplete limbs, paralysis or deformation; severe facial deformation; severe diseases that require long-term treatment and that may affect life expectancy, including malignant tumors, lupus, nephrosis, epilepsy, etc; major organ transplant within ten years; schizophrenia; severe mental disorders requiring medication for more than two years, including depression, mania, or anxiety neuro-

sis; Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or more.

- "At least one member of the couple must have stable employment. The total value of family assets must be at least \$80,000. The family's annual income equals at least \$10,000 for each family member in the household (including the child to be adopted). Annual income excludes welfare, pensions, unemployment insurance, government subsidies and the like.

- "Both prospective parents must be high school graduates or have vocational training equivalent to a high school education.

- "The family must have fewer than five children under the age of 18, and the youngest is at least 1 year old (those adopting special needs children are exempted from this requirement).

- "Neither partner may have a significant criminal record, and both must have a history of honorable behavior and good moral character with no evidence of: domestic violence, sexual abuse, abandonment or abuse of children; use of narcotics or any potentially addictive medication prescribed for mental illness; alcohol abuse, unless the individual can show she/he has been sober for at least 10 years.

- "The prospective parents must demonstrate the ability to provide a warm family environment capable of meeting the needs of an orphaned child and providing for her/his development, and an understanding of the special risks (including potential diseases, developmental delays and post-placement maladjustment) that could come with inter-country adoption.

- "The couple must provide an adoption application letter that makes clear the applicants' willingness to allow post-placement follow ups and provide post-placement reports as required.

# Celebrate GOD'S LOVE

They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. Psalm 145:7

## 2008 Season of Prayer

for State Missions and  
Eliza Broadus Offering

Offering Goal: \$1,052,008

One million fifty-two thousand eight in 2008!

Kentucky State Missions materials have been sent to the churches. If you haven't received yours or need more information, please contact Kentucky WMU at 502-489-3534 or 866-489-3534 (toll-free in Kentucky).

