



WESTERN RECORDER

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Falling behind

Compensation study reveals growing gap between Ky. pastors & national average

By Drew Nichter
News Director

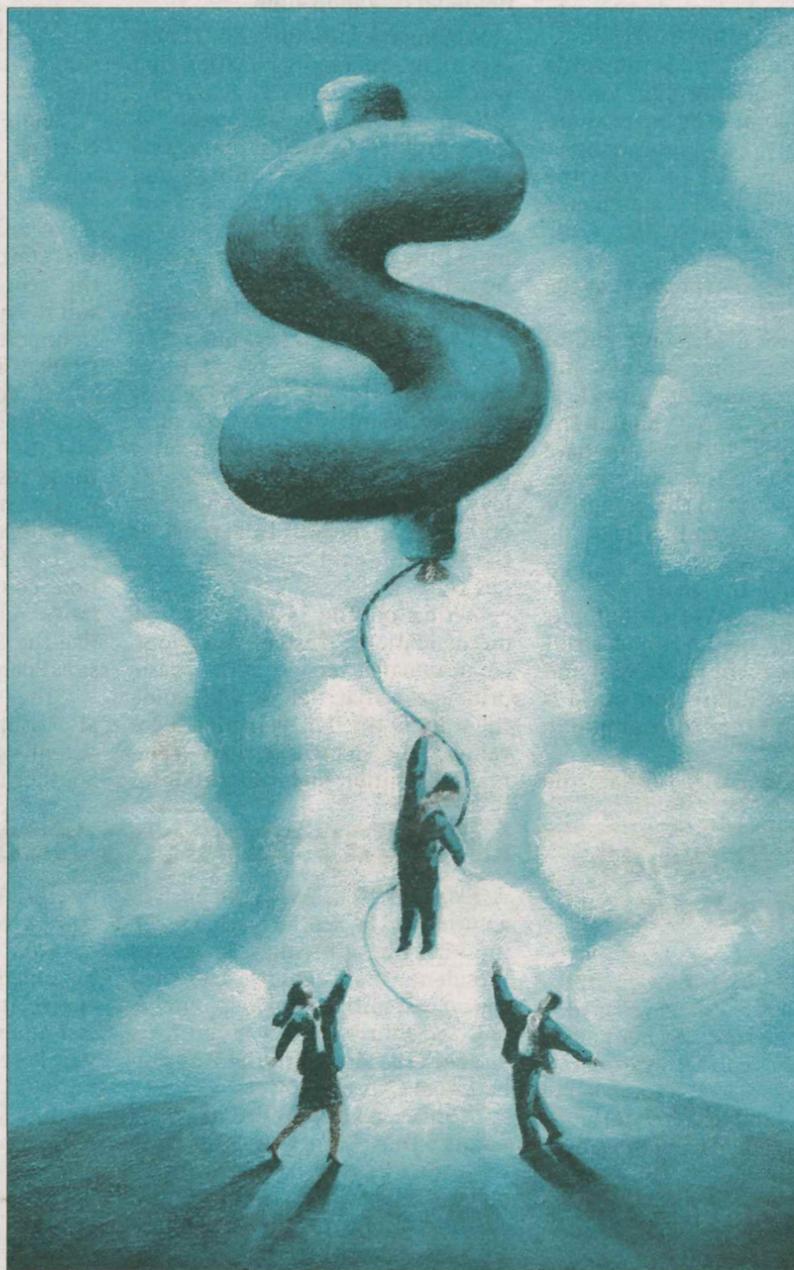
Louisville—Full-time Kentucky Baptist pastors are making more money now than they did in 2006. The problem is their pay is not growing at nearly the same rate as Southern Baptist pastors nationwide.

The average compensation for a full-time pastor in Kentucky is \$50,452—\$3,075 more than in 2006. However, pastors in the rest of the country enjoyed a \$5,324 increase in pay.

The numbers are the result of the 2008 Southern Baptist Compensation Study coordinated by LifeWay Research and GuideStone Financial Resources. This is the first year the two entities have conducted the survey, which was previously organized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department and its director, Don Spencer.

The study includes responses from 12,828 pastors and church staff members from more than 4,700 Southern Baptist churches. The survey is designed to provide churches with detailed information regarding compensation packages for ministerial staff.

The compensation survey is "simply so churches can know what other churches of comparable size are doing," said Spencer, who began a similar study at the KBC level in See Pastor's pay struggles ... *Page 3*



Former WMU head O'Brien dies at 75

Frisco, Texas (ABP)—Dellanna West O'Brien, who led the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union through some of its most trying times, died Sept. 7 at age 75.



Delanna O'Brien

She suffered what WMU officials described as "a massive cerebral bleed" Sept. 4 after falling and hitting her head

at her home in Frisco, Texas, north of Dallas. She died three days later.

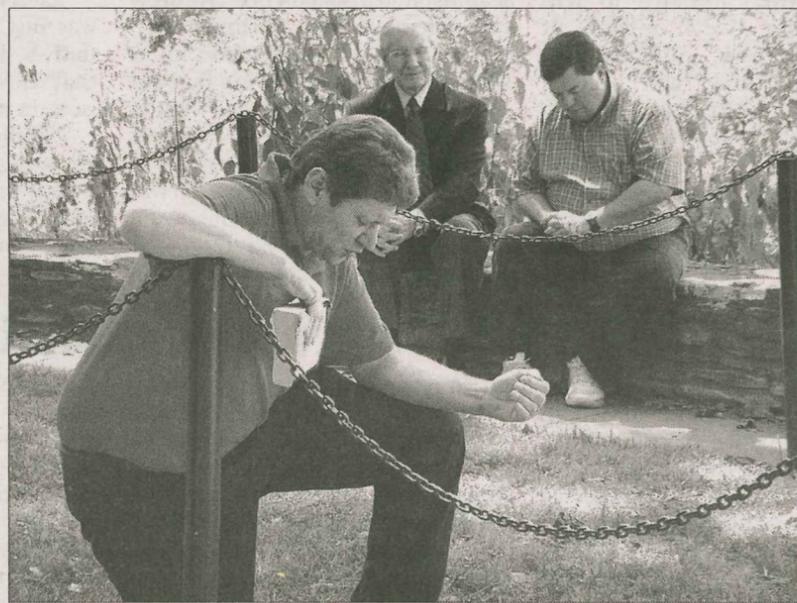
O'Brien served as executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention women's auxiliary for a decade before retiring in 1999. WMU—which is governed independently and receives no funding from the denomination—had been challenged by many fundamentalists who took control of the SBC during that period.

"Dellanna led Woman's Missionary Union through difficult times, and she faced opposition and personal difficulties head on and successfully," recalled Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, who preceded O'Brien as WMU head.

Crumpler noted that O'Brien continued to lead the organization after suffering a stroke in 1998. She described O'Brien as a "true friend, wife, mother, missionary, educator, mentor, leader and over-comer."

See Former WMU head ... *Page 2*

'With One Voice' brings Ky. Baptist churches together in prayer



SEEKING GOD Jeff Sargent (foreground), pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Frankfort, leads KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey (back left) and Michael Welch, minister of youth and outreach at Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort, in prayer during a noon-time prayer gathering Sept. 10 at Daniel Boone's grave site overlooking the city of Frankfort. Director of Missions Stuart Cundiff organized the event ahead of the "With One Voice" prayer gatherings later in the evening. (KBC photo by Larry Brannin)

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Frankfort—In researching the great spiritual awakenings of the past, Pastor Wallace Kent pointed out that each one was preceded by a "concerted effort of prayer."

"I think that is a key ingredient," said Kent, who has served as pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort for 37 years. "I believe we won't have an awakening without prayer and without repentance."

That also is the belief of Kentucky Baptist Convention staff and pastors across the state who participated in the "With One Voice" prayer gatherings Sept. 10.

It is estimated that hundreds of Kentucky Baptist churches took part in last week's simultaneous prayer gatherings. It was the second year for "With One Voice," a concerted prayer effort organized by the KBC.

This year's event differed slightly from last year's which primarily focused on associational gatherings and bringing area churches together

for a time of prayer. More than 70 associations participated in 2007.

This year's "With One Voice" placed the emphasis on individual churches across the state, urging them to gather members together for a simultaneous time of prayer with other Kentucky Baptists.

Despite the difference in approach, the goal of "With One Voice" remained the same.

"Praying for revival (and) spiritual awakening ... (to) create a blanket of prayer across the state of Kentucky," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

Since participation was left to individual churches, there was little way to know exactly how many churches gathered for prayer, but according to Mackey, the results of such a movement can be felt.

"I think there is a kind of momentum and inspiration that comes from knowing that there are hundreds of congregations and thousands of people praying for the same See Kentucky Baptists ... *Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 17.

IMB trustees approve reorganization, child safety policy

"This is not the same world it was 10 years ago. We cannot presume that the methods and structure of the past will be relevant and effective in the future. Our world is changing and we must continue to change with it."

Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin

By Don Graham
SBC International Mission Board

Atlanta (BP)—With applause and cheers, Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees laid the foundation for significant changes to the board's ability to impact lostness and serve churches at its Sept. 8-10 meeting in Atlanta.

The board also appointed 83 new missionaries and adopted a policy to protect children from sexual abuse.

Acting on recommendations from the "Renewing the Vision" task force appointed by board chairman Paul Chitwood in June, trustees unanimously agreed to revise the IMB's vision and mission statements in order to reflect what IMB President Jerry Rankin called a "more relevant and biblical expression of the IMB's task."

"In 1997, we made some radical changes in our organization and strategy to accommodate growth in our missionary force," Rankin recalled. "In these 10 years, we have seen more than a thousand people groups gain access to the gospel for the first time and church planting movements accelerate.

"This is not the same world it was 10 years ago. We cannot presume that the methods and structure of the past will be relevant and effective in the future. Our world is changing and we must continue to change with it."

Rankin emphasized that the

IMB's basic tasks will not change—sending missionaries, reaching the lost and planting churches—but some of the structure and mechanisms that make those tasks possible will. The idea is to maximize the effectiveness of frontline personnel while minimizing the administrative burden placed on the field.

Regional reorganization

Among the most dramatic changes is an internal reorganization that will replace the IMB's 11 geographically based regions with eight "affinity groups" focused around commonality of language, culture and ethnicity. These affinity groups are designed to allow missionaries to more fully engage unreached people regardless of location.

"This move recognizes the mobility of populations," explained Gordon Fort, IMB's vice president of overseas operations. "We know that in every country people are moving to other countries based on a number of factors. This change allows us to focus on peoples wherever they are in the world and provides the structure and support to facilitate that."

Acting on the task force's recommendations, trustees also adopted an updated version of the "basic principles" that define and guide the work of the IMB. Renamed "core values," the changes include a formal recognition and affirmation of

churches' ownership of the Great Commission and a pledge to greater partnership with Baptists and other Christians in accordance with IMB guidelines.

"We have to recognize that we may never have enough missionaries to reach the massive number of lost throughout our world," Rankin said. "We must see our task in terms of serving our churches and facilitating their involvement in mission strategies and sending missionaries."

Before trustees voted, Chitwood clarified the impact of the task force's recommendations in several key areas.

Regarding the IMB's missionaries and staff, he assured trustees that the reorganization would not result in layoffs and that future job assignments would continue to reflect strategy. Though Chitwood acknowledged there would be financial costs associated with the transition, he said the IMB is positioned to cover those costs without negatively impacting missionaries' work overseas.

Chitwood also addressed trustee concerns that the reorganization could negatively impact the IMB's relationship with an entity like the SBC's North American Mission Board.

"The work of the International Mission Board will remain consistent with the assignment of the Southern Baptist Convention," he

said. "We will not impose or infringe upon the work of other agencies."

IMB leadership now turns to developing and implementing the details of these changes over the course of the next year. Their goal is to complete the transition by the summer of 2009.

Trustees also unanimously approved a comprehensive new child protection policy expressing the IMB's commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for all children entrusted to its care.

The policy ensures that all IMB personnel will continue to undergo thorough background checks and states that no one may serve with the IMB who has a history of sexual abuse, a criminal conviction of a sexual nature, or exhibits any other behavior indicating they pose a risk of sexually abusing a child. The new policy supplements an existing policy that compels the investigation of any accusation or indication of sexual abuse as well as the immediate dismissal and filing of appropriate criminal charges if sexual abuse is determined to have occurred.

Trustees concluded their time in Atlanta with a missionary appointment service at First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga. They were joined by hundreds of Southern Baptists who celebrated the calling of 83 new missionaries to overseas service, many of whom will be working in places hostile to the gospel.

Former WMU head O'Brien led agency through 'difficult times'

Continued from page 1

"Dellanna O'Brien is one of the most amazing women I have ever known," said Wanda Lee, O'Brien's successor at WMU. "She possessed a deep love for the Lord and her family, and made countless sacrifices as she led WMU through 10 challenging years in our denomination. I will remember her as a great friend, leader, educator, innovator and loving wife and mother—but, most of all, as a humble and diligent servant of Christ and His mission."

During O'Brien's tenure, WMU developed several new programs, including Christian Women's Job Corps, to assist women with economic and other challenges. The WMU Foundation also was formed, and WMU opened its first development office under O'Brien. The agency combined its Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women organizations to form Women on Mission during her tenure.

O'Brien also led WMU to assume responsibility for Pure Water, Pure Love—a ministry that provides water filters and purification systems to missionaries.

"She had the ability to anticipate the future and its consequences and was willing to take risks for what she believed to be right," said June Whitlow, who served as WMU's associate executive under O'Brien. "Dellanna made a positive difference in the lives of people around the world."

O'Brien earned her bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, in 1953 and worked as an elementary school teacher until 1963. She and her family served as SBC Foreign (now International) Mission Board missionaries in Indonesia for the next nine years.

Upon returning to the United States, O'Brien pursued graduate studies and received a master's degree in education from Texas Christian University in 1972 and a doctorate in education from Virginia Tech in 1983.

Prior to her post at WMU, she served as president of the International Family and Children's Educational Services, a non-profit organization she founded to provide educational testing services for missionary kids.

She is survived by her husband, Bill, three children and six grandchildren. Bill O'Brien served as an executive with the Foreign Mission Board and, later, as a missions professor.

A memorial service was held Sept. 10 at Preston Trail Community Church in Frisco, where she was a member.

LifeWay chooses 'fearless faith' with new project

Ridgecrest, N.C.—With the push of a button at the Sept. 8 trustee meeting, LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer launched the newest initiative to help individuals and churches know Jesus Christ and seek His Kingdom: The Transformational Church project.

"I am excited about this initiative because this is a new way for us to raise the intensity of our emphasis on evangelism," Rainer noted. "And the intention is to help the church with its focus on reaching people for Christ."

According to the Web site, "The Transformational Church project will be LifeWay's initiative to help churches join God's mission of transforming lives, churches and communities" and "will become a one-stop shop for churches seeking practical help for everyday ministry."

The initiative is one of many Rainer said he was excited about despite an economy that has been labeled as "ugly."

"In 2008, we reached some specific groups with our resources that are expanding our influence," he noted. "We saw growth in areas related to young adults, African-Americans and Hispanics. LifeWay Research is achieving broad appeal and has momentum in secular media. B&H Academic is becoming more renowned and respected. And even though the 2008 VBS numbers are not in, we can report that more than 88,000 children made decisions to follow Christ in 2007."

Rainer said that during the tough economic times, LifeWay's leadership is choosing "fearless faith over fear-inspired disobedience." He drew the statement from 1 Samuel 14:1-15. Jonathan's armor bearer, in response to Jonathan moving forward into a key battle said, "Do what is in your heart. You choose. I'm right here with you whatever you decide."

"Jonathan knew where God was leading," Rainer pointed out. "And he knew it wasn't going to be easy. But he chose to obey and exhibit-

ed fearless faith. That is what we are choosing to do. We believe God is working in some incredible ways and we've seen that."

One way he specified was in all that has transpired in the release of the new Baptist Hymnal. Rainer said that the volume has enjoyed a positive reaction from churches and that there has been great excitement among worship leaders for the release of the online Worship Project due out month.

"This has been a God-sized task," he said. "We believe it will have a profound positive impact on local churches."

Rainer said the Worship Project was just one of several digital initiatives slated for the future, adding that LifeWay would become more diverse in its online content offerings.

"I believe there are reasons to be encouraged," he noted. "We need to stay focused on what's real and what's important and that's creating resources that impact people with the gospel."

Associated Baptist Press hands reins to Wilkinson

Jacksonville, Fla. (ABP)—Veteran Baptist communicator David Wilkinson has been named executive director for Associated Baptist Press.

Wilkinson, who currently serves as development director for the Baylor University School of Social Work, will replace current ABP Executive Editor Greg Warner, who recently resigned due to a chronic back condition.

ABP's board of directors unanimously approved Wilkinson for the position Sept. 8. On Oct. 1, he will assume the post, created as ABP's

board revamped the agency's structure. It has operated with five full-time staffers, including Warner. However, one of the editorial positions already was vacant when Warner announced plans to step down.

In addition to editorial duties, Warner also was ABP's chief administrative officer. The new structure divides news responsibilities from administration and development.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wilkinson previously served the Baptist

Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), SBC Christian Life Commission (now the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission) and Southern Seminary. He also has worked with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Wilkinson has been honored with several journalism and public-relations awards, including the Frank Burkhalter Award, the Baptist Communicators Association's highest award for outstanding achievement in journalism.

KBC training event to focus on drug abuse ministries

Louisville—In an effort to equip Kentucky Baptists for ministry to substance abusers and their families, the Kentucky Baptist Convention is sponsoring "Reclaiming Our Communities" seminars Oct. 25.

The event will be held simultaneously in two locations that day; one will be held at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, the other at First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

"Men and women who suffer from substance abuse and addictions lack resources and support for helping them to deal with their problem," said Eric Allen, KBC's director of the mission service and ministry department.

"This is an opportunity for ministry that the church must seize if we desire to be salt and light in our communities."

According to Allen, many Kentucky counties are dealing with the fallout of substance abuse in their communities. The convention has identified the problem as an opportunity for ministry and is seeking to help equip Christians for effectively reaching out to those in need, he added.

"This conference was planned in direct response to requests for ministry help from pastors and lay leaders who are wanting to offer help and hope to drug abusers and their families," Allen noted.

Participants will explore the key issues related to drug abuse, as well as how to form or strengthen ministry to those affected by it.

A variety of practical breakout sessions will be offered, including:

- Helping pastors minister to families of addicts.
- REACH—A comprehensive multi-faceted ministry model.
- Gathering community support to fight drug abuse.
- Developing a residential treatment facility.
- Working with the legal system to help addicts and families.
- Understanding and using "S.W.A.T." in your church.
- Understanding and using "Celebrate Recovery" in your church.
- Broadening involvement through community task forces.
- Drug prevention and awareness.

The Reclaiming Our Communities events will run from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. local time at both locations.

The event is open to the public. Registration is \$20 per person by Oct. 11, and \$25 per person after that date.

For more information or to register, visit www.KyBaptist.org/Reclaiming, or call (502) 489-3530, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3530.

Pastors' pay struggles to stay with inflation

Continued from page 1

1988. It later expanded to 12 state conventions in 1996, getting participation from all states in 2004. The survey was handed off to LifeWay and GuideStone following the 2006 study.

The average salary and housing allowance for full-time Kentucky Baptist pastors is \$50,452, according to the LifeWay study. On the SBC level, the average compensation is \$55,276. The average pay package, which includes insurance and retirement benefits, is \$63,173 in Kentucky and \$66,484 across the SBC.

Average salary and housing for full-time pastors in other state conventions ranges from \$41,840 in Utah/Idaho to \$100,801 in the District of Columbia. Full-time pastors in Nevada rank second at \$66,410.

According to a recent study by Baptist Press, Southern Baptist pastors' pay barely outpaced the rate of inflation. Adjusting for church size, the average full-time Southern Baptist senior pastor's compensation rose 7.26 percent between 2006 and 2008, only slightly higher than the 7.01 percent inflation rate for the same period, BP noted.

LifeWay Research Associate Director Scott McConnell said the survey was weighted and adjusted at the SBC level to reflect an increased number of mid- to large-size churches reporting this year. However, percentages were not adjusted at the individual convention levels.

In comparing the inflation rate with the unadjusted rate at which Kentucky Baptist pastors' compensation increased since 2006 (6.49 percent), it would appear that state churches are having trouble staying ahead of inflation. But, according to Spencer, that may not necessarily be the case.

"My sense is that they're still ahead of the rate of inflation, they're just not accelerating as fast as some of the other states," Spencer said.

While inflation may not be eating away all of Southern Baptist pastors' pay increases just yet, it may be difficult to keep it from happening in the coming years, McConnell suggested.

"This next year's going to be a tough one for churches as they're trying to do what they can for their staff members to keep up with inflation," he said, "but also knowing that they've got to be conservative on their estimates for offerings given what's going on in the economy."

The study also includes compensation information for Southern Baptist bivocational pastors, as well as full-time and bivocational ministerial staff members, office personnel and custodians.

Kentucky's bivocational pastors outpaced the national average in average compensation at \$18,367, an increase of \$2,773 over 2006. The national average is \$17,680, an increase of \$1,815 from the previous study.

Among other state conventions, average salary and housing for bivocational pastors ranges from \$9,137 in West Virginia to \$28,300 in Utah/Idaho, which had the lowest average compensation of bivocational pastors in 2006. Montana ranks second at \$27,248.

The average total pay package for bivocational pastors in Kentucky is \$22,105, which is higher than the national average of \$19,542.

Among full-time church staff ministers, the average salary and housing is \$46,253 in Kentucky and \$52,331 nationally. The average total pay package is \$55,707 in Kentucky and \$62,836 nationally.

Among bivocational church staff ministers, average salary and

Ministers' compensation

	Kentucky	SBC
Full-time pastors		
Average compensation.....	\$50,452	\$55,276
Average pay package.....	\$63,173	\$66,484
Bivocational pastors		
Average compensation.....	\$18,367	\$17,680
Average pay package.....	\$22,105	\$19,542
Full-time staff		
Average compensation.....	\$46,253	\$52,331
Average pay package.....	\$55,707	\$62,836
Bivocational staff		
Average compensation.....	\$12,177	\$12,944
Average pay package.....	\$12,612	\$13,525

housing is \$12,177 in Kentucky and \$12,944 nationally. The average total pay package is \$12,612 in Kentucky and \$13,525 nationally.

Despite the progress made in ministers' compensation, Spencer said that in general, Kentucky pastors remain underpaid.

"It has been getting better ever since we've been doing the compensation study, but part of that's just catching up with a long history where they were drastically underpaid," he noted. "We've got a little ways to go."

The compensation study can be found at www.LifeWay.com/CompensationSurvey. The Web-based tool can help churches determine appropriate salaries for staff members by searching survey data from churches of similar size and geographical location.

For those churches that would like to obtain compensation survey reports but do not have Internet access, call the KBC church financial benefits department at (502) 489-3521, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3521.

Kentucky Baptists pray together 'With One Voice'

Continued from page 1

thing the same night all across Kentucky," he noted, citing Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them."

Kent led about 25 people in a time of prayer at Crestwood Baptist, urging them to "pray urgently" for those who do not know Jesus Christ, and to do so with certainty that God will hear those prayers.

"We need to have the conviction," he emphasized. "We have to be dependent on the Holy Spirit."

Kent also expressed the importance of living in the state capital of Frankfort where a lot of important decisions are made that affect the lives of all Kentuckians. He said that although we are called to take God's Word to the ends of the earth, we must remember to pray for and reach those in our backyards. "This is our Jerusalem," Kent said of Frankfort.

Kent, Mackey and more than a dozen other Franklin Baptist Association pastors and staff members got a birdseye view of Frankfort from Daniel Boone's grave site earlier in the day. The spot offers a panoramic view of the city, including the State Capitol building and much of Franklin County.

The prayer meeting, intended to

raise awareness for the "With One Voice" gatherings, was coordinated by Franklin Association Director of Missions Stuart Cundiff.

On a previous trip to the site, he recalled looking down on the city and thinking of Matthew 23:37: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

"I just thought of that Scripture where Jesus looked down on Jerusalem and wept over the city," Cundiff said. "And, I just thought if we're going to have 'With One Voice' prayer across the association, why don't we do it there looking down?"

The DOM invited pastors from across the association to lead prayers for spiritual awakening in the community, as well as in individual churches, "because there are some churches that are very dormant," he acknowledged.

The panoramic view of Frankfort, Cundiff said, allowed pastors to become more aware of "the lostness and the spirituality here in the capital city of our commonwealth."

Cundiff agreed with Kent's assessment that spiritual awakening, whether in Kentucky, the United States or the world, can only happen



when God's people pray.

"Prayer always is a precursor to anything that happens in a movement of God. It always comes first," he emphasized.

Mackey said he is pleased to see the "grassroots movement of prayer" that has come from the "With One Voice" gatherings and those that preceded it. The concerted "With One Voice" effort followed the "Pray the Perimeter" and "Pray the Interior" prayer tours from 2005 and 2006.

"I just believe that when there are thousands gathering (in prayer) that it has an impact ... on us and local churches," Mackey noted. "I would dare to believe, in faith, that God hears and answers the prayers of His people in His timing."

PRAYING AS ONE

Members of Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort joined hundreds of other Kentucky Baptists in churches across the state in praying "With One Voice" Sept. 10. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

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

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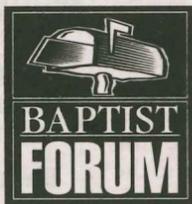
I received my copy of the Western Recorder and read with interest the Baptist Forum letter written by Jim Clark, who obviously disapproves of "contemporary" style worship and music. Ironically, I read this letter just after arriving home from LifeWay with my new copy of the 2008 Baptist Hymnal.

I was so excited to flip through the hymnal and see included in it, not only many of the old hymns and gospel songs that I grew up with, but also many of the contemporary songs that have come to be so meaningful to me over the past 10 years

since our church began a contemporary service.

Mr. Clark apparently does not care for the beat or "praise band" type of instrumentation used on contemporary songs. However, the Psalms contain many references to the use of instruments such as drums and cymbals. Also, if you take a close look at the words of these songs, you will see the truth of the gospel, Scripture verses and words of dedication and devotion to God.

In his Forum article, Mr. Clark also said that worship is not celebration, but rather a time of contemplation and meditation. I would suggest that it is both—once again, look



Sharing Christ in school

By Keith Manuel

Alexandria, La. (BP)—With school back in session, drivers are heeding the warning again to slow down in school zones. Public school buses loaded with excited children are rolling down our streets. The start of a new school year marks not only a milestone for parents and students but it also presents a great opportunity to share the claims of Christ.

Without getting into the church/state discussion, there are opportunities for you to tell others about Jesus. There is no legislation against sharing your personal beliefs when asked. So put yourself in a position for someone to ask.

Are you a student? Then be a dedicated Christ-follower on your campus. There are Christian clubs meeting on many campuses. Opportunities arise before and after school to meet with other believers for prayer and Bible study. If there is not a club on your campus, meet with a couple of friends and invite others to join.

Are you a parent of a student? Be involved with your school and make sure there is such a club. Provide the donuts and milk and they will come. If you can't meet on campus, meet at a restaurant or church close to campus.

Are you a teacher? You may not have the opportunity to teach a Bible class but there are abundant opportunities for you to reach out to your pupils and parents. Ask God to give you the opportunity to be a compassionate witness. When they ask why you go the extra mile, the door has opened.

My wife, who is a teacher, told me about a parent who brought a rose at least once a week to a different teacher in her school. He would give the rose to the teacher as a reminder that he was praying for her on that day. (I don't know what he gave the two male teachers, but the females appreciated it.)

Everyone can prayer walk or "prayer drive" your school campus. If you aren't involved in a local school, you can nonetheless pray for the board members, principal, teachers and students. Teachers and students can pray for others during the day. Pray for the people who sit around you and the people you pass in the hall. If you pick up your student at school, pray specifically for the teachers and students you see.

Students, you can have a great impact on your peers. Your friends and acquaintances are not necessarily interested in how much of the

at the Psalms.

I understand fully that people have different preferences in worship and music styles, and I believe we can respectfully agree to disagree about that. But before Mr. Clark or anyone else totally writes off contemporary music, I would encourage them to obtain a copy of the 2008 Baptist Hymnal and read the words to these songs: "Forever" (No. 99); "Blessed Be the Name" (No. 26); "Love the Lord Your God" (No. 562); "Better Is One Day" (No. 77); and "Still" (No. 459).

Let's not put a limit on God as to what God can use to speak to us and help us in our worship.

Gail Yonts
Louisville

Bible you know. They are interested in how much of the Bible you live.

Specific opportunities arise almost every school year that will allow you to share Jesus with others. When families go through crisis—such as a sickness or death—offer to cook a meal or cut a lawn. A very small act like this may open a door to share the love of Jesus.

Even if your witness is limited in your public school environment, everyone can become a good inviter. Invite your friends to church events. If you are a student, weeknight activities at church are great places to invite friends. Weekend events and church services are good, too. Look for the person who is new to your school. Find people who want to make new friends. The opportunities are endless, if you look for them.

Same thing goes for teachers. When a student asks what you are doing this weekend, tell them. If there is something special at your church, invite the parents of your students. Don't forget to invite your co-workers, too. Find ways to invite people to hear the Good News.

So the next time you enter a school zone, slow down and pray. Pray for the "missionaries" and the mission field on your local campus.

Keith Manuel is evangelism associate with the Louisiana Baptist Convention

A church focused on missions

My wife, Kay, and I recently had the privilege of being present for the 78th anniversary and homecoming of First Baptist Church of Cannonsburg, a giving church focused on missions. It was an exciting day as a congregation of nearly 240 witnessed two decisions for Christ, as well as saw two adults and two teens baptized during the service.

Through the leadership of Pastor Stan Williams, church leaders and part-time staff, the church has grown 77 percent in worship attendance, 173 percent in Sunday school attendance, and 190 percent in undesignated receipts over the past 10 years.

Williams, who has served the church for 21 years, places emphasis on lifting up Jesus Christ in his preaching and leadership. He said it has been a blessing to see young people who grew up in the church become leaders.

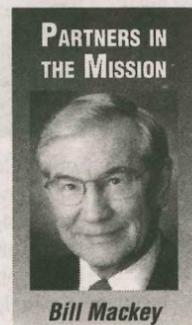
The church has considered go-

ing to two worship services and soon will add Sunday school space to accommodate growth. An offering of more than \$18,500 was received for the building fund the day I was there.

It actually has not been that long since the church built new facilities. When the congregation voted to build in 2000, members voted the same night to increase Cooperative Program giving by 1 percent each year for three years. Missions giving increased and the building was paid off by 2006.

The educational building, built in 2000, has a large youth center upstairs, Sunday school rooms, a kitchen and a half-size gym.

The church now contributes 15 percent of undesignated gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program, exceeding \$30,000 a year. The significance of this decision is that 60 percent of the church's total gifts to CP since 1925 have been given in



Bill Mackey

STEWARDSHIP

Test your financial aptitude with this true-or-false quiz

By Don Spencer

1. It is always smart to send a minimum credit card payment and stretch out payments as long as possible. True or false?

2. Your credit record can be a factor when you apply for a loan

or credit card, but cannot affect non-credit decisions such as applications for insurance or an apartment. True or false?

3. A debit card may be a good alternative to a credit card because the money is automatically deducted from a bank account, thus avoiding interest charges or debt problems. True or false?

4. It makes no sense for young adults to put money aside for retirement many years away. People in their 20s should focus on monthly expenses and short-term goals and not start saving for retirement until their 30s at the earliest. True or false?

5. If you receive an e-mail from a company you have done business with asking you to update your records by entering your Social Security number or bank account numbers, it is safe as long as the e-mail explains the reason and shows the company's official logo. True or false?

6. If you or your family has \$100,000 or less on deposit at an FDIC insured bank, and the bank fails, your money is completely safe. True or false?

7. All checking accounts are pretty much the same in terms of features, fees, interest rates, balance requirements, etc. True or false?

8. There is no harm in having many different credit cards, especially when they offer free giveaways as incentives. The number of cards you carry will not affect your ability to get a loan; what matters is that you use the cards responsibly. True or false?

9. While one or two late payments on bills may not damage your credit record, making a habit of it will count against you. True or false?

10. The best way to avoid a "bounced" check is to keep your checkbook up to date and closely monitor your balance. Institutions do offer overdraft protection services but these programs come with their own added costs. True or false?

Answers:

1. false; 2. false; 3. true; 4. false; 5. false; 6. true; 7. false; 8. false; 9. true; 10. true.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

Parental guidance is key in helping teens find their way

Q: Our first child becomes a teenager this year and we are scared to death. Several people have told us that life is going to be very hard. How should we approach these years?

While the teen years do represent a transition, there need not be a change from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde. Ideally, your dependent child will emerge from the teenage years as an interdependent young adult who will continue to wrestle with three key questions:

- Who am I?
- Where am I going?
- Who will go with me?

Answering the first question requires some experimentation. Your teenager will need to try on different identities such as musician, athlete, honor student, grocery store employee, mission trip participant, etc. In trying on identities like T-shirts, teens need parental support and involvement. The most important question related to identity—"To whom will I pledge my allegiance?"—is a profoundly spiritual question and requires parental modeling and encouragement.

The second and third questions, while fully emergent toward the end of the teen years, must be addressed all along as parents begin early on helping teenagers reflect on a possible vocational calling and how to make wise and godly choices related to a future mate.

Keep in mind that spending time with your teenager is the biggest key to satisfaction and harmony in the family. While they will want to spend more time with friends, avoid the mistake of getting your feelings hurt and withdrawing. Spend time with your teen, being flexible and adaptable to changing schedules. Model humility in asking for forgiveness when you behave poorly. Hold your teen accountable to biblical standards while recognizing that they too need to be recipients of grace and mercy.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: My wife and I are having a really hard time connecting. I am beginning to think if we do not get help we may be headed for divorce. Do you have any suggestions?

Get help, either through marriage education, a qualified marriage therapist, or both.

MARRIAGE

What is good marriage education? First, check out Smart Marriages (www.SmartMarriages.com). Also, here is a summary of the most effective marriage education approaches:

- PREP (www.Preplnc.com) is a research-based, communication-centered model featuring the "speaker-listener technique." This is basic in that it helps slow down the communication to where one person speaks at a time and the other person is an active listener.

- PREPARE/ENRICH (www.Prepare-Enrich.com) has excellent inventories for premarital, married and senior adult couples.

- PAIRS (www.Pairs.com) has been called the "Cadillac of marriage education programs," and has excellent, in-depth communication tools.

- Grow Toward Oneness (www.Marriages.net) is a highly spiritual and biblical approach.

- The Gottman Institute (www.Gottman.com) is a research-based marriage education center that focuses on the most helpful and destructive interactions related to repairing marriages nearly destroyed by negative interactions.

Who is a good marriage therapist? Do your research. Make sure your therapist has qualifications and a good reputation. Find someone who is trained in one of the marriage education methodologies listed above.

No matter what, get help. You do not have to struggle alone. The research is in and we know the ingredients for successful marriages and those that do not make it. Your marriage is worth it.—*James Stillwell*

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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



Search for new editor continues in earnest

The annual state football rivalry game for the Governor's Cup recently kicked off the college football season. I was one of the University of Louisville football fans present the day they were roasted—and it was really hot that day, too. This season is always a welcomed time of year for those precious free moments on a Saturday. I welcome football because I have a difficult time keeping track of the score during tennis or staying awake during baseball or golf.

One of my summer vacation reads was John Grisham's "Playing for Pizza." This Southern Baptist author spins a good story not about a typical Southern, small-town attorney, but rather a rejected NFL quarterback who is playing American football in Italy. The leader of a football team on the field is the quarterback. He leads the team to gain yardage and score. Similarly, the leader of a newspaper is the editor.

Although the Western Recorder team is moving along without an editor, they need a leader. The Western Recorder editor search committee continues its search and goal of recommending a candidate to our board of directors and the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board by year's end. If our work continues to progress and God continues to bless our efforts, this is a goal we can reach. We are not bound to this timeline but remain confident that it is possible. The priority for the search committee remains to seek the editor that God has called to lead the Western Recorder, regardless of a timetable.

The search committee has established several important qualifications in this process. We have sought to consider individuals who are experienced in denominational journalism, hold a seminary degree and possess appropriate years of experience. Kentucky Baptists have a wonderful story worth telling and we hope to recommend an editor who will not only tell the Good News of our Savior, but also will tell about the exceptional work of Kentucky Baptists in areas of mis-

sions, evangelism, discipleship, worship and spiritual growth. We also are seeking an editor who will yield a prophetic pen as an editor in continuing the strong history of the Western Recorder editorial.

As a search committee team there are two important "playbooks" that continue to guide our process. First is the Bible. The team has selected a verse from the New Testament which continues to guide us. This verse often is cited and prayed during our meetings. It is found in James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

Second, we have a clear purpose in mind. The purpose of the Western Recorder editor search committee is to recommend to

the Western Recorder board and KBC Mission Board a Christian who is the very best faith-based print denominational journalist candidate building upon the foundation of "balance, fairness and integrity." We, as a search committee, will—through an intentionally spiritual process, hard work and commitment—strive toward recommending the very best candidate for editor of the Western Recorder.

Very soon, Kentucky Baptists will gather for our annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. As we come together as a people seeking to fulfill our mission of Kentucky Baptists Connect, please pray for and utilize the wonderful tool that is the Western Recorder. The paper seeks to place in the hands of Kentuckians practical tools for Christian living. It is a great resource for all Kentucky Baptists. Please pray for the members of the editor search committee and support the mission of this historic and vital resource.

It was a great game on that last Sunday in August. As a U of L fan, I would have hoped for a different outcome, but it was a thrill to be in the stadium. Please renew your prayers in our search for a quarterback—I mean editor.

Skip Alexander is pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church

GUEST EDITORIAL



Skip Alexander

The Trinity and other concrete things

By Beth Newman

Richmond, Va. (ABP)—Being a teacher of theology has given me a rather distorted sense of priorities. I suppose that whatever one's line of work is, though, it will cause some such skewing. My husband once worked in a shop that made industrial valves, and he will occasionally trespass on the property of others to see whether his handiwork is part of their gas or water line. So I realize that there are some questions that are major for me that are minor for you. But you ought to care.

Take, for example, the doctrine of the Trinity. I've been asking around lately among family and friends about what they've been paying the most attention to lately. The answers are personal (children, health, finances, etc.) or relate to that part of the public life dominating the headlines at any given moment: the political conventions, the most recent hurricane, the big ballgame.

No one says, "the Trinity." It's easy to understand why. The concept of a "Three-in-One" God outrages common sense. Any analogy seems strained at best. The one I remember from Sunday school involved trisecting and reassembling an orange.

Some scholars have argued that the doctrine is more the result of the invasive influence of Greek philosophy than scriptural evidence. Others see it as the outworking of patriarchal assumptions corrupting Jesus' simple message of love and justice.

For the ordinary believer (whoever he or she is) the biggest obstacle is that simple observation that the doctrine of the Trinity seems disconnected from the daily living of our lives in a way that "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so" does not.

The fact is, however, that without the Trinity there is no way for any of us to know that Jesus loves us. Furthermore, generations of Christians have understood the Trinity as naming the most concrete reality of our existence.

Scripture describes key moments in Jesus' life in Trinitarian terms. Jesus comes up from the baptismal waters and the Spirit descends upon Him. God says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased." Jesus ascends a mountain with Peter, James and John. He is transfigured before them, his clothes becoming "dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them" (Mark 9:3). Elijah and Moses (the prophet and the law) appear and from a cloud God says, "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him."

We could read these as events simply happening a long time ago, or as invented elaborations by the gospel writers. If we did, the Trinity would indeed remain irrelevant to our time and place. But if we read Scripture as a word spoken to us, then we can see that God's Trinitarian engagement with the world is still going on.

What difference, then, does the

Trinity make in our daily lives?

We can begin by saying that in and through Christ, we are God's adopted children. As the early church emphasized: "What Christ is by nature (the Son of God), we are by adoption." That is, we share communion through the Spirit with the Father and the Son. God is not a distant God, disconnected from our daily lives, but one who has fully adopted us through Christ. Our biological families may have deeply wounded us or even abandoned us; our adoption by the Triune God heals these wounds.

Another early church theologian, Gregory of Nazianzus, stated, "What has not been assumed, cannot be healed." This means that Jesus became fully human in order to heal humanity from the inside. As we're battered about in our daily lives, we can trust that God gives us (through confession, forgiveness, prayers, worship and so forth) the healing grace we need to live faithfully.

Finally, in contrast to all that divides and ruptures human relationships today, communion with the Triune God in the Spirit is a uniting force. Pentecost is God's gift to the church today, an ongoing reality in which the Spirit can create paths toward reconciliation in surprising ways.

In the final analysis, the Trinity is a description of God apart from which life as a Christian makes no sense.

Beth Newman is professor of theology and ethics at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.

Relief units feed Gustav victims, monitor Ike's damage

By Adam Miller
On Mission

Houma, La. (BP)—The small side roads running from Baton Rouge to Houma, La., began to tell the story of Hurricane Gustav as power line poles bowed toward the pavement like loose fingers.

Houma was one of the towns hit hardest by the Category 3 hurricane that churned along the western Louisiana coast unabated by much-diminished marshland that once slowed the onslaught of devastating winds and storm surge.

As the sun began to burn a long orange descent and Houma came closer, the sharper, thicker stars in the sky reminded one of a world without electricity. "No city lights," one volunteer said later. "You can see the stars better."

No electricity, no hotels. And the tap water was unsafe to drink, according to Bob Roberts, a leader of the Arkansas Southern Baptist disaster relief feeding, shower and communications units stationed at Christ Baptist Church in Houma. "Use our water. Our water filters can take the most polluted water and make it drinkable," he assured.

Near the heart of Houma, local po-

lice set up a roadblock to enforce an 8 o'clock curfew. Blue lights flashed distantly throughout the evening, a welcome though ominous show of life in a city that had only three days before been knocked around by the largest show of strength in the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Riding out the storm

"The doves would try to fly this way and the wind would push them back," said Werlien Prosperie, owner of the Jolly Inn, a Cajun dance hall in Houma. "I stood at my window. That sign came down, then the power lines."

"But the really amazing thing," his daughter interjected, "was how the (cooling) coils from the power company went flying. Then the roof came off of that."

"So what'd you do?" a reporter asked.

"Wait. Nothing to do but wait."

Prosperie had housed five families in his establishment and they all watched from windows of the 60-year-old structure as Gustav wreaked havoc along Tunnel Boulevard.

"Katie Couric was down here a couple of days ago. CNN and USA Today came too," he recalled. "They asked me why I stayed. 'That's how Cajuns are,' I told them. I was concerned for family and the people around here, but I'm too stupid to be scared. We've been through stuff like this before. It comes then it passes and you move on and get ready for the next one. We had a business to care for and, besides, it just costs too much to evacuate and takes too long to get back home."

"I've not seen that much wind since Betsy," Prosperie added, re-

calling his experience with the 1965 Hurricane he witnessed from an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. With Gustav "we had winds 110 to 120 miles per hour. Gusts of 130. Tin and sheet metal flying around. That night, (the wind) lifted this porch up three or four inches and set it back down."

By Sept. 4, North Carolina Baptist disaster relief units had rolled in with six 18-wheelers filled with meal supplies. The next day, they were in position to cook 30,000 meals a day.

Earlier in the week, Arkansas Baptist disaster relief had set up at Christ Baptist Church to provide meals and showers to National Guardsmen, law enforcement officers, other emergency workers and fellow Baptist relief workers.

"We have those Cambros ready to feed the National Guard," said Roberts, pointing to large red insulating containers that had been filled with grilled chicken, pinto beans and canned peach wedges.

By 8 a.m., Sept. 5, residents began mile-long car lines leading into the local civic center where National Guard troops distributed ready-to-eat meals and bags of ice. North Carolina feeding unit volunteers were putting final touches on their cooking area, gathering supplies, putting a line of command into place and by 10 a.m., were filling yellow Cambros with breaded chicken and green beans.

About 67 Southern Baptist disaster relief units from 16 state conven-

tions are serving in Louisiana, including a Kentucky Baptist unit in Thibodaux, La.

Southern Baptist disaster relief leaders at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's Atlanta-area offices also were working last week to ready a relief response as Hurricane Ike made landfall over the weekend.

"People ask, 'Why do you need these guys?'" said a Houma reporter and photographer named Kilm Liretta, pointing toward North Carolina's feeding operation. "You know what I tell them? Without these guys, we'd be lost."

"I grew up half-Catholic and half-Baptist," Liretta added. "It's made a pretty good impact on me."

In Florida, where the state Baptist convention has a partnership with Haitian and Cuban Baptists, disaster relief director Fritz Wilson noted, "Cuba and Haiti again seem to be taking the brunt of everything this year," after Hurricane Ike continued the string of hurricanes that have struck the Caribbean nations.

Craig Culbreth, Florida Baptists' director of partnership ministries, traveled to Haiti Sept. 10 where many died as a result of massive flooding and most of the crops were washed away.

"The country has been cut off from north to south because of several bridges that have washed out," Culbreth noted. "Their major need is food."

MEALTIME At a feeding site in Houma, La., operated by North Carolina Baptist Men, a mission team from First Baptist Church of Gulfport, Miss., lends a hand. (BP photo by James Edward Bates)



College presidents revisit drinking age debate

Middlebury, Vt. (BP)—More than 100 college presidents, some from top schools like Duke, Dartmouth, Syracuse and Johns Hopkins, have reignited the debate about lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, contending that allowing teenagers to drink legally might actually curb binge drinking among college students.

The group, dubbed the Amethyst Initiative after a Greek gemstone believed to ward off intoxication, noted in a statement that Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act in 1984, imposing a penalty of 10 percent of a state's highway appropriation on any state setting its drinking age lower than 21.

"Twenty-four years later, our experience as college and university presidents convinces us that 21 is not working," the group of presidents and chancellors said. "A culture of dangerous, clandestine 'binge-drinking'—often conducted off campus—has developed."

"Alcohol education that mandates abstinence as the only legal option has not resulted in significant constructive behavioral change among our students," the statement continued. "Adults under 21 are deemed capable of voting, signing contracts, serving on juries and enlisting in the military, but are told they are not mature enough to have a beer. By choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law."

The group asked, "How many times must we relearn the lessons of prohibition?" and then called upon elected officials to support a public debate over the drinking age, consider whether the 10 percent highway fund encourages or inhibits the debate, and offer new ideas about preparing young adults to make responsible deci-

sions about alcohol.

Moana Jagasia, a student at Duke University, told the Associated Press she supports lowering the drinking age.

"There isn't that much difference in maturity between 21 and 18," she said. "If the age is younger, you're getting exposed to it at a younger age, and you don't freak out when you get to campus."

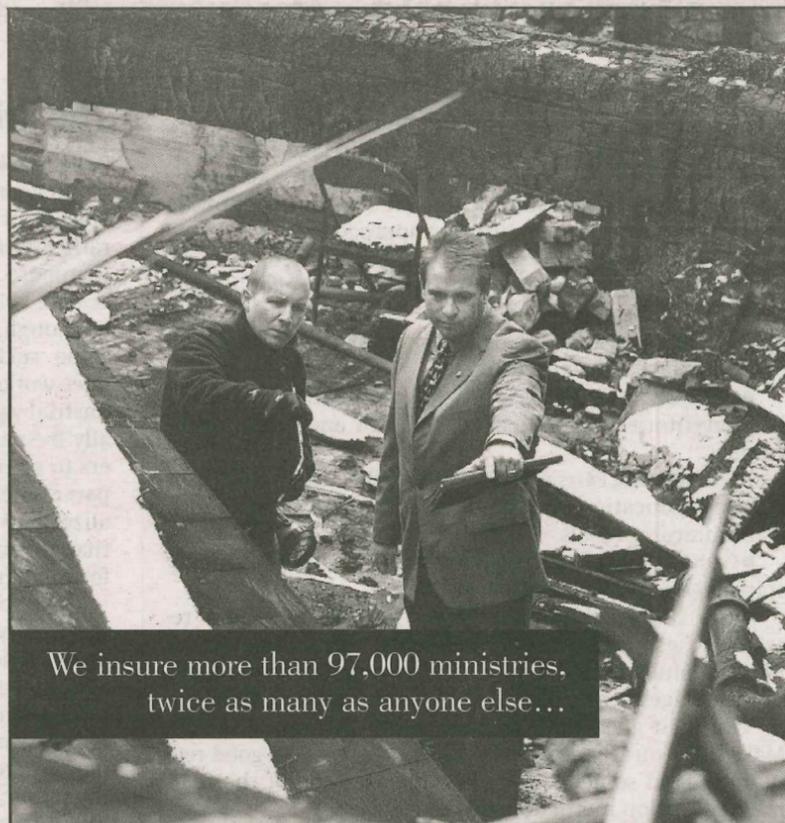
Donna Shalala, president of the University of Miami, declined to sign the Amethyst Initiative statement.

"I remember college campuses when we had 18-year-old drinking ages, and I honestly believe we've made some progress," the former secretary of health and human services during the Clinton administration told AP. "To just shift it back down to the high schools makes no sense at all."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving said lowering the drinking age would lead to more fatal car wrecks, AP reported, and the group thinks the coalition of college presidents is looking for an easy way out of a problem they would rather not deal with on their campuses. MADD officials, according to AP, have urged parents to consider the safety of colleges whose presidents signed the statement.

"It's very clear the 21-year-old drinking age will not be enforced at those campuses," said Laura Dean-Mooney, MADD's national president.

More than 40 percent of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependence, and AP found that, between 1999 and 2005, 157 college-age individuals (18 to 23 years of age) drank themselves to death.



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WITH CHURCH MUTUAL. CALL TO FIND OUT MORE.

Fruit tree: A giving parable

Story demonstrates various means of charitable giving

Years ago, a farmer planted some seeds. After careful and consistent watering and exposure to sunlight, the seeds grew into a fruit tree.

This tree was very important to the farmer because it was one of his most valuable assets and provided fruit for his family.

As an expression of gratitude for his good fortune, the farmer decided to share some of his good fortune with those charitable organizations in whose missions he believed. His challenge was to determine the most effective way to give these charities some of his fruit while taking into consideration his family's continued need for it.

With the assistance of a planned giving adviser, the farmer discovered three charitable giving options.

First, he could give the entire tree and all of its fruit. However, at this point in his life, he was not sure he wanted to make such a gift because his family still enjoyed having the tree and its fruit, and he wanted to keep it for future generations.

Second, he could give a portion

of the fruit every year and keep the tree for his family and future generations. This option gives him the flexibility to share the fruit between his family and the charities in which he is involved.

Third, he could give the charities the tree now, but maintain the right to keep all of the fruit from the tree for his lifetime. For the rest of his life he could share the fruit with his family, and at his death all of the fruit would go to the charities.

Everybody's circumstance is different; our passions and our objectives differ. The point of this simplistic parable is to illustrate the different ways you can analyze and make charitable gifts to and for the benefit of your church and other charitable causes, regardless of your circumstance.

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, is available to assist you in analyzing your options. There is no cost or obligation for this private, confidential consultation. Call her today toll free.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



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

- 1 Diva's defining moment
- 5 One who comes out, familiarly
- 8 Land measure
- 12 Preceding portrait or pity?
- 13 Mist (Scot.)
- 14 What every word in the Bible is
- 15 American playwright
- 16 Stadium sound
- 17 Actress Daly
- 18 Imitate
- 20 Linking verb
- 22 Birthplace of Saul
- 25 "The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are ____" (Psalm 94:11)
- 29 "In Damascus the governor under ____ the king" (2 Corinthians 11:32)
- 30 "For how can I ____ to see the evil that shall come unto my people?" (Esther 8:6)
- 31 Wrongly (prefix)
- 32 Twelve-step gp.
- 33 "In lowliness of mind let each ____ other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3)
- 37 French painter Pierre Auguste ____
- 41 "____ my soul from their destructions" (Psalm 35:17)
- 42 "Ye were without Christ, being ____ from the commonwealth of Israel" (Ephesians 2:12)
- 43 Vacuum tube (abbr.)
- 44 Father of Saul, king of Israel
- 45 He offered "a more excellent sacrifice" than his brother
- 48 Exclamation of disbelief
- 50 Prophetess who awaited the Messiah

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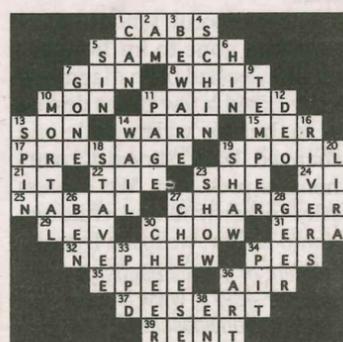
- 54 Used to be
- 55 Before (poet.)
- 56 "For thou art a ____ kinsman" (Ruth 3:9)
- 57 Corn quantity (pl.)
- 58 N.T. bk.
- 59 May be

- 24 Musical notations
- 26 Measures used worldwide (abbr.)
- 27 "____ up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- 28 Parts of a century
- 34 O.T. bk. (abbr.)
- 35 Continent (abbr.)
- 36 ____-ammah, chief city of the Philistines (2 Samuel 8:1)
- 37 Jacob served Laban seven years for her
- 38 Father of Hophni and Phineas
- 39 Belonging to the first month, the month in which Pur was cast (Esther 3:7)
- 40 Whirlwind near the Faeroe Islands
- 45 "Stand in ____, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 46 Aunt ____ of TV's Mayberry
- 47 "To ____ is human"
- 49 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 51 Born (Fr.)
- 52 Not (Scot.)
- 53 "Thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong ____" (Psalm 89:10)

Down

- 1 He succeeded his father, King Abijam (1 Kings 15)
- 2 Area (abbr.)
- 3 ____ de la Cite, in Paris
- 4 "But when thou makest ____, call the poor, the maimed" (2 words, Luke 14:13)
- 5 Use of force or threats
- 6 Historical period
- 7 "Let us ____ ourselves valiantly for our people" (1 Chronicles 19:13)
- 8 Wait on
- 9 Wait
- 10 String of victories
- 11 Shoe width
- 19 "Of ____, the family of the Punites" (Numbers 26:23)
- 21 Sprinted
- 22 Less spicy
- 23 Bail out of bed

Last week's solution



GUARDING THE GATE

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Johnny M. Hunt
President of the Southern Baptist Convention

Dr. Hunt will be conducting a Q&A session beginning at 4:30 P.M. on Friday Nov. 7 for all pastors and church leaders.

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WESTERNRECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Evangelical Hispanic pastors' political sway is on the rise

By Amy Green
Religion News Service

Orlando, Fla. (RNS)—As Nino Gonzalez sees it, voting is like learning English or earning citizenship—something that is fundamentally American.

So when he moved here from Puerto Rico eight years ago to lead Orlando's Iglesia El Calvario and found that Hispanics were sitting out the electoral process, he resolved to do something about it.

Gonzalez spoke from the pulpit and his church-owned AM station. He rallied with Hispanics for immigration reform. He invited Florida Republicans Gov. Charlie Crist, then a candidate, and Sen. Mel Martinez to his church, prayed for them and implored them not to forget immigrants.

Today, he is a rising national leader among a growing number of Hispanics who are breaking from a historically passive role in American politics—a newfound sense of activism that could prove pivotal in the November elections.

With citizenship numbers on the rise and immigration issues in the news, Hispanics are feeling empowered to vote and are finding guidance at church—the same place many often turn to for community, language, citizenship and other support.

"Based on what the Bible says, I feel that I need to participate in favor of those who don't have a voice," said Gonzalez, whose Hispanic megachurch—the state's second-largest—draws some 5,500 on Sundays. "So I march with the immigrants. I participate in their rallies."

Their numbers nudge higher with every election. In 2006, Hispanics accounted for 8.6 percent of all votes cast, up from 6 percent in 2004 and 5.5 percent in 2000, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

Religious affiliation is a strong indicator of political affiliation. Among eligible Latino voters, evangelicals are twice as likely as Catholics to identify with the Republican Party and are even more likely to describe themselves as conservative.

Hispanics emerging

Hispanics are showing their political involvement in other ways, too.

"There is the emergence of the national and religious leadership," according to Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and a native of Cuba. "What you see now is networks and organizations that are beginning to organize and mobilize the Latino evangelical/Pentecostal vote. That's another step for Hispanics to participate in American public life."

U.S. Catholic bishops have long been a strong voice on behalf of immigrants, and now the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (an arm of the National Association of Evangelicals) is emerging as a prominent voice on behalf of non-Catholic Hispanics.

When the group emerged in 1992, early leaders never envisioned political involvement, recalled the group's president Samuel Rodriguez. Yet today Rodriguez said he holds a "significant number" of meetings with Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain, who are courting a voting block that could

prove pivotal.

Despite traditionally conservative leanings, Hispanics seem up for grabs in 2008, Rodriguez said. Many Hispanics harbor bitter feelings against the Republican Party over failed immigration reform.

According to a Pew Hispanic Center survey this summer, Hispanic voters favor Obama over McCain by 66 percent to 23 percent.

Historically, Hispanics stayed out of politics. Many were recent immigrants and were too young to vote. That is changing, and like evangelicals generally, Hispanic evangelicals have shed their distrust for government and now embrace political involvement, Rodriguez said.

Immigration was the issue that sparked large-scale Hispanic involvement, but the dismal economy, a divisive war and dissatisfaction with the current White House likely will drive many new voters to the polls, Lugo acknowledged.

At the center of this change are

pastors such as Gonzalez, a charismatic religious leader who may not understand the full weight of his influence, said Rodriguez, who has known him for at least 16 years.

"He would be categorized as one of our Rick Warrens, Bill Hybels and Joel Osteen," Rodriguez explained, referring to the emerging crop of high-profile evangelical leaders. "He is undoubtedly one of America's most important Hispanic pastors and one of the most important pastors overall."

Gonzalez said he does not tell parishioners how to vote, only that they should vote.

"As a pastor, I believe we should participate," he stressed. "I love this country. I feel we have one of the greatest countries in the world. It's not a perfect country, but I wouldn't change it for anything. ... I just want to participate. I want to go on record, when my time passes I want it to be known there was a pastor here who did something at least."

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The passing of a friend

Former OBI president remembered for his warm demeanor, sense of humor

I remember well getting out of the car and stepping onto the Oneida campus for the first time in the fall of 1963. It had been a long drive from Dayton, Ohio. It was Thanksgiving weekend and I was about to begin my Oneida journey.

I don't remember when I first met David Jackson, the OBI principal and coach. If you knew David, you are aware that he had some physical limitations. One could not help but notice those differences, but you also could not miss his kind smile and warm personality. I attended 13 different schools in Dayton. I had a lot of experience visiting with the many principals I'd had over the years, so I was happy to discover that Mr. Jackson seemed to be kind and had a sense of humor topped off with a warm smile.

Shortly after I arrived, I was called into Mr. Jackson's office. My past experience with principals caused me not to look forward to those visits. But I didn't think that I had done anything wrong—at least nothing that anyone knew about. When I entered his office he was lying on the floor face down. That was a new experience. Before, principals always had stood with a paddle in hand.

Mr. Jackson asked me to take off my shoes and stand on the middle of his back. I thought surely I must have misunderstood. He repeated that his back was hurting and he wanted me to stand on it. Reluctantly—very reluctantly—I stepped up on his back and began to move my feet per his instructions. A few seconds later, he told me I could quit and that I had been a big help. I later discovered that his physical problems caused him to

have back pain at times. To see him run on the basketball court, one would never know he had any limitations.

I was a new Christian when I came to OBI and did not understand that the free religious literature offered on the radio was not all good reading. On one occasion, I took a free box of books I received from a ministry in California to Mr. Jackson for his blessing. I remember how delicately he tried to explain that not all religious literature was good for studying or reading. I was a poor kid and those free books were pretty valuable to me. But Mr. Jackson lovingly convinced me that they were not the kind of books a new Christian should be reading.

The summer between my junior and senior years, Mr. Jackson became our eighth president. His new position did not change his personality one bit. I was honored when he would ask me to drive him to some of his speaking engagements. Once we stopped at a restaurant where one of the sides was yams. I had no idea what yams were until Mr. Jackson explained that they were sweet potatoes. Nearly every time I eat yams I remember that meal.

After returning from a recent school trip, I heard that Mr. Jackson had gone to his heavenly home. A few weeks earlier, he had been diagnosed with cancer. I only saw David a few times during the past 10 years or so, but his warm smile and personality never changed. David served 17 years at Oneida, 10 of them as president. We express our deepest sympathy to his wife and children. They lost a husband and father; we lost a friend.

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

Sulfridge leads institutional advancement department

When Dean of Institutional Advancement Jay Sulfridge shares his official Clear Creek title with people and all that it entails, they usually say, "That's a mouthful." "They are right," Sulfridge said. "The institutional advancement department covers three major areas of the college: college relations, admissions and development.

"In addition to supervising the offices of college relations and admissions, I am involved more directly with the fundraising aspects of the college through the development office," he explained. "My position requires being involved in whatever is needed to advance the work of Clear Creek. So, yes, I would say that is a mouthful."

Even for a small college like Clear Creek, it's not only a mouthful, but also a huge responsibility. "I wake up everyday and think about the responsibility that comes with this position," Sulfridge said. "It's the kind of thing where you have to look to God a lot. He surprises us a lot with what He can do with such meager tools as He chooses."

What exactly does the dean of institutional advancement do? "The biggest part of my job is meeting

with people who love the Lord and love His work," Sulfridge noted. "I always enjoy letting them know what we are doing here and then God places on their heart what they need to do to help us. We are able to do what we do through God leading the president and me to get out and see as many people as we can. The end result is a lot of people doing a little bit as God leads. It's always a faith building thing for me to watch God work here.

"Right now, we are asking God to lead us to some people who can help us finish up our current campaign to establish a \$1 million endowment that will help fund our student work-ship program," Sulfridge added. "The campaign sought 50 \$10,000 pledges and 500 \$1,000 pledges. We only need 50 more \$1,000 pledges to meet our initial goal."

We are thankful for employees like Dr. Sulfridge who put forth a great effort to advance the work of Clear Creek. Feel free to contact us for ways you can become a partner in this ministry.

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

Anti-Christian violence in India attracts government attention

Bhubaneswar, India (BP)—Violence against Christians in India's Orissa state persisted more than two weeks after the Aug. 23 assassination of a Hindu swami sparked mob attacks on Christian villages, churches and homes.

The extent and brutality of the attacks have attracted the attention of national authorities in India. The nation's Supreme Court recently ordered an investigation. On Sept. 8, the Orissa state government banned all public rallies and gatherings related to the situation and promised to report to the Supreme Court by Sept. 11 on measures taken to restore order.

India's Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, called the anti-Christian violence a "national shame" and threatened to use military force to stop it. He also has promised financial compensation for Christian families who lost their homes in the violence.

The number of victims beaten, hacked or burned to death since the start of the attacks reportedly topped 100. Tens of thousands of Christian villagers terrorized by Hindu extremists continued to hide in forests or huddle in relief camps guarded by police.

Despite curfews and the arrests of hundreds of rioters in recent days, many Christians have reported that local police have acted as little more than spectators as Christian homes are attacked. Others have said local authorities appear to fear the size and fanaticism of organized mobs.

Meanwhile, reports of forced "reconversions" of tribal Christians to Hinduism have emerged from several areas of the eastern state.

The trouble began after assailants with automatic weapons murdered Swami Laxmananda Saraswati, a leader of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad sect, and four of his followers. Police suspicion immediately focused on a Maoist insurgent group active in the region. The Maoists publicly claimed responsibility for the attack Sept. 1, but Hindu extremists continue to blame the killings on Christians.

Enraged by the accusations, Hindu mobs have attacked and burned hundreds of homes, churches, schools and orphanages, primarily in tribal districts where many Christians live. Christians, including up to 500,000 Baptists, reportedly comprise about 2.4 percent of Orissa's population of 36.7 million people.

One Christian organization estimated that between 100 and 150 people, most of them Christians, have been killed. Unconfirmed reports have put the number of victims much higher.

Early in the crisis, Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Neville Callam appealed to the Indian government to "intervene to save the lives of the many who are being victimized in the current crisis. Respect for the principle of religious liberty and the sacredness of human life requires nothing less. I also appeal to all Baptists worldwide to pray God's protection for our brothers and sisters in Orissa."

Some Indian political and religious leaders have called for imposing federal rule and sending troops to Orissa state, where the ruling Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party coalition government has been unable to stop the violence.

China continues to target Christian church leaders

Beijing (BP)—A popular house church leader and his wife were released from government custody in China recently, but that good news was overshadowed by the fact that countless other Chinese Christians still are imprisoned, including bookstore owner Shi Weihai who has been described as "unrecognizable" following his poor treatment in detention.

Zhang "Bike" Mingxuan, chairman of the Federation House Church, and his wife, Xie Fenglan, were released from Public Security Bureau custody late last month but were told they could not return to Beijing until the end of the Paralympics Sept. 16, according to the human rights group China Aid Association.

Since Aug. 6, Zhang and his wife had been on forced vacation, accompanied by about 15 government officials, Zhang's wife told Bob Fu, China Aid's president, following their release. She said Zhang had been actively evangelizing and advocating the role of the house church to his captors during his detention.

Before his capture, Zhang was considered one of the most outspoken evangelists in China, traveling mostly on his bike, handing out literature and Bibles and preaching the gospel, according to Voice of the Martyrs.

China Aid and Voice of the Martyrs had circulated a petition while Zhang was in captivity, and 57,000 people signed on to urge the Chinese government to free the pastor and his wife and to "look beyond the physical needs to also consider the deeper, fundamental need for personal freedom in decisions of faith and belief."

"While the release of Pastor Zhang Mingxuan was welcomed by the petitioners, CAA continues to urge the Chinese government to stop its consistent record of illegal religious persecution and to release other Chinese Christians who have been wrongfully imprisoned

for their faith," China Aid said in a recent news release.

"CAA and its supporters around the world will continue to press the Chinese government to release these Christians and to act with consistency and responsibility toward religious freedom."

Weihai remains jailed

One of the highest profile cases involves Shi Weihai, a Chinese bookstore owner who has been imprisoned and tortured by government authorities. Compass Direct News reported Sept. 5 that Shi still is awaiting the outcome of an Aug. 19 court appearance.

The news service said Shi has been denied proper medication and diet for his diabetes. Severe weight loss has made him almost "unrecognizable" to his closest friends. He first was detained last November and then acquitted of charges in January. In March, he was detained again and forced to sign a "confession" saying he had engaged in the printing and distribution of a large number of illegal publications.

Compass Direct reported Public Security Bureau officials in Beijing initially denied having Shi in custody, but after his attorney applied pressure, they allowed him a single visit and labeled him a "dangerous religious element." Shi's family had expected a trial to take place in June, but no such trial took place.

In August, authorities moved Shi from the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau back to the Haidian District Detention Center where he was held after his first arrest, Compass Direct said, adding that an unnamed source speculated that the government held Shi virtually "incommunicado" during the Olympics because of fears he would use his foreign connections to embarrass China during the games.

Fu has strongly condemned Beijing authorities for their treatment of Shi, and urged them to release Shi as soon as possible to avoid international pressure.

U.S. urged to penalize Vietnam

Washington (BP)—A bipartisan commission has urged the U.S. State Department to return Vietnam to its list of the world's worst violators of religious liberty.

The recommendation came in a report from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom on the Southeast Asian country, which is under the rule of a communist regime. Based on its fact-finding trip to Vietnam last fall, the commission reported most of the country's religious groups continue to suffer repression from different levels of government.

The State Department removed Vietnam from its "countries of particular concern" in November 2006. CPC designation is reserved for governments that are particularly severe violators of religious freedom. USCIRF objected to the decision and has since urged for Vietnam to be restored to the list.

In its latest report, USCIRF said Vietnam made some helpful chang-

es after it was given CPC status in 2004, but said it is incorrect to contend the government "is fully committed to respecting religious freedom instead of maintaining control of its diverse religious communities."

According to the USCIRF report, Vietnam should be re-designated as a country of particular concern because, among other reasons, it continues to imprison many people based on their religious faith, to exercise control over most religious groups and to prohibit independent religious expression.

"Improved conditions for some only emphasize the inexcusability of ongoing abuses endured by others," USCIRF Chairman Felice Gaer said. "The State Department should not diminish its categorization of Vietnam as a severe violator until the Vietnamese government demonstrates a countrywide, non-discriminatory commitment to religious freedom and human rights for all."

Scientology to face court trial in France

Paris (RNS)—The Church of Scientology and seven of its members will be tried for fraud and other allegations in a groundbreaking case that could lead to a ban on the church's operations in France, according to legal sources cited by local media.

The allegations stem back a decade, and were originally leveled by a woman who claims she paid the church more than \$28,000 for lessons, books, drugs and an "electrometer," which church members claim can be used to measure a person's mental state.

The trial in Paris, which according to reports is likely to take place in 2009, is the first time the church would be judged on charges of swindling. Previous legal charges have been leveled at individuals or against the church for violating individual freedom and information laws.

The church swiftly rebutted the latest allegations, claiming it was being stigmatized.

Founded half a century ago in the United States, the church that claims prominent members such as movie star Tom Cruise, is viewed with skepticism in a number of European countries.

In Germany, federal and state interior ministers claimed the church was unconstitutional last December, paving the way for possibly banning it in that country.

The church or its individual members have been on trial on four separate occasions in France, starting in 1978. In two of the earliest cases, sentences ultimately were shortened or dropped altogether on appeal.

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Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Owsley County food ministry of First Baptist Church of Booneville.

Pastor Jerry Laceyfield directs this ministry that provides food for needy families, home repairs, clothing distribution and special activities like backyard Bible clubs and VBS for children. Pray that God will give the strength and patience needed to minister daily as the incarnation of Christ. Pray that additional volunteers will assist with the meeting of physical and spiritual needs.

MSC missionary Vance Viscusi of Oak Grove.

Vance serves as a minister to enlisted military and their families at Fort Campbell. He provides leadership for Bible studies, discipleship courses, father-and-son events and equips Christian soldiers to share their faith. Pray that God will give Vance wisdom as he develops an evangelistic strategy to reach single soldiers on the base. Pray also that God would open doors of opportunity for His message to infiltrate the military community.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AUBURN**—Liberty Church will celebrate its 180th anniversary Sept. 21, 11 a.m., with **David Walters** as guest speaker, and a joint afternoon worship service with its sister churches at 2:30 p.m., with **Ron Grace** as guest speaker. **Kenneth Chyle** is pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Poplar Grove Church recently called **Jimmy Perkins** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Locust Grove Church recently called **Robert Papajeski** as minister of children and youth. **John Hagan** is pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—Green Valley Church will hold revival services Sept. 21-25, 7 p.m., with **G.W. White** as evangelist. **Eugene McDonald** is pastor.

■ **FULTON**—Liberty Church recently called **Jim Keeling** as pastor.

■ **GOSHEN**—Liberty Church will hold homecoming activities Sept. 20, 1 p.m.. **Howard Bagley** is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Mount Gilead Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 21, 10 a.m. **James Walker** is pastor.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—First Church recently called **Andrew Fultz** as director of youth ministries.

■ **LaCENTER**—Oscar Church recently

Spotlight on ...

Bowling Green



Jackson Grove Church will celebrate its 124th anniversary with homecoming services Sept. 21, 11 a.m., featuring **Donnie Fox**, president of Clear Creek Bible College, and **Bill Whittaker**, pastor of Glasgow Church, as guest speakers. Special music will be provided by **The Joymakers**. **Chad Fultz** is pastor.

called **Terry Stills** as interim pastor.
 ■ **LaGRANGE**—Buckner Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 21 with a special worship service, fellowship meal and gospel music. **Lynn Traylor** is pastor.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Maple Grove Church recently called **Aaron Reynolds** as associate pastor of students. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Vaught, music professor at Southwestern Seminary, dies at age 63

Fort Worth, Texas (BP)—Lyndel Vaught, professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1993, died Sept. 10 of cancer. He was 63.

"In the last few days of his life he spent his time encouraging others in the assurance of salvation and the hope that lies ahead of all who put their faith in Jesus," said Stephen Johnson, dean of the school of church music at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary. "Dr. Vaught's heart for the future ministers that sat in his classroom was well known. His love for deep worship and active missionary involvement ... represented passions that occupied many of his conversations and much of his time."

During his sabbatical in the

2007-2008 academic year, Vaught had ministered to Native Americans in New Mexico.

Southwestern President Paige Patterson recalled, "Visiting him just a few days ago, I could not help being drawn to his Navajo jewelry, which he faithfully wore even in the hospital. It reminded me of his profound commitment not only to music and worship, but also to missions."

Vaught's wealth of knowledge came from a broad range of life experiences. While studying music at Oklahoma Baptist University, he met his wife, Janet. He went on to earn a master's degree in music from the University of Oklahoma in 1968.

After graduation, he enlisted to



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 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.

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.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Grapevine Church recently called **Greg Gaddis** as pastor.
 ■ **MANITOU**—Manitou Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 21 with **Roy Finley** as guest speaker. A potluck meal will follow the morning service. **Samuel Beeny** is pastor.
 ■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Scaffold Cane Church will hold homecoming services and Old Fashioned Day Sept.

21, 11 a.m., featuring **Josh Chas-teen** as guest speaker. **James Cobb** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Paul Bogard** recently resigned as pastor of Calvary Church.

Danny Cox recently resigned as pastor of Highview Church.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—**Von Smith** recently resigned as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church.

serve in the Navy during the Vietnam War, but never made it to battle. During basic training, his officers saw that he had a gift for quickly learning foreign languages, so he was sent to language school followed by the Navy Officer's Training School. He served in numerous roles across the country as an analyst and specialist, eventually working as a writer at the Pentagon.

Still, music remained his passion. He led worship for a small church while he was in the military. When his tour of duty was over, he pursued his doctorate in music at the University of Maryland. His first full-time position in music ministry was at First Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas, from 1976 until joining Southwestern's faculty.

He began leading a senior adult choir and became energized by its desire for the Lord. He even wrote a book, "Senior Adult Choir Ministry—Age Is No Excuse." While many people would think working with senior adults would be dull in comparison to his fast-paced life in Washington, Vaught once said if he were given another lifetime to work, he would spend the entire time in senior adult music ministry.

In recent years, Vaught combined his passions for worship, education and technology to teaching online worship courses for Southwestern's school of church music.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, Andrea, Christopher and William.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: "How Firm the Foundation: A history of Bates Creek Association of Baptists in Kentucky," compiled by Dr. Dennis L. Brewer, Harry Johnson and Glenn Roberts. Includes more than 225 pages of biographical sketches of associational leaders and early pastors, as well as churches that are now or have been part of the association, plus 30 pages of photos of individuals and churches. Available the first week of October. Pre-publication price: \$22.50. Regular price (after Oct. 17, 2008): \$27.50. Reserve your copy by calling (859) 986-4224.

RETREAT: Ski Youth Retreat Package. Timberline Four Seasons Resort, W.V. Starting at \$99/night (plus tax). Includes: lodging, meals, skis, lifts, lesson. Info: www.timberlinerestort.com; (800) 392-0152. West Virginia Wild & Wonderful.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Georgetown (Ky.) Baptist Church. For more details about the congregation and the position, visit www.georgetownbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Experienced minister of music to lead (either personally or through staff and volunteer leaders) all music ministries, including adult choir, senior adult choir, youth choir, orchestra and others. Send resumé or letter of interest to: Personnel Committee, Parkland Baptist Church, 7206 Shepherdsville Road, Louisville, KY 40219.

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

SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for rural Campbell County, Ky., church. Requires at least a college or Bible school degree with 10+ years experience and is at least 50 years of age. Please send resumé to the Pastor Search Committee, Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 11212 Lees Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

SEEKING: Piano player for Baptist church in Shepherdsville, Ky.; Thursday nights and Sunday mornings. Paid position—salary negotiable. Call (502) 802-9535.

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: 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: Part-time worship leader for Lakeside Baptist, Jefferson-town (Louisville area). Responsible for coordinating worship and overseeing the music ministry. Blended style of worship—looking to grow the ministry. Mail resumé to: Personnel Committee, Lakeside Baptist Church, 11412 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299; or e-mail to brian@lakesidebaptist.us.

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: Part-time music director for Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville, Ky. Send resumé to elrod@ephnet.com; or mail to POBC Music Search Committee, PO Box 1694, Russellville, KY 42276. For more information, call (270) 726-7804.

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 of fice at (270) 325-3820. Please send resumé to Buffalo Baptist Church, PO Box 40, Buffalo, KY 42716, Attn: Personnel Committee.



Bible class project sparks worldwide medical ministry

By Robert Dilday
Virginia Religious Herald

Falls Church, Va. (ABP)—An eye-opening visit by a Baptist Sunday school class to a Moscow hospital nearly 20 years ago sparked a project that today provides millions of dollars in medical supplies to almost 100 countries around the world.

In 1989, emboldened by the Soviet Union's new perestroika policies, a few members of Columbia Baptist Church in the Washington-area community of Falls Church, Va., traveled to Moscow to explore a mission partnership with the Soviet capital's Central Baptist Church.

While there, a tour of a nearby hospital—suffering from the country's economic tailspin—shocked them. Medical personnel removed gauze from a wound, washed it and reused it. Surgeons used common sewing thread instead of sutures. Medical supplies were limited and sometimes non-existent.

Over the next few years, the class worked with its church and community to collect medical supplies, eventually shipping 17 40-foot containers filled with supplies to Moscow. The first shipment was valued at \$131,532. Three years later, almost \$5 million in supplies had been sent.

In 1996, the Russian relief program ended when it became too difficult to ship containers to Moscow. But by that time, Columbia's volunteers had developed effective systems to acquire and ship donated funds and supplies around the world—and they were determined to continue the project. In November of that year, CrossLink International was incorporated as a nonprofit humanitarian aid ministry.

Since then, CrossLink has provided millions of dollars in medical supplies to thousands of missionaries, mission teams and clinics both abroad and in the United States—most recently in the Katrina-ravaged Gulf Coast region.

The supplies include:

- Pharmaceutical drugs and over-the-counter medications ranging from antibiotics to aspirin.
- Medical supplies such as tongue depressors, gauze bandages and tape.
- Diagnostic and surgical supplies and equipment ranging from blood-pressure cuffs and stethoscopes to scalpels and suturing materials.
- Ready-to-wear eyeglasses.
- Hospital equipment, including beds, wheelchairs and examination tables.

CrossLink acquires large volumes

of excess equipment donated by hospitals, physicians and the public, based on requests from mission teams.

The number of projects fluctuates from year to year, CrossLink Executive Director Dan Henneberg pointed out. This year, CrossLink will be involved in about 350 projects in 90 countries, distributing close to \$3.7 million in medical supplies. Donations from medical supply companies continue to play a big role in CrossLink's ministry. But donations from pharmaceutical companies have diminished, Henneberg noted.

"We're always looking for churches or other groups to help us with over-the-counter medicines, such as aspirin," he said. "For prescription drugs, we're buying them at wholesale prices. We have developed relationships with vendors who give us good prices."

That is possible in part because CrossLink is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Board of Pharmacy as a warehouse/distributor of medicines.

"We can negotiate some good prices, but we still have to have churches and other groups come up with the money," Henneberg noted.

Three years ago, CrossLink, housed in a building two blocks from Columbia Baptist Church, opened its first satellite office in Memphis, Tenn. "Strategically, Memphis is a great location," Henneberg said. "It's on the Mississippi River, it's the headquarters of FedEx and it has four or five faith-based hospitals."

First Baptist Church of Memphis partners with CrossLink to provide office and warehouse space.

While an independent board of directors oversees CrossLink, the ministry retains close ties to Columbia Baptist.

"It's a great ongoing relationship," Henneberg acknowledged. "We partner with them in many ways and have lots of volunteers from the church who work on and with our staff."

In the future, Henneberg said he hopes to see CrossLink provide more sustained support for the on-site clinics around the world that partner with medical mission teams.

"Mission teams go over to those clinics and do fabulous work," he said. "But a month or two later, some of the clinics run low on supplies. We'd like to see how we can give ongoing support to those clinics, maybe providing a box or container every month or so."

Healing the sick

Chaplains, charity care distinguish faith-based hospitals

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Dallas (ABP)—What distinguishes religiously affiliated hospitals from their secular counterparts? Chaplains and charity care top the list, administrators of faith-based, nonprofit health care institutions agreed.

"Every morning at 5 a.m., a chaplain goes into our surgical unit, where he has the opportunity to encourage patients who are facing surgery and offer them the opportunity for prayer. You don't find that in every hospital in America," noted Glenn Robinson, president of Hillcrest Health System in Waco, Texas, a Baptist institution.

Hospitals that are not religiously affiliated may have a chaplain on staff or on call. But at a faith-based institution, he explained, pastoral-ministry staffers are viewed as an integral part of the healing team, helping to meet spiritual and emotional needs while physicians respond to medical concerns.

Hospitals with denominational ties also offer a different level of clinical pastoral education through their chaplaincy programs, Robinson noted. Hillcrest works closely with Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary and other divinity schools to offer pastoral ministry experience and training.

"For many Baptist hospitals in particular, the chaplains' office and CPE (clinical pastoral education) program are not just there to provide pastoral care, but also to provide education for pastoral-care providers," according to Mike Williams, chief executive officer of Community Hospital Corporation.

Churches benefit from that service—a fact not lost on denominational organizations. But skyrocketing health care costs have caused some Baptist state conventions, such as the Baptist General Convention of Texas, to direct assistance from medical expenses—including charity care—to pastoral care.

While the ability of denominations to provide direct financial support for charity care in affiliated hospitals has lessened, the health care systems have maintained a commitment to providing medical attention for poor people in their communities.

More than any other single factor, that commitment sets faith-based nonprofit hospitals apart from secular health care providers, Williams insisted.

"The biggest issue is the mission of faith-based hospitals to provide health care to all people, regardless of their ability to pay for it," he said. "Not-for-profits are the safety net hospitals in our country—the institutions that provide the vast amount of uncompensated care for the uninsured or underinsured."

That sense of mission—to make sure all people had access to medical care—prompted Baptists in the United States to enter the institutional health-care arena in the mid-1880s. That was when William Mayfield, a physician, called on Third Baptist Church of St. Louis to help him launch the Missouri Baptist Sanitarium and later the Mayfield Sanitarium. Ultimately, the fledgling entry into health care grew to become Missouri Baptist Medical Center.

In 1903, George W. Truett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, joined R.C. Buckner, who had pioneered a small-scale hospital in an annex of the Buckner Orphans Home in Dallas, and wealthy Dallas layman C.C. Slaughter in giving birth to the Texas Baptist Memorial Sanitarium in Dallas—predecessor of what is now the Baylor Health Care System.

More than 60 percent of the hospitals in the United States are nonprofits. Many were founded by religious groups or denominations, but a significant number have loosened or severed those religious ties. And in the process, some—but not all—have lessened their commitment to

providing charitable care.

As ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) has led the charge to make sure hospitals that enjoy the tax benefits of nonprofit status provide significant charity care for their communities.

An Internal Revenue Service report released in July 2007 showed nearly one-fourth of the nation's nonprofit hospitals spend less than 1 percent of revenue on charity care, and nearly half spend 3 percent or less. The study showed one nonprofit hospital in five spent 10 percent or more of revenue on care for the uninsured poor.

In contrast, some Baptist hospitals that have maintained strong denominational ties report devoting anywhere from one-fifth to one-fourth of total revenue to uncompensated care for poor patients—assuming that all parties involved define terms the same way.

"About 25 percent of our total business falls into the category" of unreimbursed care, Robinson said regarding Hillcrest Health System, whose institutions are located in Central Texas. "That amounts to \$70 million every year in uncompensated care to our community."

Of that total, \$20 million clearly falls into the category of charity care in the strictest sense, according to Richard Perkins, executive vice president and chief financial officer at Hillcrest. More than \$50 million of the uncompensated care results from bad debt.

"As you know, most of the bad debt is generated by persons who don't qualify for charity—or don't provide the information to confirm that they do—but don't have the ability to pay either the entire bill or the portion that is their responsibility, even if they have insurance," Perkins said.

"This problem is growing annually, as many employers are either dropping coverage, raising the employee premiums to unaffordable levels or increasing the co-pays and deductibles to amounts which most people are not able to pay."

Faith-based nonprofit hospitals, almost by definition, serve their communities better than for-profit hospitals, Williams insisted. While the quality of care in for-profits may be high and some for-profit hospitals operate out of a sense of mission, their bottom line remains the bottom line, he added.

"If they are an investor-owned operation, they have to return a dollar benefit to their shareholders," he said.

Still, charity care and chaplaincy programs are not the exclusive domain of denominationally related nonprofits. When Vanguard Health Systems—a for-profit health care corporation—acquired Baptist Health System in San Antonio several years ago, officials pledged to continue the hospital's historic faith-based mission.

Vanguard hired George Gaston, who served 25 years as pastor of Texas Baptist churches, as regional vice president of ministry for Baptist Health Systems. Under his leadership, the healthcare system's pastoral care team maintains 11 full-time chaplains and five part-timers who handle on-call work during the weekends. Two clinical pastoral education supervisors work with six residents and a dozen interns. Baptist Health Systems reported providing \$17.8 million in charity care during the 2006-2007 fiscal year and more than \$19.6 million in 2007-2008.

Just because a hospital system pays taxes does not mean it cannot operate by Christian values, Gaston maintained.

"People think that when you sell a nonprofit, that you give up the ability to render Christian care. We have not done that at all," he said. "We have strengthened and built upon what was done before us. We've got a wonderful ministry here."

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Stay straight onto 1491 North.
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College will be approximately .6 miles on the left.



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