

September 2, 2008
Vol. 182, No. 35**ELIZA BROADUS
INSERT****FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**Southern Baptist groups urge prayer leading up to Election Day. *Page 2.***Baptists**Associated Baptist Press editor Greg Warner to step down amid health concerns. *Page 2.***Kentucky**Kentucky Baptists seek statewide spiritual renewal through prayer. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**Movie bloopers are funny; financial bloopers are not. *Page 4.***Guest Editorial**Too often, disagreement triggers hostility. *Page 5.***Resources**Women's ministry can be more about doing than learning. *Page 6.***Nation**Proposed federal regulation would protect pro-life doctors. *Page 9.***Church & politics
not a good pair,
according to poll****Washington (RNS)**—A slim majority of Americans, including rising numbers of conservatives, say churches should stay out of politics, according to a survey released late last month by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

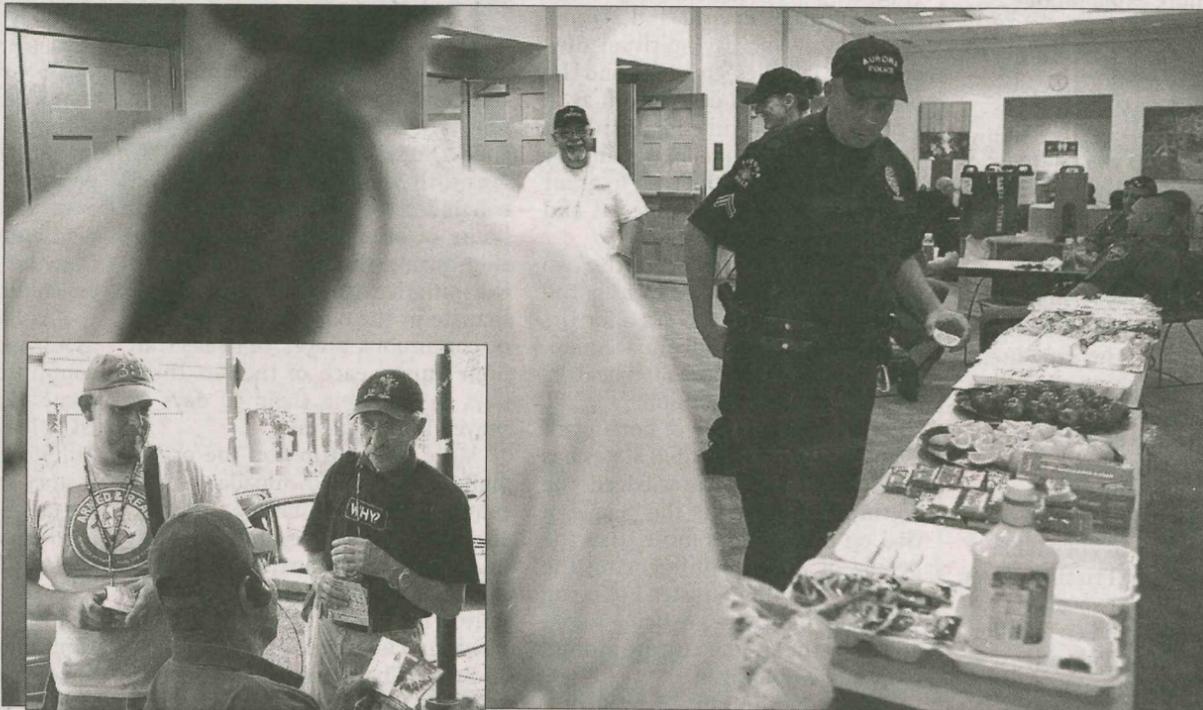
Fifty-two percent of Americans said they think houses of worship should not express their opinions about political and social matters, while 45 percent indicated they approve of such expression.

The center said this marks the first time since it started asking the question in 1996 that respondents who wanted churches to stay out of politics outnumbered those with the opposite view.

Conservatives, especially, have reconsidered the issue, with 50 percent saying congregations should stay out of politics. Only 30 percent voiced that opinion in 2004.

The survey also showed a slight increase in the percentage of Americans who say they are bothered by politicians discussing their religion. Forty-six percent now say they are uncomfortable with that kind of religious talk, compared to 40 percent in 2004.

Researchers found a sharper increase in the number of respondents who view the Democratic Party as friendly toward religion, from 26 percent in 2006 to 38 percent two years later. More than half—52 percent—view the Republican Party as religion friendly, compared to 47 percent in 2006.

Mile-high ministry

Above: A Denver police officer peruses the food table during a break before heading back out on the streets. North American Mission Board organized local Baptist ministries, called Love Denver, to help feed and support police working security around last week's Democratic National Convention in Denver. (BP photo by Kenn Bisio/Genesis Photos) **Inset:** Bill Mullen (right), a member of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver and Dennis Chambers (left), a member of White Oak Baptist Church in Trenton, Ga., share the gospel with a resident of Denver's Five Points neighborhood. (BP photo by Mike Ebert)

As thousands flock to Denver, Southern Baptists mobilize to help**By Mike Ebert**
SBC North American Mission Board**Denver (BP)**—As thousands of people converged on Denver for the Democratic National Convention last week, a small group of Southern Baptist street evangelists arrived in the city to make an impact far beyond even a four-year term in the country's highest office. They came to make an impact for eternity.

About 80 volunteers from throughout the United States and a group from Canada hit the streets of

Denver Aug. 24, just as participants began checking into hotel rooms and checking out nearby restaurants. They distributed "Eternal Life" tracts and struck up conversations about the gospel with anyone who would listen, concentrating most of their efforts on Denver's 16th Street pedestrian mall, where visitors eat, shop and frequent bars.

"The first day was pretty slow," noted Ron Clement, team leader for church enrichment and evangelism with the Colorado Baptist General

Convention. "Part of the challenge is that people attending an event like this have a higher awareness of their worldview and less receptivity to other viewpoints."

Clement said some volunteers sharing Christ with those attending the DNC were met with suspicion because the tract they were using displayed the word "life" prominently on the cover.

"Some people thought it was a pro-life pamphlet and thought we

□ See Mile-high ministry ... *Page 8***Researchers take a look at Southern Baptists' view of Scripture****By Mark Kelly**
Baptist Press**Nashville (BP)**—Research from two studies by LifeWay Research indicates a disconnect between Southern Baptist pastors' view of Scripture and those of the people in their pews.

Southern Baptist pastors were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, "I believe in the divine inspiration of Scripture." Among the pastors, 100 percent strongly agreed with the statement.

To clarify further their beliefs about Scripture, Southern Baptist pastors were asked to agree or disagree with the statement, "I believe in the inerrancy of Scripture." Among them, 97 percent strongly agreed, another 2 percent somewhat agreed and 0 percent disagreed.

Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay

Research, noted, "It is clear that the 'inerrancy' debate is settled among the SBC pastors we surveyed. They all believe in inspiration with a very small percent not also affirming inerrancy."

Although Southern Baptists strongly believe in inerrancy, respondents indicated that the "battle for the Bible" is not over. LifeWay Research asked for the pastors' level of agreement with the statement, "In the Southern Baptist Convention, the battle for the Bible is over and won." On this item, opinions differed dramatically from the questions of inspiration and inerrancy. The majority of pastors disagreed with the statement (21 percent strongly disagreed and 31 percent somewhat disagreed). At the same time, a large minority agreed (9 percent strongly agreed, while 33 percent somewhat agreed).

"The numbers remind us that we still have work to do," notes LifeWay President Thom Rainer. "Yes, we have settled the issue of the authority of Scripture in our confession. That battle is over and done. However, I believe that the battle for the authority and sufficiency of God's Word is never really done. It is as old as the Garden of Eden and will continue until Jesus comes back. As we can see, Southern Baptist pastors are overwhelmingly inerrantists—but they are also discerning enough to know that we must always be on guard against compromise and error."

Brad Waggoner, vice president of B&H Publishing Group, in his upcoming book, "The Shape of Faith to Come," reports that only 69 percent of adults who attend an SBC church at least once a month strongly agree that "the Bible is the written Word of

God and is totally accurate in all that it teaches." Eleven percent in the LifeWay Research survey somewhat agreed with that statement, 11 percent neither agreed nor disagreed, 5 percent disagreed somewhat and 3 percent disagreed strongly.

Research for Waggoner's book also indicated that only 76 percent of adults who attend an SBC church at least once a month strongly agree that "the Bible is the authoritative source of truth and wisdom for daily living."

Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, said the research shows that, "While Southern Baptist pastors are united in their view of the inerrancy of Scripture, they must be aware that 1 out of 4 people who attend their churches each month consider the Bible less than totally accurate or authoritative."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 3.

Online feedback welcomed for new Bible study

Nashville (BP)—Who hasn't sat in a Bible study group slightly distracted and pondered, "I wonder what John Q. Author was really thinking when he wrote that?" Or, "I wish there was more explanation about that."

Or, "If I'd written this study..." LifeWay Christian Resources is responding to those musings by thinking outside the typical box of the publishing world. "Open Access," an online project launched by the Southern Baptist entity, is inviting users to go behind the scenes and see the entire process of publishing a LifeWay study.

The pilot project for Open Access is an as-yet-unnamed 2009 Bible study by Priscilla Shirer, a popular speaker and author and co-founder of Going Beyond Ministries.

More than simply observing the process, the Open Access project invites and relies upon customers responding to the unfinished resource with thoughts, opinions and ideas they believe will make the study better.

Customers who purchase the unfinished manuscript of Shirer's study have access to a members-only message board where they can offer feedback, comments and suggestions. Shirer occasionally will post her own thoughts and comments as well.

In addition, community members receive a link to a private e-mail address where they can submit personal illustrations, stories, comments and questions related to the study. When the study releases in fall 2009, individuals who purchased the manuscript will receive finished copies of the book.

The project will continue at least through December.

Groups urge prayer leading up to elections

Nashville (BP)—A call for Southern Baptists and other believers to engage in 40 days of prayer beginning in late September has been issued by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

NAMB President Geoff Hammond and ERLC President Richard Land are hopeful that the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal will pay spiritual dividends for families, churches and the nation. Hammond described it as "a strategic opportunity for Southern Baptists to join hands in praying for our nation, asking the Lord to grant sweeping repentance, renewal and spiritual awakening."

The cooperative effort of the two Southern Baptist entities was borne out of a burden at the ERLC for the spiritual health of individual Americans, as well as the less-than-healthy spiritual state of the union.

While the number of born-again evangelicals in the United States has increased, Land acknowledged the culture is influencing the people of God on many fronts more than the people of God are influencing the culture. "Too often, instead of being 'salt' and 'light,' we are being salted and lit by the secular culture around us," Land emphasized.

"Our churches are in need of a truly spiritual revival and our nation is in need of a great movement of God's Spirit," he added.

Hammond noted that while

Americans are focused on the political choices before them this fall, as well as the state of the economy, there also is "a deep spiritual concern."

"Unless God sends revival and unless He sends renewal, we are not going to see the changes in North America that we long for," Hammond said.

40 hours of prayer

The 40/40 Prayer Vigil is set to begin Sept. 24 and conclude on the morning of Nov. 2, before Election Day. According to its Web site, iLiveValues.com/Prayer, the vigil begins with 37 days of daily prayer and concludes with a recommended 40 hours of around-the-clock intercession during the final three days of the initiative. Those who cannot participate in the concluding 40 hours of continuous prayer can select an hour during each of the last three days to complete their 40 days of prayer, Land explained.

More information on the prayer vigil, as well as a downloadable daily prayer guide, is available at the Web site. Each page in the guide references Scripture relevant to that day's prayer theme, which ranges from prayer for revival to prayer for renewal and wisdom.

Before Christians can impact others' lives, they must first be changed by God's touch, Land said.

"We must pray for and experience spiritual regeneration, or spiritual renewal on the part of believ-

ers, and then recognize and accept our responsibilities as Christians to be salt and light in our families, our churches, our communities and our nation," he explained.

"We must be united in our prayer and acknowledge that God is the One who has to do the work in and through us. If we work in our own strength, we won't make any progress. When we pray we will be more dependent on God, more aligned with His will, more fruitful in our work," Hammond noted, adding that God says in Scripture that He "chooses to demonstrate His power in and through the prayers of His people."

It is not happenstance that the vigil ends just days before Election Day, the two Southern Baptist leaders confirmed.

"As Election Day approaches, we as Christians know we need to be committed to praying for the outcome and for those who will be elected to lead us," Hammond said. "But milestone moments like this in our history should remind us of the importance of asking God for spiritual awakening in our land."

"As Christians, we need God to give us wisdom as we select the next president of the United States," Land emphasized. "People must realize that government at every level is a lagging social indicator. True and lasting change in our nation will come from spiritual renewal in the hearts of America's citizens, not from government programs."

Former IMB leader takes Kansas City DOM post

Kansas City, Mo. (ABP)—A former high-ranking Southern Baptist International Mission Board leader who resigned over policy concerns has accepted an associational director's position in Missouri.

The executive board of Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association called Rodney Hammer as the organization's fifth executive director last month.

In May, Hammer resigned after eight years as IMB's regional leader for Central and Eastern Europe. He cited disagreement with controversial guidelines the board enacted in 2005 regarding new missionary candidates.

The guidelines prohibit appointment of those who acknowledge engaging in a "private prayer language"—a version of speaking in tongues—and require candidates to have been baptized in a church with an understanding of baptism identical to that in most Southern Baptist churches. The IMB will not recognize believer's baptism by immersion if done in a denomination with a differently nuanced baptismal doctrine.

In a letter to missionaries in his region at the time, Hammer said he disagreed with the "unnecessary, extra-biblical narrowing of parameters for Southern Baptist cooperation in

the Great Commission (the guidelines) represent."

His resignation triggered a group of current and former missionaries, former board trustees and pastors to issue a statement calling for the IMB to reverse its stand.

Hammer was appointed in 1990 as strategy coordinator for China with Cooperative Services International, the IMB's former relief and development arm. He was named as regional leader in 1999.

He and his family are in the process of relocating from Prague, Czech Republic, and have not set a specific date to begin his service in Kansas City.

Blue River-Kansas City Association includes about 130 churches.



Rodney Hammer

Union Univ. to open new student housing facilities

Jackson, Tenn. (BP)—Union University students will move into 14 new student housing facilities when they return to campus for the fall semester, less than seven months after a tornado destroyed much of the university's existing student housing.

Incoming freshmen and transfer students will move onto campus Sept. 4, with upperclassmen returning Sept. 6. Classes for the fall semester will begin Sept. 8.

"We are delighted to announce that all of the 14 buildings will be ready by September," Union University President David Dockery said. "Our 10-year plan for replacing our student housing has become a six-month plan. Construction has proceeded ahead of schedule and we are grateful to God for providing for

us in this way. It is truly overwhelming to think about where we were on Feb. 6 and where we are now."

The two-story residence buildings will replace the old Watters and Hurt complexes, which housed about 700 students and sustained heavy damage in the Feb. 5 tornado that caused an estimated \$40 million in damage to the Union campus in Jackson, Tenn. The buildings in those two complexes were not salvageable and both were later demolished.

On Feb. 22, Union broke ground on the new student housing complex. Original plans called for half of the 14 buildings to be ready by the start of the fall semester, with the other half to be completed by the spring semester in 2009.

But the two contractors working on the project managed to finish the task earlier than expected.

"This is highly unusual to complete a project of this magnitude as quickly as we have," said Ken Brasfield, president of Brasfield Construction in Jackson, Tenn. "As I sit back and analyze what's happened, I think Union's need is what motivated the response. Everybody has had a total commitment and a passion to make sure that the job was completed by Sept. 1."

The 14 new student housing buildings encompass about 158,000 square feet and will house 699 students.

The school will hold a dedication ceremony for the new facilities Sept. 12.

ABP editor Warner to step down amid health concerns

Jacksonville, Fla. (ABP)—Greg Warner, who has shepherded Associated Baptist Press since its infancy 18 years ago, informed the agency's directors and staff Aug. 26 that he would be stepping down for medical reasons.

Warner, 53, has been the independent Baptist news service's executive editor since 1991. On Aug. 28, he was scheduled to undergo his seventh spinal surgery since 2002. Afterward, he said in a letter, he would begin a 90-day sick leave that would, he expected, transition into permanent disability.

"My chronic back condition is increasingly limiting my ability to work and travel," Warner wrote to directors. "The inevitable day has come when I must tell you I am no longer physically able to do my job. I cannot give ABP the performance that it expects of its chief executive or I require of myself."

The surgery—a fourth lumbar spinal fusion—is the latest of more than a dozen medical procedures that Warner has undergone in an effort to relieve back pain that surfaced in 1998. Despite temporary improvements following some of the procedures, he noted, his condition has degenerated to the point where he is in constant and significant pain requiring large doses of prescription pain killers.

"For more than 10 years, I have continued to do my job despite degenerative-disc disease and failed-back syndrome," Warner wrote. "Chronic, intractable pain now prevents me from sitting or standing for more than a few minutes at a time. For the past year and a half, your encouragement and cooperation has allowed me to continue in this role while working from home. Despite those accommodations, my health has continued to decline, now resulting in cognitive impairments and depression that only amplify the effects of chronic pain."

Warner began work for ABP in 1991 as the agency's first permanent employee. The organization was created in 1990 as a result of a clash between conservatives and moderates in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Warner took the helm and built a fledgling organization into one that now has multiple editorial and administrative staff positions, a \$500,000 annual budget and operates news bureaus in Washington and Dallas.

ABP leaders said the organization is already moving forward with creating a new position—executive director—to handle Warner's administrative and development duties while creating a separate managing editor's position to oversee daily operation of the news side of the agency's business.

Kentucky Baptists seek spiritual renewal through prayer

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Amazing things occur when God's people gather to pray, whether in Old Testament times or on the day of Pentecost, when 3,000 joined God's Kingdom.

More recently, an 1857 prayer meeting called by New York businessman Jeremiah Lanphier sparked a revival that swept one million souls into America's churches.

Within the past few years, a similar pattern appears when Kentucky Baptists join together to call upon God. Among the answered prayers documented are multiple conversions, the start of new ministries and increased church unity.

"Prayer works because God has ordained it as a means by which He accomplishes His will," according to Chuck Lawless, professor and dean of the school of missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "That relational aspect of our spirit to His—talking to Him, expressing our desire in our heart for Him—God responds to that, and in responding to that accomplishes His will in the world."

It is that kind of optimistic outlook and faith that will drive the next "With One Voice" gathering on Sept. 10, when Kentucky Baptist churches will dedicate mid-week services to a time of concerted prayer.

Last year, nearly 3,900 people attended associational-based "With One Voice" meetings at 66 locations across the state. With the focus shifting to individual churches, organizers said they hope for a dramatic increase in participation.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said previous meetings across the



TALKING TO GOD Scenes like this one from last year's *With One Voice* prayer service will be repeated at churches all across the state Sept. 10. More than 3,900 Kentucky Baptists gathered last year and organizers said they expect more participants this year.

state have uncovered countless testimonies of lives transformed by prayer. However, even if there were not such stirring reports, he insisted those meetings still would be worthwhile.

"Prayer changes us, gives us a spiritual perspective on life and helps us to focus on God's love and plan for all nations," Mackey noted. "If God's people sincerely pray for God to send spiritual awakening and revival, I believe God will respond in accord with His sovereign will."

Not just "praying for sick people"

And that is the purpose of the Sept. 10 meetings, according to Eric Allen, KBC's director of mission service and ministries and overseer of prayer strategies for the convention.

"We want Kentucky Baptists to

gather and realize there are lost people around us and pray that lost people would understand their need for Christ," he acknowledged. "Many times church prayer meetings are basically praying for sick people."

By putting an emphasis on prayer, the KBC wants to help Baptists recognize that nothing humans do on their own is of any value, Allen noted.

Calling prayer a way to synchronize people's efforts with God's plans, he added that unless God does something through his followers, it will not last.

The state convention also focuses on prayer because it is central in the Bible and of crucial importance in the lives of Christ, His disciples and saints throughout history, Mackey said.

KBC to launch Cooperative Program emphasis

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—In an effort to raise awareness about the impact of the Cooperative Program, Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders approved a recommendation to launch a three-year campaign to increase gifts to the unified giving plan of Southern Baptists.

The emphasis, approved last week by the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee, would focus on three main objectives, according to Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. Those goals are to educate, inform and inspire about Cooperative Program's impact on missions and ministries in Kentucky and around the world.

Compton, who took the CP post at the beginning of the year, said he has spent several months speaking in churches across the state, gauging Kentucky Baptists' understanding of CP. He said that many still do not fully realize the impact of their gifts.

"People look at me and say, 'Wow, I didn't realize that my offering made that much of a difference,'" Compton noted.

As a result, Compton formulated a three-year campaign to emphasize Cooperative Program's impact. In doing so, he recalled past capital campaigns he implemented during

his time as pastor of Kentucky Baptist churches.

"If we were to do an emphasis on the Cooperative Program, and do it like some who are raising funds to build buildings, ... we could create some momentum, we could recast the vision, we could renew some passion for the Cooperative Program," he said.

At the heart of Compton's plan is to call on KBC churches "to prayerfully consider" making a three-year commitment to incrementally increase giving to the Cooperative Program beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

With the administrative committee's approval, Compton and KBC President Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, will soon begin appointing a steering committee for the as-yet-unnamed campaign. The committee likely will consist of 25-30 church leaders from across the state, Compton said, adding that he hopes to have the process completed by the KBC annual meeting in November.

Once the committee is in place, its members will then work to organize rallies across the state in early 2009 to promote the campaign.

The emphasis will point toward April 26, 2009, which is noted as Cooperative Program Sunday on the KBC calendar. At that point, church-

"I consider it a privilege to communicate with God in prayer. Prayer always helps me to regain my perspective spiritually when I get too focused on the problems around me and concerns about the future," he added.

However, Lawless pointed out that it matters how people approach God in prayer. Isaiah 59 makes it clear that God will not hear prayers when His children are living in sin and failing to follow His directions, the professor explained.

Calling personal holiness a critical element of prayer, Lawless said Christians cannot be unwilling to respond to God's voice and expect Him to respond to their requests.

"God will honor a repentant heart, a pure heart and a heart that longs for Him," Lawless noted. "People who share the same heart, walk with God and burden—coming together and focusing on meeting God—I think there's great strength in that."

There also is a need for prayers of desperation that God will move amid a nation that needs to turn to Jesus Christ for redemption, the seminary dean said.

"The bottom line is that we have to pray that God moves very powerfully in our churches," according to Lawless, who said he believes many apathetic churches have lost their concern for the Great Commission. "The result of that is such obvious power that we can't help but go out and tell the stories about Christ."

For more information about the Sept. 10 "With One Voice" events, visit www.KyBaptist.org/OneVoice or contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention at (502) 489-3528, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3528.

"Prayer changes us, gives us a spiritual perspective on life and helps us to focus on God's love and plan for all nations. If God's people sincerely pray for God to send spiritual awakening and revival, I believe God will respond in accord with His sovereign will."

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey

Training available at KBC for mission trip team leaders

Louisville—Those interested in or planning to lead a short-term mission trip can benefit from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's team leader training Sept. 20 at the Baptist Building in Louisville.

Participants will learn about key principles in team communication, trip strategy, building a team, funding the project, travel precautions and more.

"We are committed to helping churches increase their missions involvement, and this is one practical way we can do that," said Partnership Missions Director Scott Pittman.

The training will be led by Clayton Rock, retired missionary from the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board.

Those who complete the training are eligible for a \$500 scholarship when they lead a mission trip for the KBC, Pittman said.

There is no charge to attend, but advanced registration is required. To register, visit www.KyBaptist.org/TLT or call (502) 489-3529, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529.

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

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We need to have eyes to see

By Harold Harper

Nashville (BP)—One day last year, a man walked up the steps of a busy Washington, D.C. Metro station and stood against a wall beside a trash can.

To people rushing by on their way to work he was just a guy in jeans, a T-shirt and a baseball cap. He took a violin from a case, set the case at his feet and threw in some money so people would know their donations were welcome. Then he started to play.

He played for the next 43 minutes, performing six classical pieces as more than 1,000 people walked right on by.

Not one of them recognized Joshua Bell, the Washington Post reported, "one of the finest classical musicians in the world, playing some of the most elegant music ever written on one of the most valuable violins ever made."

Three days before, he had performed before a full house at Boston's Symphony Hall, where the 50 seats went for \$100. But on that morning, with government employ-

ees bustling past, Josh Bell was just a street musician who didn't attract much attention and raked in about \$32.

FIRST PERSON

I wonder what my reaction to Josh would have been that day. Would I have noticed him? Would I have discerned his incredible talent? Would I have appreciated the beauty of the music? Or would I have walked on by so consumed with my own agenda that I missed the opportunity to partake of something rare and wonderful?

Unfortunately, I am sure I know the answer: I would have totally missed him. I would have been one of those people who just walked on by.

What are we missing?

This made me wonder—what else am I missing? As I study Scripture, I see that even Jesus' disciples often missed the activity of God.

A classic example was when as Jesus began to prepare the 12 disciples for His death, Peter took Him aside and told Him He shouldn't

to entirely subdue all the other instruments.

LifeWay's Ed Stetzer said, "When we say to God who He is, it reminds us that everything that's about us is not all that important." Actually, God knows who He is, so we don't have to tell Him. But if we need to do that, it proves that everything about us is all that important; otherwise, we wouldn't bother God with any communication. Stetzer was talking about prayer, not worship, which is defined as "reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power; also an act of expressing such reverence."

As for the comeback vis-à-vis worship style, Southern Baptist Convention membership increased by 27

percent from 1965-1980; 16 percent from 1980-2000; and 2.5 percent from 2000-2007. The contemporary worship approach started in earnest in the 1980s, was greatly magnified in the '90s and even more magnified since 2000. At present, the SBC is completely stagnated. So much for the "risk of contemporariness." Every time the congregation breaks out in applause following a "performance," God is not honored but the performer is.

Concerning worship, Stetzer said, "We have to recognize that it's a celebration." He's wrong. It is a reverent thoughtful exercise reminding us that God knows who we are, a time of contemplation and meditation in thanksgiving for that fact.

How do I get so preoccupied? I spend far too much time consumed with the things of men, far too much time looking at the world with my limited sight and leaning on my own understanding.

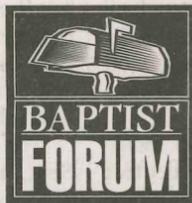
I do not want to live this way anymore. I want to have eyes to see God, His plan, His way. I want to see things from His point of view. I do not want to be so focused on my own agenda that I miss God.

The choice is for each of us, every day—the things of God, or the things of man.

Harold Harper is executive vice president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Worship style

In the "Church Comeback" article (WR, Aug. 19), the greatest emphasis was placed on a pastor taking the risk attached to a complete reconfiguration of worship style, specifically trading the traditional for the so-called contemporary, which has at its center, the "praise team" and song lyrics flashed on huge screens, with the expectation that all congregants will sing the melody, although it is often beyond the range of a huge number. Musical accompaniment is most heavily influenced by the "beat," banged out by drummers/percussionists/pianists, with the main drum section partly or completely encased so as not



Top 10 reasons to support EBO

The 2008 Season of Prayer for State Missions and promotion of the Eliza Broadus Offering is coming up Sept. 7-14—\$1,052,008 in 2008.

The theme is "Celebrate God's Love," so I thought I'd use this column to share what I consider to be the top 10 reasons we can celebrate and support this vital offering.

■ More than 69 percent of the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions goes to the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board for direct state missions. The rest of the offering helps to support missions education, camping and special missions projects across Kentucky. All efforts to strengthen churches and carry out missions work in the state serve to build a strong spiritual foundation for world evangelization.

■ The offering helps to fund state missionaries who serve associations. Twenty-five associations are able to have stronger programs due to the support of the offering.

■ The offering provides signifi-

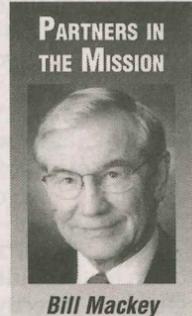
cant support for ethnic work and church planting. Much support is provided for the Hispanic Bible Institute and training for emerging Hispanic pastors and leaders. Six Hispanic regional missionaries are supported in partnership with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

■ The offering funds the budget for witness and ministry to 8,000 international students studying with student visas on Kentucky college campuses.

■ One of the new items this year will be reaching children for Christ through mission vacation Bible schools.

■ Interfaith witness training is provided through the offering. With the growth of world religions in the United States and Kentucky, there is a growing concern to understand these religions and to relate the distinctives of the Christian faith in a meaningful way.

■ One of the ways to relate the gospel to persons with needs is



Bill Mackey

through missions ministries. The offering provides funds for training and to help launch ministries.

■ Church planting is one of the best ways to reach Kentucky for Christ and discipleship through churches. The offering supports training and start-up funds for church planting.

■ Kentucky has 150 self-funded, NAMB-endorsed Mission Service Corps missionaries who receive training and special project support through EBO.

■ The offering helps to reduce lostness in Kentucky. According to the Glenmary Research Center, 41 counties in Kentucky are 70 percent unreached for Christ and His church.

My wife, Kay, and I make the Eliza Broadus Offering one of our most significant gifts of the year, and the KBC staff has made commitments to pray for and financially support state missions. It is my prayer that you will join us in praying for Kentuckians to be reached for Christ and in financially supporting state missions efforts through the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Bloopers in movies are funny; bloopers in finances are not

By Jeremy White

Bloopers—those inadvertent mess-ups. They are a regular feature now as bonus material on movie DVDs. We laugh at them and are glad to see others making mistakes besides us.

Over the years, I have chuckled at church bulletin bloopers such as these:

■ "The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir."

■ "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

■ "Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered."

■ "Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the family life center. Please use the large double door at the side entrance."

■ "For those of you with children and don't know it, we have a nursery available downstairs."

An insert not proofread by someone; misplaced clauses and modifiers; unintended meanings. I am certain the largest ward in mental-health facilities is for English teachers driven mad by such irresponsible writing and editing. (No doubt, my writings have caused a fair amount of mental anguish, too.)

The same unintended consequences of these bulletin bloopers apply to our personal stewardship. You may have thought that financing the big-screen TV on a credit card was manageable at the point of purchase. But now, you see how your cash flow is crippled today and in the future.

Typical financial bloopers include:

■ Spending too much on your lifestyle and not saving for the future.

■ Not having an emergency savings fund.

■ Refusing to give generously and cheerfully.

■ Leasing or buying new cars on credit.

■ Failing to have adequate insurance protection.

■ Paying interest for most of your life instead of earning interest.

What is the difference between these financial bloopers and other blunders? The financial bloopers are not nearly as funny.

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



Family member's acid tongue can leave entire family scarred

Q: My son's wife has one of the sharpest tongues I know. I cringe at the way she talks to him. It has gotten really hard to watch and my son won't talk about it. What can a father/father-in-law do?

What a small part of the body that can wreak such destruction. Scripture has some sharp words about the tongue: "Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything" (Proverbs 13:3); "The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences" (Proverbs 18:21).

The tongue can be a powerfully destructive force in relationships. I thought about the way couples talk to one another. Men and women who once said, "I do," in a serious moment of commitment to live together and love one another, later let loose their tongues to run free and wreak havoc.

The tongue can be a killer. So why did the Lord give us such a force capable of great destruction? The tongue was given with a purpose—to offer words that build up, bring satisfaction, impart wisdom and to bless. Scripture says this: "The lips of the godly speak helpful words, but the mouth of the wicked speaks perverse words" (Proverbs 10:32); "Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit" (Proverbs 15:4).

Certainly you can model for your daughter-in-law what the tongue is intended to impart. Because her words are not only destructive to her marriage but family gatherings as well, it sounds necessary to talk with her about the impact of her words on the family. You also can encourage her and your son to seek help about the way their words hurt one another. She may be angry or in pain and uses her tongue to spit venom. For the wellbeing of the entire family, such poison can no longer be accepted and must be dealt with.—*Valerie Vincent*

Q: What would be a couple of good programs to use for marriage education in my church?

There are a lot of things available and perhaps the best way to get the biggest vision of all the resources out there is to attend the Smart Marriages conference, a weeklong event held each summer in various locations across the country (www.SmartMarriages.com).

Other good choices include:

- The Association of Couples in Marriage Enrichment (ACME) is probably the one that has been around the longest, founded by David and Vera Mace. This approach has various discussion starters for small groups (www.BetterMarriages.org).

- "A Lasting Promise" by Scott Stanley, et al, is the Christian version of the PREP approach to marital communication (www.Prepare.com). This book would be a great discussion focus as it has questions in the back of each chapter to help couples communicate.

- "Empowering Couples" is a book by David and Amy Olson based on the PREPARE-ENRICH couples' inventory. This book would do in a class format what the PREPARE-ENRICH trained counselor would do in one-on-one sessions.

- "10 Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage" by David and Claudia Arp is a great book for a weekly 10- to 20-minute presentation of a marriage discussion topic, followed by a fun date where the couple discusses the topic.

- "The Second Half of Marriage" by David and Claudia Arp is a small group video curriculum for empty nesters and long-term marriages.

- "I Take Thee to be My Spouse" by David Apple is a LifeWay curriculum for newly- and recently-married couples.

- "New Faces in the Frame" by Dick Dunn is a LifeWay curriculum for couples who are in step-families.—*James Stillwell*

Family Forum writers are:

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Too often, disagreement triggers hostility

For several days now, I've been carrying a note I wrote to myself. It says: "100% agreement not mandatory."

I have no idea when I put down those words. The piece of paper is getting pretty ragged on the edges, so, I've obviously been toting it around for awhile, reading the message to myself every day. But I know why I wrote that note. I'm bone tired of the notion people have to agree completely, or else they're adversaries.

Have you experienced this attitude? You disagree, and the person you're talking to goes from zero to furious in about 0.046 seconds. It's not like you attacked this person or said bad things about his mother. You just happened to disagree. And now you're the enemy.

We probably see more of this behavior in years that are divisible by four. Presidential elections seem to bring predispositions toward partisanship out in people.

Beyond election-year politics, this pattern reflects a broader tilt toward incivility. When we think clearly about disagreement, we recognize the "other" has reasons for believing. And when we think humbly about disagreement, we concede even we may be wrong.

Unfortunately, clarity and humility don't surface that often, particularly in American discourse. Once, I illustrated this by describing the patterns of rhetoric and the belittle-to-win-an-argument tactics I hear on talk radio. Maybe I called it the "Rush Limbaugh-ization of America." But because I disagreed with some folks about the efficacy of talk radio and the contributions of radio hosts, some folks got really mad. Touché.

Sadly, congregations practice this kind of thinking all the time. Don't believe it? Bring up the subject of worship music and you'll get an earful from partisans of "traditional" and "contemporary." Sometimes, you'd think Jesus only likes one kind of music—never mind that neither the organ nor the guitar were in-

vented when Jesus preached.

Full disclosure: My wife, Joanna, will vouch I'm inclined this way, too. We're fixing dinner and talking about stuff, and she disagrees. If I don't watch it, I'm raising my voice, as if practically shouting will force her to see the pure light of my reasoning. "I disagree, but you don't have to get mad about it," she says. And she's right.

The tragedy of resorting to anger when we disagree manifests itself several ways:

- Anger prevents us from learning important lessons.

Baptists, of all people, ought to know this. We talk about "the priesthood of all believers" and affirm every individual has the privilege and responsibility to seek wisdom directly from God. The obvious corollary to this is that no individual is the sole owner and arbiter of all wisdom. If we listen instead of shout, if we stay calm and don't get hot, we can reason and glean knowledge and wisdom from each other. And even when we still disagree, we benefit from understanding why we disagree and why the other person thinks as she does.

- When we refuse to listen, we dishonor the presence of Christ in others.

When we get hot and take a hard line solely to win an argument, we treat the other person as an object, not a child of God. But when we respond with dignity and respect—especially when we don't agree—we affirm God's Hand in creating and guiding that person.

- When we treat our positions as absolute, we ignore the complexity and ambiguity of creation.

People who disagree with us aren't necessarily totally wrong, and their disagreement doesn't make them totally bad. Sometimes, we forget this. In so doing, we overlook the richness and diversity of humanity, which is a blessing from God.

You can think of other examples. But here's the deal: "100% agreement not mandatory." In fact, healthy, open, vibrant disagreement can be a blessing.

Marv Knox is editor of the Texas Baptist Standard

GUEST EDITORIAL



Marv Knox

Is the sky really falling?

"The sky is falling, the sky is falling," shouted Chicken Little after the acorn fell on his head. When asked how he knew this, he replied, "I saw it with my own eyes, heard it with my own ears and part of it fell on my head." And while the sky really didn't fall on Chicken Little, there was cause for alarm. After all his head did hurt.

I don't want to be accused of being Chicken Little and sounding a false alarm, but it may be time to sound the alarm about youth ministry in Kentucky. In looking over statistics from the past 30 years, I have noticed a trend. Youth (ages 12-17) baptisms have steadily declined over this time period. And while I know that baptisms are not a true measure of discipleship, and that fewer churches are reporting their baptisms today than reported back then, the truth is we are losing ground at a phenomenal rate. We are baptizing fewer and fewer while the number of youth in Kentucky keeps growing.

Take a look at the numbers: The last year we baptized more than 4,000 students—2000; the last year we baptized more than 4,500—1990. More than 5,000—1982; and it has been since 1975 that we baptized more than 6,000 students. Every stu-

dent in our youth ministries was born after 1990.

In the last reporting year we have on Kentucky Baptist Convention churches, only 50 baptized more than 10 students. Out of almost 2,400 churches, only 50 had double-digit baptisms. In fact, some associations did not have double-digit baptisms of students in all of their churches combined.

It isn't any better in the Southern Baptist Convention. In the past month I received preliminary data from NAMB's survey of churches in youth baptisms for 2007. The magic number to be one of the top 100 churches in the entire SBC was 33. I was glad that two KBC churches were on that list, but saddened there weren't more.

So, what are we to do? I wish there was an easy answer to that question. One thing we can do is to be more intentional in our evangelism efforts. It was refreshing to sit with Danny Pacetti, youth minister at Jeffersontown Baptist Church in Louisville, and hear him talk about how he is going to be more intentional in his ministry.

One of the places he is going to do this is with Uptown, which the church has sponsored for 10 years. It provides a place for students to play

games and hang out with friends on Friday nights. It has been a safe place for parents to drop off their students. "Everybody in J-town knows what Uptown is and where it is," Pacetti said.

Most communities, he added, have a "real need for a space for their kids to hang out and get together with their friends. As churches, we can utilize that need." But part of his frustration came in that students who came to Uptown were not being reached with the gospel. Pacetti said that the youth ministry's commitment this year is to be "intentionally verbal" with every individual who enters.

There is an old adage that says, "A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step." For Chicken Little, his was a step toward the king where he met Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey and the others. For Danny and the youth ministry team at Jeffersontown Baptist Church, it is a step to be more intentional at Uptown. For me, it is a commitment to be more intentional in sharing the gospel when I am with students.

The sky is falling and I know it because I see it with my own eyes, hear it with my own ears and have been hit over the head with the reality of it all.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

STATEWIDE CHURCH PRAYER GATHERINGS

With One Voice

Praying with urgency
for Kentucky



...urgent need to connect all people to Jesus Christ...

September 10, 2008
A Time for Prayer

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.

We will...

- Pray for people we know who do not yet know Jesus
- Pray for spiritual awakening in our community
- Pray for a movement of God in our church
- Pray for Kentucky Baptist ministries across the commonwealth

On Sept. 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.

Pastors, make plans now to participate by holding a With One Voice prayer gathering in your church. Resources for promoting and conducting your prayer meeting are available online at:
www.kybaptist.org/onevoice



For more information, call:
502-489-3528 or 866-489-3528

Visit our web site at:
www.kybaptist.org/onevoice

SUPER '08
SATURDAY

Women's ministry can be more doing than learning

By **Dannah Prather**
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—Encouraging Christian women to be “do-ers” as well as learners is not about adding another item on their to-do list, according to a consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources.

“You can’t try to minister to busy women by making them busier,” said Betsy Langmade who facilitated several sessions on women’s ministry at a recent Super Saturday event in Lexington. Women might not express the sentiment aloud, but Langmade said some probably are thinking: “If I give you this piece of my time, what’s in it for me?”

The answer could be “something extremely valuable.”

Selecting activities with care, then planning them well can help spectators graduate to participants, Langmade noted. Two revealing questions that may help women’s ministry leaders determine where they are and how they can take the next step are:

■ Are you reaching women for Christ?

■ How can your ministry encourage and help women experience and honor God more?

Encouragement and fellowship “will happen without a lot of effort,” Langmade pointed out. “Women sometimes don’t realize they are craving fellowship with other women.”

Requiring more deliberate attention are the three most important components of any ministry activity, she explained. Those components are:

■ Meeting Jesus Christ.

■ Studying the Bible.

■ Praying.

“These are the things that will sustain them,” Langmade insisted.

New or smaller congregations perhaps do not have a formalized women’s ministry. The place to start could be a mid-week Bible study.

Others “have been doing Beth Moore Bible studies for the last five years,” Langmade noted. “What’s the next step?”

Organizing a hands-on missions

project can help Christian women grow closer to God. It also is a way to meet women who do not attend church regularly. Local projects may lead to out-of-state or overseas mission trips.

A women’s retreat can be a gospel-sharing experience as believers invite friends or co-workers to a Christ-centered event in a relaxed, non-church atmosphere.

Without diligence, women’s events can devolve into efforts to keep members entertained instead of drawing new participants, new Christians and new church members, Langmade explained.

“Focus on who you want to reach, not who you are not trying to lose,” she emphasized, apologizing for the double negative.

She suggested developing a simple mission statement that leaders can return to when selecting events. If proposed activities do not directly support the goals of the ministry, they should not be pursued.

Trying to do too much too soon is another common error. “Do fewer things to make a greater impact,” Langmade said. Ministries that are “10 miles long and 12 feet deep” are preferred over those that are “90 miles long and three feet deep.”

If an activity is unsuccessful, it may be time to suspend or discontinue it.

Mentoring new believers provides future leadership for a women’s ministry and a church, Langmade said. New Christians also provide unique insight if current leaders have been believers for many years.

Many ministry leaders encourage church members to “get outside your comfort zone,” to try new endeavors, but Langmade has a different take on that.

Noting several examples in the Bible where believers, and Christ Himself, faced uncertainty and persecution, Langmade said she is doubtful the life of a Christian is supposed to be about comfort.

“As Christians, have we ever been allowed to have a comfort zone?” she asked.

KBC church plant training event set

Louisville—Those involved or interested in starting new churches can benefit from the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s Basic Training for Church Planters Oct. 10-12 at the Baptist Building in Louisville. The event is sponsored by the KBC and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Participants can learn basic skills and explore strategic issues of the church planting process as well as how to begin a church planting plan customized to fit their needs.

KBC staff representing the KBC’s evangelism growth, church development, missions growth and leadership development teams will lead the event.

Discussion topics will include vi-

sion, master plan, leadership development, core groups, administrative issues and mileposts.

The event is open to church planting teams, church planters and their spouses, sponsoring or partnering church leadership and anyone considering church planting.

Basic Training for Church Planters will run from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Oct. 10-11, and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Oct. 12.

The cost to attend is \$30 per person with a maximum of \$120 per team by Sept. 30, and \$35 per person with a maximum of \$180 per team after Sept. 30. The deadline to register is Oct. 9. To sign up, visit www.KyBaptist.org/BasicTraining, call (502) 489-3528, toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3528.



Celebrate GOD'S LOVE

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

Welcome to a celebration of God's love during the 2008 Season of Prayer for State Missions. We are celebrating the overwhelming response to the 2007 Eliza Broadus Offering and for the new ministries which will be funded. Join us in the celebration by praying and giving for ministries that are making a marked

difference in the lives of others.

Through acts of mercy, Kentucky Baptists are reaching out to embrace physical, mental and spiritual needs. God's love is shining inside a former bar that now operates as an inner-city community center. Missions volunteers are taking the love of Christ onto three Job

Corps campuses and into the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. New church plants are reaching out to embrace the lost and unchurched. And shelter ministries are extending the arms of Christ to the homeless.

So join this celebration of God's love! As you pray for these ministries,

and

Eliza Broadus Offering Goal: \$1,052,008

One million fifty-two thousand eight in 2008!

praise Him for His marvelous works throughout Kentucky. Ask God to guide your giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering which supports these ministries. And ask God to reveal your role in ministering in Kentucky. As you surrender yourself, your talents and gifts, each day will become a celebration of His love.

Celebrate God's Love Through Moore Activity Center

For 33 years, Harold Pike, Pastor of South Side Baptist Church in Covington prayed, promising God if He allowed the church to purchase the "Salty Dog Saloon" next door, he would use it for the good of the people and for the glory of God. On April 1, 2000, the church took legal ownership of the building. After three years of renovation, the former bar became Moore Activity Center (MAC).

When Rev. Pike approached Amy Wilhelmus to serve as the Moore Activity Center Director, she already shared his vision for reaching the unreachable. Amy had grown up at South Side Baptist Church helping her missionary mother, Helen Cummins, with inner-city ministry. Plus her education at Cumberland College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and her work experience in inner-city ministry in Binghamton, New York, had further prepared her. So after much prayer, Amy accepted God's call to return home.

"My biggest focus is 'Meeting Needs-Sharing Christ,'" Amy says. "We took Bible-based programs and expanded them to reach people who were uncomfortable coming into a church setting but would be comfortable coming to a former bar."

Even before the renovation was complete, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) groups began meeting Monday through Friday. "Previous customers told us how coming to the bar destroyed their lives. Now, 30-40 men and women attend AA

meetings in the same building and God is restoring their lives."

Today, the Moore Activity Center is the hub of the community:

- **Adult Bible Club:** A weekly Bible club for adults, includes a meal, crafts and games. Adults may enroll in exercise, computer classes or crafts classes such as crochet/knitting or scrapbooking.

- **Family Night:** Activities such as a movie, dinner or board games designed to strengthen family relationships.

- **Train Station:** A one-on-one tutoring program for children, kindergarten to 6th grade based on Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it" (NIV).

"Each child has a specific adult tutor who helps with homework and loves and encourages them," Amy says. "We have a single mother who doesn't read so we focus on getting homework finished so the child and mother are not struggling. We're pleased to see the kid's grades improve."

- **Hiding Place:** Rewards children for scripture memorization while providing a safe place. By helping their children with memorization, parents also learn the scriptures.

- **Summer Drop-In:** Features twice weekly meals and fun for children. MAC also holds Backyard Bible Clubs, Block Parties and Day Camps. "We minister while helping the children have fun and be kids," says Amy. "Every child leaves the Center knowing they are loved by us and by God."

- **Back-to-School Day:** Provides socks, new shoes and free haircuts by professional stylists. "When families are on a fixed income," Amy says, "it's hard to pay for six haircuts, six pairs of shoes and school supplies."

- **Youth Night:** On Friday nights, middle and high school students gather inside the Center for a Bible study with built in time for "hanging out." "You can see the youth have changed by their attitude and level of respect when you pass them on the street," Amy says. "We enjoy watching them develop into the men and women God designed them to be."

Once they question, 'Why do you care about me?' the door opens to share God's love. At MAC, we celebrate God's love by singing songs with the children, but a greater celebration comes when a child accepts Christ."

Pray for God to save the lost who visit the Center, for volunteers, for financial partners and for stronger community outreach. For the past three years, the Eliza Broadus Offering has provided funding for children's programs at MAC.

To volunteer, call 859.261.2300.
Email: macmissions@aol.com.

A packet of materials has been sent to the WMU director or contact person in every KBC church. It includes a DVD and teaching plans for all ages as well as suggestions for churchwide promotion of the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering. Contact Kentucky WMU to order posters, prayer guides, and offering envelopes. You may request a state missions packet by calling Kentucky WMU at 502-489-3534 or toll free, 1-866-489-3534; or by email: kywmu@kybaptist.org. These materials are provided by the gifts of your church to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program.

Church contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering should be mailed to: Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. Checks should be made payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention and designated "EBO." Church Treasurers may also include EBO contributions with other contributions through the Kentucky Baptist Convention using the KBC church contribution form and designating the amount for the Eliza Broadus Offering as "EBO."

Individuals or groups may contribute directly to the Eliza Broadus Offering. Please make checks payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and notate "EBO" on the check memo line. Mail these checks to: Eliza Broadus Offering, Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Please enclose name and address for an acknowledgement of your gift.

Contributions for the 2008-09 Eliza Broadus Offering will be received from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009.



Celebrate God's Love through a Cup of Coffee

Jefferson Street Baptist Center

Among the essentials necessary to sustain life are food, water and shelter from the cold. Yet, in downtown Louisville, hundreds of people, many intoxicated or mentally unstable, wander the streets every night. But amid the heartache and loneliness, hope lives. Every day, an average of 138 homeless men and women slip inside Jefferson Street Baptist Center's Day Shelter for their basic needs. In 2007, the Center provided services to 50,439 homeless guests. That year, 98 of them accepted Christ.

Homelessness is dangerous. One man fell asleep in the cold and had to have his legs amputated. Imagine having the flu without the comforts of home and a warm place to recuperate. Sometimes an emergency center will take homeless persons when they're sick, sometimes not.

There is a litany of names of people who've died on the streets and how they died: Jack, brick to head; Rankin, stabbed; Rory, drunk, run over; Roger, froze to death in a dumpster; Debbie with a walker, suicide overdose; another client, froze under a bridge.

The Day Shelter, open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., provides a safe environment, access to a laundry room and showers, storage for personal belongings, mail and phone service and a hot meal. Jeff Street served 125,000 cups of coffee last year. The center provides basic but vital services, meeting physical needs unconditionally. Most guests don't know what unconditional love is. This year, Jefferson Street held a health clinic which provided free health screenings, vision exams, glasses, haircuts and a noon meal.

To many of Louisville's homeless, the Jefferson Street Baptist Center is a lifeline. Mary and Chris, married and homeless, walk four miles every morning to the Day Shelter. At night, they sleep in a tent set up on private property. Beside four bags in storage at the Day Shelter, their only possessions are blankets.

Chris is applying for disability. His deteriorating joint disease and other injuries could cause paralysis if he works. Mary cared for her mother until she died in 2001. That same year Mary was raped in her motel room trying to escape the December cold. A professional counselor is treating her for depression. Mary carries photos of her three children and a granddaughter. Mary and Chris have accepted Christ since coming to the Center.

Jeff Street Baptist Center's goal is to provide assistance with employment, housing and health needs. "We want our guests to become more employable and to gain permanent housing," says the director. "We don't want to make it easy to be homeless, but we want to make it easier for them to get off the streets. Our desire is to build real and trusting relationships with those whom we serve so when the opportunity arises, our guests will be honest with us and with God in their responses."

The Center also operates Fresh Start, a long-term transitional housing program for men who are dually diagnosed. Dually diagnosed means they suffer from mental illness and/or one or more substance addictions. Jeff Street has 27 private rooms where basic needs are met. While at Jeff Street, these residents work on mental health issues and on goals to help them get back on their feet. People love these transitional rooms because they are safe and private. Sometimes new residents look at these small rooms and ask, "Who do I have to share this with?"

In 2004, the Center began operating a permanent supportive housing facility. This ministry provides 11 efficiency apartments, a community room, laundry facilities and support services to men who have demonstrated a lasting commitment to maintaining stability and sobriety. Permanent residents pay rent and a nominal fee for meals. The aver-

age stay in transitional housing is 9-12 months and 17 months in the permanent supportive housing facility.

In 2005, the Center began a partnership with Sojourn Community Church in Louisville to respond to a variety of needs at the shelter. Church members worked several months to renovate a vacant apartment on the top floor of the Center for live-in missionaries. After months of prayerful planning, Jefferson Street launched HOPE, a one-year live-in program for missionaries (six men and six women) ages 18-29. The program also includes summer missionaries. The Center provides housing, insurance and a small stipend for the missionaries.

Through the HOPE program, young adults give up a car and comfort and come to live at Jefferson Street Baptist Center. They work with transitional people, serving in all Jeff Street programs from the Day Shelter to Permanent Supportive Housing, seeking to build relationships and share the gospel.

Pray for the safety and provision of the homeless people. Pray for the Jefferson Street team to focus on sharing the gospel. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the Jeff Street leadership team as urban renewal changes the neighborhood. The Eliza Broadus Offering helps purchase supplies and materials to operate the Day Shelter.

Christian Shelter for the Homeless

Imagine not knowing where you are going to sleep tonight or what you will eat or if you will be safe. Homeless people face this and other difficult challenges every day.

"According to one study, over a period of one year, 600 people in the Laurel County area needed a place to stay," says Darrel Beck, President of the Christian Shelter for the Homeless in London. "Just the other day, we saw two men sleeping on the steps of

a church right across the street from the shelter. Another person was sleeping on a hill near a church."

In 2000, Darrel, a member of Corinth Baptist Church, met with several others in London and decided to take action to help the homeless. "In the beginning, our shelter only referred people," Darrel says. "Occasionally, we helped people find a place at the Bennett Center where they have an apartment for one or two people or we referred them to shelters in Williamsburg or Lexington."

In 2005, the Shelter purchased a 12,000 sq. ft. building with funding from a GOLD grant, (Governors Office of Local Development) and a grant from a foundation, along with donations from local churches and individuals. After extensive renovation, the Shelter opened in December 2007. "Eight apartments are upstairs plus sleeping rooms for men and women and a common area with a kitchen downstairs," Beck says. "We will house people a maximum of 280 days. That would give us time to find them another place, help them get a job and move into another educational level. We want to get them back into society."

Recently, a woman who had lost her job came to the Shelter. With the Shelter's help, she found a job in a restaurant. She hopes to finish her GED and pursue a degree in psychology. "We want to show God's love to them," Darrel says. "We can't force the gospel on them but we will do all we can to see their lives are changed."

Pray for God to provide resources for the Christian Shelter for the Homeless. A 2007 Eliza Broadus grant was used to purchase an ice machine for the Shelter's kitchen. Other needs include hygiene kits, linens and blankets.

To volunteer with Christian Shelter for the Homeless, call 606-330-0785. Email: christianshelter@windstream.net



Sometimes new residents look at these small [transitional housing] rooms and ask, "Who do I have to share this with?"

The Writer: Shirley Coxis is a Mission Service Corps missionary and free-lance writer from Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. Shirley writes regularly for *Missions Mosaic*.

Please note: The 2008 *Celebrate God's Love DVD* complements this article. A copy of the DVD has been sent to each pastor and WMU director / contact person.

This insert made possible by the gifts of your church through the Cooperative Program and the Eliza Broadus Offerin.

the **DAYSHELTER**

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Celebrate God's Love Through Church Planting

People living in your neighborhood or down the street are searching for answers. Lost, searching for God, they are reluctant to attend a church. Reaching out to these lost or unchurched people with the gospel of Jesus Christ has become a passionate heartcry behind the church planting movement in Kentucky.

"According to studies by the Glenmary Research Center, approximately 75-80% of Kentuckians are without Christ and, therefore, without hope," says Larry Baker, Director of New Work and Associational Missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "One of the most effective evangelistic tools for reaching lost people is new church plants."

"Baptist churches in Kentucky were involved in church planting in the 50's and 60's," he says, "but somewhere in the late 60's and early 70's we got away from that heritage. For several decades, it seemed we had a church on every street corner so we didn't have an emphasis on church planting. In the past three years, however, 118 new churches have been planted in Kentucky."

Church planting is a key component of Kentucky Baptist Convention's "Connect" strategy. Part of this also stems from ministering to approximately 350,000 Hispanics who have migrated to Kentucky. "One of the problems we have with a church plant among Hispanics is finding Hispanic leadership," Baker says. "The Hispanic Bible Institute is part of our strategy to train pastors, Sunday School teachers and other leaders in these fledging Hispanic congregations."

Additionally, the Kentucky Baptist Convention works to identify pockets of other ethnic groups that could support a church plant. A bivocational church planting model is also being developed for Eastern Kentucky.

A few years ago, the Red River Baptist Association in Eastern Kentucky was named by a representative of the North American Mission Board as the least churched area in the United States. Christian County and Little Bethel Associations responded by forming a partnership with the five-county Red River Association.

The partnership has resulted in the planting of nine churches. "A great number of people have been saved because of these

church plants," Baker says. "Small churches in the Red River Association also became a catalyst to starting a high impact church in another area with a dense population, so church planting breeds church planting."

Another phase of the Kentucky Baptist Convention church planting strategy is the launch of 25 high impact churches. To date, thirteen high impact churches have been started. "We take a look at the demographics in a particular area," Baker says, "and if the demographics support a new church plant to reach more than 250 in attendance in a five-year period, we consider that an area for a high impact church plant."

High impact churches usually begin with pre-launch activities which include ministry evangelism events, Bible studies and relationship building until a special launch day. High impact churches generally have upbeat, contemporary style music and very relational, casual worship services with no dress codes.

Baker also envisions a high impact church plant near the campus of each Kentucky university. "If we can plant high impact churches on college and university campuses, we think we are going to reach a whole generation with the gospel of Jesus Christ," he says. A high impact church, The Journey, launched on the campus of Murray State University in 2005 and a church is in the planning stage for Morehead University."

Matt Johnson, pastor of The Journey in Murray, first heard God's call to church planting while he was working as a student pastor in a church plant in Colorado. Since there are over 100 churches in Calloway County, Matt, a Murray State graduate, questioned God about planting a church there.

"Why Murray?" he asked. "But after research," he says, "we discovered that about 70% of that county didn't attend church consistently and 60% of the county was between ages 18-34. We also discovered less than 500 of the 10,000 students on Murray State campus actively attended any church."

"If not for the KBC and Larry Baker's leadership, we wouldn't be where we are at the church," Johnson says. "College students are high on enthusiasm

and low on money so from the beginning we knew we had a financial challenge. It cost about \$125,000 to launch our church so it took funding from the Convention and our sponsoring churches, First Baptist in Benton and Northside Baptist in Mayfield."

Once services began, the church immediately drew the unchurched people it was targeting. Matt recalls that one couple who came to the first service at The Journey had a very negative perception of church. Eventually, the couple became involved with the children's ministry and nine months later, they accepted Christ. "They even moved closer to the church to be more involved in the ministry," Johnson says. "Those are the stories that define success for us."

The Journey works to engage the community through several annual events. An Easter Egg Hunt provides an opportunity to give families gift bags with information about the children's ministry. Church members also paint faces and hand out bottles of water and helium balloons, along with information about the church, at Murray's July 4th "Freedom Fest" which draws approximately 10,000 people.

In August, The Journey welcomes students back to campus with sports bottles, pens and candy and outreach activities. On Halloween, the church provides a family festival atmosphere at "Trail of Treats." "Being out in the community enables us to do what we feel Jesus would be doing," Matt says.

Currently, The Journey is involving the community through a "Heroes Project," an effort to provide hygiene products for 400 families in need in Calloway County over a 40-day period. "Thousands of people in the community are directly involved," Johnson says. "A teacher at the high school has eight different clubs collecting hygiene products. A campus sorority has collected mounds of toothpaste and the Baptist Campus Ministry at Murray State is asking students to bring a different hygiene product to Thursday night worship service."

Building relationships by reflecting the unconditional love of Christ is the primary goal behind every activity at The Journey. "The purpose of Jesus was pretty clear but the personality of Jesus is sometimes what we miss,"

Johnson says. "In all the gospels He was accepting, enjoyable to be around, relevant, engaging, authentic with people, so it is important to us as a church to balance and incorporate those. If we can learn to love people the way Jesus did, be accepting of them and be their friend, they are going to be open because they will see God loves them."

Another high impact church, LifeSong in Ashland, launched October 2006 in a former VFW building. Pastor Keith Menshouse was taking time off from vocational ministry to care for his son who nearly died in an automobile accident when Mike Rice contacted him about starting a high impact church.

"I had 25 years of experience in traditional church settings," Menshouse says, "but it bothered me that we seemed to be losing this particular generation." Believing God was calling him to start a church, Keith began holding weekly meetings with others in Ashland to pray and share his vision about a church plant. On October 1, 2006, 274 people attended LifeSong's first service. Attendance at Sunday morning services now averages 220.

An accomplished musician, with a dream to become a rock star, attended the first service at LifeSong. "About two or three weeks later, he came to share his dreams of making it big in the rock-and-roll industry," Menshouse says. "He didn't like his life and was questioning all that. In that VFW Hall, he gave his life to Christ. He is the drummer in our Praise Band and has a heartfelt giving of himself to God that is amazing."

"Sometimes we Christians say, 'Jesus loves all people. He died for all people. But if you are going to be part of our church, you have to wear certain things, act a certain way and hold up to a certain set of expectations,'" Menshouse says. "We just get so comfortable where we are and so thankful for where God brought us from, we forget there are still people out there who need to take that same journey."

Pray for church plants in Kentucky and ask God to call church planters. Give to the Eliza Broadus Offering which helps fund church planting, church development and student training at the Hispanic Bible Institute.

Approximately 70-80% of Kentuckians are without Christ, and therefore, without hope.

One of the most effective evangelistic tools for reaching lost people is new church plants.

To volunteer with a church plant, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention at 800-266-6477. Volunteers, including youth groups, are needed for pre-launch activities such as block parties, door-to-door visitation, VBS, and servant evangelism.



For more insights about church planting, read Larry Baker's blog "Planting with Passion" at www.kybaptist.org/plantingwithpassion

Celebrate God's Love - H.R. Ministries



Even the name of Harrell Riley's ministry, "Hell is Real" (HR Ministries) reveals his urgency in sharing the gospel. His boldness in witnessing may stem from growing up

in a home with an alcoholic father. He recalls that as a child he stood between his parents with a .38 caliber pistol pointed at his face to keep them from harming each other. "God protected me from violence, fighting and being shot," he says. "He has always provided for me and was a comfort to my troubled soul."

Named North American Mission Board MSC Missionary of 2007, Harrell Riley ministers at a prison in Eddyville and on Job Corps campuses in Morganfield, Greenville and Simpsonville, helping troubled souls "gain control of their lives and find the answer in Jesus Christ."

A federally funded program, Job Corps provides food, housing and education in many different vocations. Open to anyone with a high school diploma or GED and financial need, Job Corps often attracts students out of prison or jail or at risk of incarceration. "We see about 3,000 students a year and get an opportunity to influence their lives," Harrell says. "Students come from Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, North and South Carolina and from other countries. At any given time, 40 different people groups are on Job Corps campuses." Since HR Ministries began six years ago, approximately 2,700 people have accepted Christ.

When new Job Corps students arrive on campus, Harrell or another trained volunteer greets them with a smile, a handshake and a welcome bag with a treat, gospel tract and information about the ministry.

One afternoon, as Harrell greeted the students, a young lady dressed in black stepped off the bus. Her first words to Harrell were, "You think I need your help?" "Her hair was tinged purple and she had tattoos down both arms and piercing about everywhere you can imagine," he says. Sitting across from her during the orientation luncheon, he asked about the wall she had built around herself.

She shared she was molested by an uncle from age four to eight. Then, her parents moved from Cuba to Florida and placed her in child prostitution. At age 12, she ran away and joined a gang. "She showed me her side where she had been cut and her arm where she had been shot," Harrell says. "She had stolen, worked as a prostitute, done everything possible to take care of herself and survive. At age 16, she saw a big sign on a

street in Florida advertising Job Corps and came here."

"Jesus loves you just the way you are," Harrell told her. "He doesn't care what has happened to you or where you've been." As he spoke, tears ran down her face. Just then the luncheon ended. As she left to board the bus, the girl looked back at Harrell and said, "Nobody ever told me about this man named Jesus."

After new students are settled on campus, HR ministries continues to witness through programs such as:

Tutoring: Students are tutored in math, English, reading, writing and other subjects on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Fish Program: Brown bag lunches are served to 100-150 students on the Morganfield campus every Thursday. Church groups and volunteers invite students and serve meals.

Saturday Night: Services are held on the Morganfield campus on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Saturday nights of each month. Baptist Campus Ministry teams and churches share music, drama, sign language, puppets, etc. A Gospel message is presented.

Sunday Morning: Volunteers bus Morganfield students to church and provide lunch.

Skating Party/Special Events: HR Ministries hosts a skating party for Greenville campus students the first Monday of each month. A meal is served and counseling is available.

Other events include basketball tournaments, carnivals, Job Shadow Days, Job Fairs, Christmas parties and summer picnics. Also, for the past three years, Eliza Broadus funding has purchased Jesus videos to distribute to students as they leave campus for break.

HR Ministries also works with nine churches to take Jesus into the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex, a prison in Eddyville. Eleven nights a month, volunteers lead a Bible study or worship service at the prison. Volunteers lead a biblically-based program designed to end the prison cycle within families and mend broken relationships between fathers and their children.

"By sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to change hearts and, ultimately, change lives," Harrell says. "We are connecting with students and inmates through various activities. As a result, God is changing lives of people all over the world." Pray for salvation for students, for more laborers, for financial provision and for a storage building.

To volunteer, contact Harrell Riley at 270.365.6044.
Email hellisreal@kynet.biz.
Web site: www.hellisreal.org.

ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING for Kentucky State Missions, Special Ministries, and Missions Education 2008-09 OFFERING ALLOCATIONS

The Eliza Broadus Offering is sponsored by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union in partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. All Eliza Broadus Offering funds are used for missions ministries and missions education in Kentucky.

Kentucky Baptist Convention

| | |
|---|------------------|
| State Missions & Evangelism | \$725,000 |
| State Missions | 352,000 |
| Language Missions | 105,000 |
| Church & Community Missions | 137,000 |
| Evangelism | 8,000 |
| Student Work | 103,000 |
| Baptist Men on Mission Special Projects | 20,000 |

Kentucky Special Ministries **\$92,008**

Requests for Special Ministries Funds are made through an application process. These funds are used to grant requests for mission project assistance with associations, churches, and MSC missionary projects.

The deadline for submitting an EBO allocation request for the 2008-09 offering is December 15, 2008. Contact Kentucky WMU for an allocation request form.

Missions Education

| | |
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| through Kentucky WMU | \$235,000 |
| Leadership Training, Events, & Materials | 85,945 |
| Camp | 65,155 |
| Promotion | 80,950 |
| Scholarships | 2,950 |

OFFERING GOAL **\$1,052,008**

One million fifty-two thousand eight in 2008!

Celebrate God's Love

How will you celebrate God's love during the 2008 Season of Prayer for State Missions? Will you celebrate by singing praises to the Lord and praying for ministries in Kentucky? "With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD; in the great throng I will praise him" Psalm 109:30 (NIV).

Will you celebrate God's love by presenting a gift to the Eliza Broadus Offering? Your offering supports many ministries in our state and plays a vital role in the work of ministries that are reaching out to embrace the lost.

Will you celebrate God's love by answering His call to missions? Listen.

Can you hear Him calling you to volunteer around the state or in your community? Are you willing to allow God to use your arms, your hands, and your feet to share His love by ministering to the needs of others?

Come along! Join the celebration in Kentucky through praying, giving, and ministry. Give sacrificially to the Eliza Broadus Offering. Ask God to continue His movement in our state and extend it throughout the nation and the world. As you go, boldly share the gospel of Christ. Together, we can make a difference. Let's celebrate God's love!



On Wednesday, September 10, Kentucky Baptists will observe a statewide call to prayer. Every church is urged to plan a time of special prayer for spiritual awakening some time during the day or during the Wednesday evening service time.

Barnabas' planned gift

Giving has changed notably from first century to today

- A planned gift is:
 - A gift of an asset, not of income.
 - A gift you cannot place in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Acts 4:36-37 records the planned gift Barnabas made back in the first century for the work of Christ. "Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas, sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."

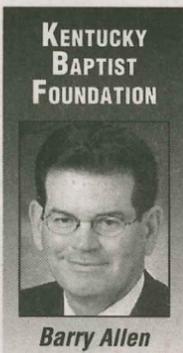
The incredible aspect of this gift was Barnabas found what God was doing through the first-century church so compelling he chose to give the entire proceeds from the sale of the field—not the income from the field or a tithe of the income from the field or a tithe of the proceeds from the sale of the field—but 100 percent of the sale proceeds. What an example of financial stewardship.

Now, Barnabas lived at a time when he could sell his field—his appreciated asset—without the consequences of a capital gains tax, and donate 100 percent of the sale proceeds to the Lord's

work. If Barnabas were making this stewardship decision today, he would donate the field to say, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, and the KBF would sell the field to use the sale proceeds for those aspects of the Lord's work Barnabas wanted to benefit. He would get a tax deduction for the full market value of his gift and avoid any capital gains tax. The result would be more money for the Lord's work.

Perhaps you, like Barnabas, have a "field"—that is, an appreciated asset of real estate, a business or appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares—that the Lord is leading you to use for the benefit of His mission in this world. Give us the privilege of assisting you in your consideration.

Call Laurie Valentine or me toll free, or visit our Web site at www.KyBaptistFoundation.org and click on "Charitable Gift Planning," then "Giving Wisely."



Barry Allen

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

- Rouen repository
- Douglas, for one
- Father of Gaal (Judges 9:26)
- Zest
- Act or process (suffix)
- "If a man ____ me, he will keep my words" (John 14:23)
- City in western Germany
- "Peter... ____ unto the sepulchre" (Luke 24:12)
- Paradise
- "There shall not be found among you ... a charmer ... or a ____" (Deuteronomy 18:10-11)
- Lend an ____
- Witticism
- Maximum
- "Trust in the Lord ... and verily thou shalt be ____" (Psalm 37:3)
- "A brother offended is harder to be ____ than a strong city" (Proverbs 18:19)
- He was (Lat.)
- ____ pottage (dish served in Genesis 25)
- "And Judah and Israel dwelt safely ... under his ____" (1 Kings 4:25)
- Paving material
- "A golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the ____ of the robe" (Exodus 28:34)
- With fewer impurities
- Son of Noah (var., Luke 3)
- Wrongdoing
- "He found them ten times better than all the ... ____" (Daniel 1:20)

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| 43 | | | | 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 |
| 47 | | | | 48 | | | | 49 | | |
| 50 | | | | 51 | | | | 52 | | |

- On a cruise
- Mini ____
- Pester
- "God sent him forth from the garden ... to ____ the ground" (Genesis 3:23)
- Work unit
- Server's advantage, in tennis
- Unbelievable, as a story
- Dentist's degree (abbr.)
- Two nonconsecutive notes on the diatonic scale
- Where Cain dwelt (Genesis 4)
- Rent out
- Masculine name
- Spoil
- Not masc.
- "I count all things but loss ... that I may ____ Christ" (Philippians 3:8)
- "When we are absent ____ from another" (Genesis 31:49)
- Father of Abner (2 Samuel 3:23)
- Separated
- "Come thou hither ... and dip thy morsel in the ____" (Ruth 2:14)
- "Walk about Zion, and go round about ____" (Psalm 48:12)
- "They sewed ____ leaves together" (Genesis 3:7)
- Hesitate
- "Thou shalt compass me about with ____ of deliverance" (Psalm 32:7)
- Continent
- Mimic a merchant
- Ingredient definitely not found in low-fat recipes
- Sat high in the saddle
- "For Paul had determined to ____ by Ephesus" (Acts 20:16)
- Corporate giant (abbr.)
- Genetic material

Last week's solution

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| 57 | I | R | M | A | 58 | Y | E | T | 59 | E | R | M | A |

Kentucky Baptist Minister's Golf Tournament

Register online
www.kybaptist.org/golf

Sept. 22 23, 2008

Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club
Georgetown, KY



Registration Ends Sept. 12



Mile-high ministry

Southern Baptists share Christ, assist first responders during Democratic Convention

Continued from page 1

wanted to discuss abortion," he recalled. "So there is a suspiciousness here that we don't normally encounter."

Still, volunteers reported more than half the people they approached with a tract were willing to accept it, even if they did not want to engage in a conversation.

"People have meetings they need to attend, they have an agenda," said Mark Yoho, a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board logistics coordinator for Intentional Community Evangelism and one of the organizers of the outreach effort. "They'll take a tract, but they don't necessarily have the time to talk. We knew this would be different than anything we have done before."

Yoho, who traveled to Denver from his home in Sugar Valley, Ga., said about a third of the 45,000 evangelistic tracts had been distributed in the first couple of days.

"Many times what we see with a mass tract distribution like this is it will produce fruit, especially later in the week after people have a chance to read the tract and one of our evangelists reconnects with them," Yoho noted. "If we can get a tract in their hands and they read it, God will speak to their hearts."

The evangelistic outreach was part of large-scale effort by local Southern Baptist churches to prepare, deliver and serve some 9,600 meals a day to city, state and national law enforcement personnel as they took much-needed breaks from

their DNC security duties. About 600 volunteers participated in that ministry.

When DNC participants were in meetings, ICE volunteers fanned out to other parts of the city, sharing Christ with Denver residents. Several volunteers walked the streets of Denver's Five Points area, a section of the city rich in African-American tradition and culture.

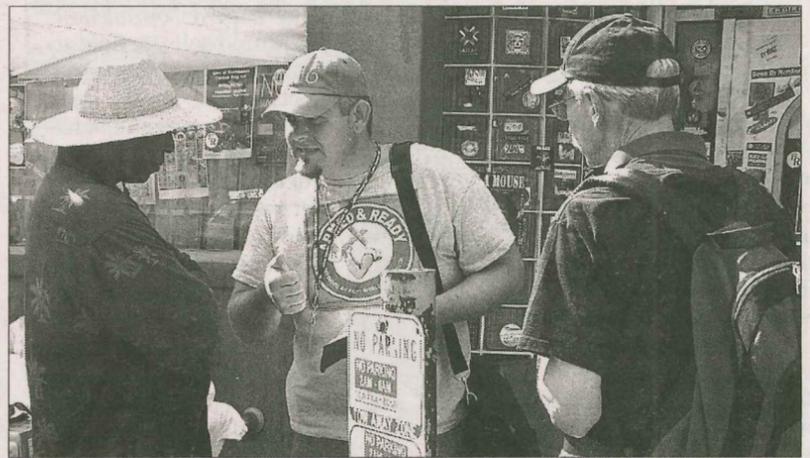
"We've had lots of opportunities to start conversations with people down here," said Bill Mullen, a member of Denver's Riverside Baptist Church. "We just ask them if they'd be willing to look at the tract and then we pay attention. You can tell if God is at work. And if He is, He will give you the words."

Mullen teamed up with Dennis Chambers of Flat Rock, Ala., a member of White Oak Baptist Church in Trenton, Ga. Among others, the two-man team was able to share their faith with Yousaf, a Muslim who was selling "Obama for President" T-shirts on the sidewalk.

"There are a lot of areas where our religions would agree," Yousaf told the men. "Including that it is wrong to lie and it is wrong to steal."

As Yousaf listened intently, Mullen and Chambers explained that he could know beyond a doubt that he would spend eternity in heaven with God when he dies. They left him with a prayer, a handshake and a copy of the "Eternal Life" tract.

"What this takes is obedience and faith in God," Mullen said. "And then



STREETSIDE WITNESS Bill Mullen (right), a member of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver and Dennis Chambers (center), a member of White Oak Baptist Church in Trenton, Ga., share the gospel with Yousaf, a Muslim who lives in Denver's Five Points neighborhood. Mullen and Chambers were among 80 Southern Baptist volunteers who shared Christ in Denver during last week's Democratic National Convention. (BP photo by Mike Ebert)

you just need the experience. When I first started in sales, I would drive around the block for three hours trying to figure out how I was going to make a sales call. But once I did it a few times I said, 'This is easy.' And sharing Christ is the same way."

In a short time, Mullen and Chambers had handed out about two dozen tracts and talked with six people about the gospel.

"We are just responsible for sowing the seeds," noted Chambers, who leads a jail ministry back home in Alabama. "God will take care of the rest."

He added that it was refreshing to talk to people about Christ in Den-

ver. "They are so honest about what they believe here. In the South, cultural Christianity is so strong, people will tell you they are Christians just so you will leave them alone. Here, they are nice about it, but they will tell you they disagree with you."

That is a mindset quite common in his state, Clement noted.

"People here are very independent. They are used to doing their own thing. It's part of the rugged West mentality," he explained. "They are spiritually-minded, but there's a feeling of 'don't force your beliefs on me.' It's why we have to continue to pray and remember that God is the one who will bring the harvest."

Thirteen, count 'em, thirteen

Oneida is blessed to have so many dedicated full-time volunteer workers

If you know much about OBI, you know that volunteers are a critical part of our ministry. For at least 75 years they have played an important role in meeting the needs of our students. The William A. Evans Award is the highest honor given to a graduating senior each year. Established in 1944, the Evans Award is presented in honor of William Evans, who volunteered each summer from the 1930s until his death in 1944. Evans made the three-day trip from Cincinnati to volunteer his time and talents. That trip today takes about three hours.

When I came back to Oneida in 1984, one of my responsibilities was to work with our volunteer groups. In the summer, we could expect about a dozen different groups each averaging 10 to 15 people. Over the years I have seen growth not only in the number of groups that come, but also in the number of people in each group and the number of months they help.

Today, volunteers begin arriving in April and continue to come through October. Groups may have two or three people, or as many as 25-30. Most stay for a week; some can only be here two or three days. The largest group each year is the Alabama Campers on Mission.

Any ministry is blessed to have volunteers. An even greater blessing is when people, normally retired, become full-time volunteers. These wonderful people fill positions that we would otherwise have to fill with salaried staff. They also remind us that our work is worthy of their time and talents. Plenty of ministries would love to have them, but they chose us. How blessed we are.

We now have 13 full-time volunteers. Paul serves on our farm. I suspect he works more hours per day and harder physically than he did when he worked for a living. His wife, Sharon, volunteers in our gift shop with Carol, another volunteer and wife of our farm manager. Roy first came as salaried staff, but later asked if he could become a volunteer. Dean and Nona are both retired lifelong educators. They originally came to volunteer for a week, but later returned for a few more months. During that time God gave them a burden to become full-time volunteers. They really enjoy being back in the classroom.

Jerry and Libby came to us two years ago. Jerry is a retired telephone company employee and has been a tremendous asset to us. Jerry and Roy—also a retired telephone company employee—have made some tremendous changes in our phone system. It would take another article to tell about all they have

done. Libby has helped in several places; most recently she has been in charge of our used clothing store. Myrtle, OBI class of 1960, became our volunteer alumni director when she retired a few years ago after serving on staff for 20 years. Bill, class of 1962, also became a full-time volunteer after serving on staff for 24 years. George and Kathy were once volunteers spending two weeks each summer with us, but now are full time. George is in charge of our volunteer program and Kathy runs the roads daily to pick up items we need from town. Finally, there is Betty, who has been a volunteer in our business office for the past 17 years. We are blessed.

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



W.F. Underwood

Meet the Clear Creek family

Rosenbalm leads school's administrative affairs dept.

When people think of Clear Creek the first things that usually come to mind are students and theological studies. Dean of Administrative Affairs Donnie Rosenbalm leads a department on our campus that operates, for the most part, in relative obscurity. But without this division, our campus would not be able to operate smoothly.

"The administrative affairs division that I supervise consists of five separate departments," according to Rosenbalm. "The financial aid department handles the distribution of all our scholarships. The business services office takes care of all the business-related functions of the college. Our computer services department takes care of all our information technology issues. The accounting department keeps up with the day-to-day operations of a multi-million dollar budget. And our maintenance facilities department keeps everything up and working on our 700-acre campus.

"I could not do any of this alone. God has blessed us with very talented people who direct each of these departments and make sure things run smoothly."

Rosenbalm is a native of the Bell County area and a Clear Creek alumnus. "I worked 25 years for a local utility company. I passed by the campus quite frequently as I worked in the area every day. I came to know the Lord later in my life," he recalled. "After I got involved in a local church I felt the Lord calling me to come to Clear Creek as a student in 1998.

"Not long after I graduated, God led me to submit my resume for the position I now hold. The leadership at Clear Creek felt my background in business would serve the college."

Clear Creek is a family affair for Rosenbalm. His wife, Sandy, is director of the Family Life and Conference Center. His son, Derrick, worked on the mowing crew this summer.

Clear Creek is blessed to have people like Donnie Rosenbalm, Ronnie Washam (maintenance facilities), Monique Bailey (business services), Mike Burns (computer services), Sam Risner (financial aid) and Penny Fox (accounting services)—who serve faithfully every day.

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.ccbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu



Donnie Fox

Proposed federal regulation would protect pro-life doctors

Washington (BP)—The freedom of conscience of pro-life doctors and other health care providers would be protected under a new rule proposed by the Bush administration.

The regulation, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Aug. 21, would clarify that federal law protects the rights of institutions and individuals not to participate in abortion and other medical procedures to which they object on moral or religious grounds. Noncompliance could result in the withholding of federal funds to more than 580,000 hospitals, nursing homes, medical schools, doctors' offices and other recipients.

"Doctors and other health care providers should not be forced to choose between good professional standing and violating their conscience," HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said in announcing the proposed rule. "Freedom of expression and action should not be surrendered upon the issuance of a health care degree."

Pro-life advocates commended the regulation, while abortion rights supporters criticized it.

"The Bush administration and the Department of Health and Human Services are to be applauded for taking important steps to protect the freedom of conscience of

physicians and other health care providers in the United States who find the wholesale termination of the lives of our pre-born citizens to be unconscionable and reprehensible," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "As a society, we should be encouraging conscience in our nation's health care providers, not seeking to coerce consciences against their wills."

David Stevens, CEO of the Christian Medical Association, wrote in a statement that the rule is "desperately needed to protect First Amendment rights and implement federal

law in what is becoming a jungle of coercion in health care."

Meanwhile, representatives of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America objected to the proposed regulation.

"As one of the leading women's health care providers and advocates, Planned Parenthood will not stand by and watch the Bush administration deny quality, affordable health care and accurate information to women," said Cecile Richards, president of the organization.

The proposal would place into federal regulations congressional measures that "prohibit discrimination on the basis of one's objection to, participation in, or refusal to participate in, specific medical procedures, including abortion or sterilization," according to HHS.

CMA reported 40 percent of its members say they have been discriminated against or pressured because they adhere to pro-life standards.

"Sometimes the discrimination and coercion because of life-affirming views is subtle, such as denying admission to medical students, training privileges to residents or promotions to graduate physicians," according to CMA Senior Vice President Gene Rudd. "Other times a line is clearly and overtly drawn between either participating in unethical actions or losing their position or career."

There will be a 30-day comment period on the proposed rule before HHS issues a final version.

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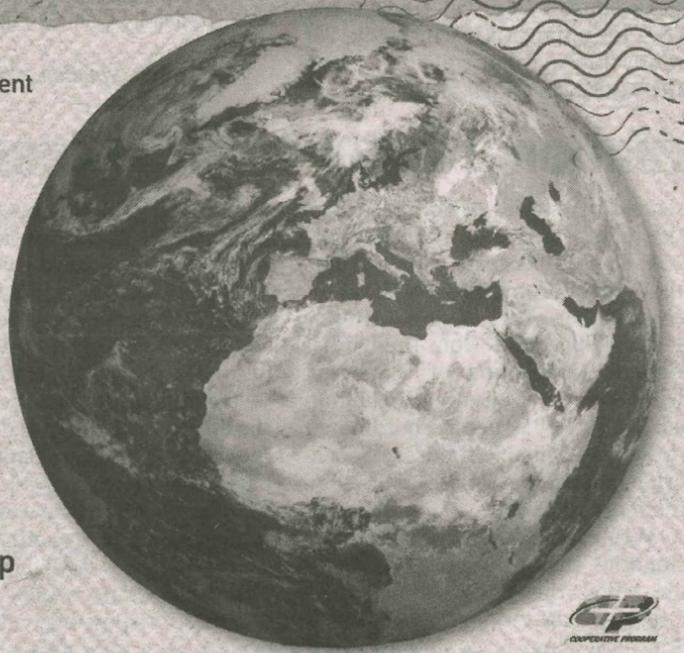


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NATIONAL NOTES

Court affirms limits on funeral protests. A federal appeals court has upheld an Ohio law that limits picketing at funerals, rejecting an appeal by Westboro Baptist Church, an anti-gay Kansas congregation that has held protests across the country. Shirley Phelps-Roper, daughter of Westboro pastor Fred Phelps, argued that a law amended in 2006 by the Ohio legislature was unconstitutional because it imposed unreasonable restrictions on speech. She suggested that attendees could "avert their eyes" from protests and are voluntary participants at funerals. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, saying the rule "serves an important governmental interest" and is reasonable.

Court rules on conversations with pastors. A conversation with a religious leader is not protected from being revealed in court unless it occurred in private and the leader was acting as a spiritual adviser, a New Jersey appeals court ruled last month. A unanimous three-judge panel of the New Jersey Appellate Division ruled that a pastor's testimony should be allowed at a trial in which a father is facing charges of sexually molesting his two daughters. While the conversation occurred in private, the pastor did not offer to keep it confidential. Nor did he purport to be acting in the role of a spiritual adviser, and he explicitly refused to counsel the man. The case centers on a man who allegedly sexually assaulted his daughters from 1996 to 2000.

Hallmark plans gay marriage cards. Hallmark's decision to introduce a new line of cards for gay marriages has drawn criticism from conservative Christian groups who accuse the company of promoting immoral behavior. Hallmark is releasing four cards specifically for same-sex couples in response to increasing demand after gay marriage was legalized in California in May. Tim Wildmon, president of the Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association, called Hallmark's decision "apalling." Tony Perkins of the Washington-based Family Research Council denounced Hallmark's plans and encouraged the council's supporters to contact the card company. Hallmark spokeswoman Sarah Gronberg Koll said the company began distributing the cards in July, but they will not be widely available until next summer.

Pastors & Church Leaders Conference

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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

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HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Chris Platt

Have you ever played with an Etch A Sketch? Most of us have had the experience of moving the dials back and forth until we produced either a masterpiece or a mess. I usually make a mess.

Before we know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10), our lives often look like our drawings on the Etch A Sketch. There are few masterpieces out there. We make bad decisions. We live with regrets. Some of our relationships don't work out. If only we could have a clean slate and be given a fresh start.

Listen, it's possible.

The good thing about an Etch A Sketch is you can shake it and have a fresh screen. The good thing about knowing Christ is that you can have a fresh start. How does that happen?

One of the recent Super Saturday conferences provides the answer. "Becoming A Contagious Christian" describes "The Five-Second Gospel."

God loves us. 1 John 4:16 tells us that we have a loving God who cares deeply for us. We matter to Him.

We blew it. We were created to be good, but we chose to go our own way and became sinful (Romans 3:23).

Christ paid for it.

The good news is that Jesus became man, came to earth and died as our substitute. Peter said He "died for sins ... to bring (us) to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

We must receive Him. We must respond by asking Christ to be our forgiver and leader (1 Peter 3:15). The result is spiritual transformation by the Holy Spirit—and a fresh start.

Chris Platt is missions and ministry pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BRODHEAD**—Mount Zion Church will hold revival services Sept. 5-7 with **Jason Harris** as evangelist.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a Campbellsville University student night Sept. 10, 6 p.m. The church will provide a meal for students, followed by a worship and praise service. For more information, call (270) 789-5520 or (270) 789-0082, or visit www.SalomaBaptist.com.

■ **FORT THOMAS**—Highland Hills Church recently called **Jerel Treas** as pastor.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—**Phil Ellis** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Gardenside Church recently called **Stephen Vedro** as director of youth ministries. **John Landon** is pastor.

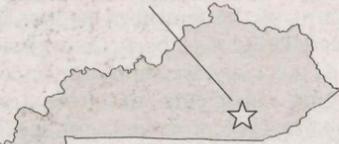
■ **MONTICELLO**—New Salem Church will host **Lewis and Lewis** in concert Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (606) 561-8416. **Greg Haynes** is pastor.

■ **NANCY**—Hopeful Church recently called **Glenn Richardson** as pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church recently licensed **Chris Workman** to the gospel ministry. **Jerry Workman**

Spotlight on ...

East Bernstadt



First Church will hold revival services Sept. 7, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sept 8-9, 7 p.m., with **William Boyd Bingham III**, pastor of Binghamtown Church in Middlesboro, and **Phil Lovelace** as evangelists. **David Hawkins** is pastor.

is pastor.

First Church of Fitzpatrick recently ordained **Paul Spradlin** as deacon. **Tommy Reed** is pastor.

■ **SALYERSVILLE**—First Church will host Cruise In Sunday, an antique car show outreach event, Sept. 7, 9 a.m. **David Martin** from On Track Ministries in Indianapolis will speak. For more information, call Pastor **Matthew Gullion** at (606) 434-3418.

KBC to send international relief team to feed refugees in Georgia

Gori, Georgia—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is mobilizing a disaster relief team to provide humanitarian assistance for refugees displaced by recent conflicts between Georgia and Russia.

According to Coy Webb, KBC's disaster relief associate, a team of six Kentucky Baptist volunteers will serve in Gori Sept. 4-16. The team's primary responsibility is to provide meals to refugees, potentially as many as 25,000 a day.

"The situation is still tense, but we feel it is stable enough to begin providing relief," he added. "The Georgian government has essentially turned the refugee areas over to Baptists, and we are grateful for the opportunity to minister there."

The Kentucky team will be the

second in a series of Southern Baptist relief teams to work in Georgia. A seven-member team from the Baptist General Convention of Texas arrived in Gori Aug. 27, and a similar team of specialists from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma will arrive on site Sept. 7, Webb noted. The effort is being coordinated by Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist global relief and development organization.

Webb said Southern Baptist missionaries currently serving in Georgia "took the initiative with the Georgian government to see how Southern Baptists could help, and were then invited to provide help, particularly in mass feeding and in helping train others to continue the relief work after we're finished."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

October

- 3-4 Celebrate the Mission, First Baptist Church, Morehead.
- 7 Understanding Other Beliefs, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 9-11 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10-11 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.
- 18 Christian Women in Ministry State Leaders Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 23-24 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest, Inez.
- 25 101 Workshop, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 25 Reclaiming Our Communities, First Baptist Church, Madisonville; Ashland Avenue, Lexington.
- 31-11/2 International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

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SEEKING: Part-time children's minister. Mail resumé to Bro. Jeff Anders, Eastern Gate Baptist Church, 3699 North Preston Hwy., PO Box 6686, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for South Jefferson Baptist Church, Louisville. Responsible for planning and directing music; blended worship style. Send resumé to katmb@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth, Calhoun Baptist Church. Send resumé to drsams@cbcheart.com; or mail: CBC, PO Box 283, Calhoun, KY 42327.

SEEKING: Minister to families to work with young families and children in grades 1-5 for Woodmont Baptist Church. Complete job description available at www.woodmontbaptist.com. Send resumé to staffsearch@woodmontbaptist.com; or MTF Search Committee, Woodmont Baptist Church, 2100 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37215.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for growing church in Versailles, Ky. Must have some experience and be a self-starter. Send resumé to Glen's Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for a loving and growing church in Russell Springs, Ky. Please send resumé and DVD, CD or tape of recent sermon to: Pulpit Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, 215 Wilson St., Russell Springs, KY 42642.

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. Deadline: Sept. 15.

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. 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. For more information, call (502) 657-0103.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of youth (15-20 hours per week) for Buffalo Baptist Church. Minister will be responsible for planning, coordinating, directing, evaluating and being personally involved with the overall youth ministry program. For more information, contact the church office at (270) 325-3820. Please send resumé to Buffalo Baptist Church, PO Box 40, Buffalo, KY 42716, Attn: Personnel Committee.

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Olympic impact in China echoes eternally, volunteers say

By Tim Ellsworth
Baptist Press

Beijing (BP)—Images from the 2008 Olympics in Beijing remain indelibly etched in the minds of millions of people, who either attended the games or followed them closely on television.

There was the grandeur of the opening ceremony and the quirkiness of the Bird's Nest architecture. Michael Phelps winning an Olympic record eight gold medals. Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt zooming to three gold medals and three world records. The U.S. volleyball team rebounding from the tragic death of Todd Bachman, father-in-law of coach Hugh McCutcheon, to win gold.

As China extinguished the Olympic flame in the closing ceremony Aug. 24 and handed off responsibility for the 2012 Olympics to the city of London, the 2008 Olympics were relegated to history. And history will most likely be kind to China for the way in which it hosted the Olympics.

Some Southern Baptists who shared their faith in Christ during the games, however, expect their efforts to echo not just throughout history, but throughout eternity.

"We began to remember how Lottie Moon left a legacy behind her in the areas she served, and that we now see that those areas are still the most heavily evangelized areas of China even today," said Rhonda Boggs, director of global outreach at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif. Boggs led a team of seven people from her church that spent a week in Beijing during the Olympics.

"So, then we thought, there are so many people here sharing Christ, that day may come that we will hear about Beijing turning to Christ and a revival sweeping the nation that they will pin to the fact of so many Christians sharing Christ during the Olympics," she added.

Sid Hopkins, director of missions for Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association in Georgia, agreed.

"We'll never know the impact of what can happen out of this kind of thing," he noted.

Decoded diary shines new light on Methodist pioneer Charles Wesley

London (RNS)—A secret, coded diary kept by one of Methodism's founding fathers for 20 years has been deciphered by an Anglican priest in Britain, illuminating historical efforts to keep Methodists in the Church of England.

The task of decoding Charles Wesley's handwritten 1,000-page journal took Kenneth Newport of Liverpool Hope University nine years, he told journalists.

Wesley's brother, John, founded Methodism. Charles was a prolific hymn writer whose works include "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

According to Newport, Wesley's complicated writing omitted vowels and abbreviated consonants in a style ascribed typical of a gentleman and preacher of the 1700s.

Wesley's journal begins with his

Hopkins was part of a team in Beijing working with the More Than Gold ministry. One of the ministry's leaders in Beijing, unnamed for security purposes, estimated more than 2,000 volunteers were on hand to share the gospel in China—many of them Southern Baptists.

One of the ways they did that was through pin trading, a popular activity during the Olympics. Hopkins, for example, walked around wearing a vest that displayed dozens of Olympic pins. The Chinese people he encountered were not bashful about stopping him and grabbing his vest to examine the pins.

"The first day when we were down at the plaza area, I'll bet I had my picture taken 500 times," he recalled. "They just swarmed me."

When handing out the More Than Gold pins, volunteers used the colors on the pins to tell about Jesus.

Eternal life for a hat

Hopkins recalled one encounter he had with a young woman who served as an Olympic volunteer. The volunteers wore hats that Hopkins said were extremely difficult to acquire, because the volunteers did not give them up easily.

"I shared with her and she had tears in her eyes and she was so thankful," Hopkins said. "She took off her volunteer hat and gave it to me. I said, 'No, I cannot take your hat. It's too precious.' She said, 'But you have shared such good things with me. You must have my hat.' And she gave me her hat. Then I had tears in my eyes."

Debbie Wohler, a missionary with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board who works with Tahoe Resort Ministries in California, is an Olympics pin-trading veteran.

"It's just the easiest way in the world to meet people," she acknowledged. "All I have to do is lay them out on the table, and people come."

Boggs and her group also used the More Than Gold pins, but discovered quickly that they were not always necessary.

"That was supposed to be the attraction," Boggs said of the pins. "It

ended up that our Western faces were the attraction."

Though most of the people the group encountered did not speak English, Boggs pointed out that she and her team members had multiple opportunities to tell people about Jesus Christ.

"The ones who were university students, they would actively seek us out," he noted. "We could have in-depth conversations. Most of them didn't have a concept of God and Jesus."

David Guinn, of Lafayette Heights Baptist Church in Lafayette, Ala., has been ministering at the Olympics since 1988, when he served as a chaplain in Calgary.

Guinn now is head of the evangelistic Action Ministries International, which supplies sports chaplains to major sporting events. This year in Beijing, Guinn and about 60 volunteers shared the gospel with thousands of visitors.

"We try to keep a low profile and stay behind the scenes—do our



work, do the follow up," Guinn noted. "Our goal is personal evangelism with the highest integrity. We present the gospel and let the Holy Spirit do the work."

Though not affiliated with More Than Gold, Guinn and his volunteers also used pins as a witnessing tool.

"At Lillehammer, they lovingly named our pin 'the Jesus pin,'" he recalled. "So everybody was talking about the Jesus pin. Everybody wanted one. But to have the pin, you have to hear the story. Nobody gets a pin without hearing the story about Jesus."

Like others, John Forrester said he expects his ministry in Beijing to have eternal significance. A church starter strategist from Kotzebue, Ala., Forrester also worked at the Olympic Games in Sydney and Salt Lake City.

"I think we've been able to plant seeds, and we may not see the seeds flourish, but somebody else will," he said. "And that's God's business."

am saddened by the atrocities being visited on Christians in Orissa."

In an Aug. 26th e-mail to the BWA, Swarupananda Patra, General Secretary of the All Orissa Baptist Churches Federation, reported that Kandhamal is the hardest hit, with at least eight Christians killed and almost all Christian homes demolished.

Christians attacked in eastern Indian state

Orissa, India—Christians have been under attack in the state of Orissa in eastern India. More than 600 churches have been demolished, 4,000 Christians forced to flee villages, and at least 25 killed as a result of violent persecution.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad religious leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and four of his associates were murdered in the Kandhamal District of Orissa on Aug. 23. Although a Maoist group claimed responsibility for the murders, supporters of the slain leader claim that Christians were behind the killings. Hindu fundamentalists have launched a series of attacks against Christians in retaliation.

Since Aug. 24, churches, schools and other institutions, prayer rooms and homes of Christians have been ransacked, burned and destroyed. Christians have been assaulted and reportedly at least 25 have been killed.

In response to the attacks, Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Neville Callam said, "I am disappointed by the false claim that Christians have responsibility for this murder and I

SHARING Two young Chinese in Beijing hear Sid Hopkins, director of missions for Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association in Georgia, tell of his faith. (BP photo by Tim Ellsworth)

There are several Baptist conventions and unions in Orissa that are member bodies of the BWA, with total membership of nearly 500,000 believers and approximately 3,500 churches.

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