



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Family dinners help keep children away from alcohol, drugs

**New York (BP)**—A five-year study from Columbia University has found that children who have frequent family dinners are less likely to use marijuana or tobacco, or to drink alcohol.

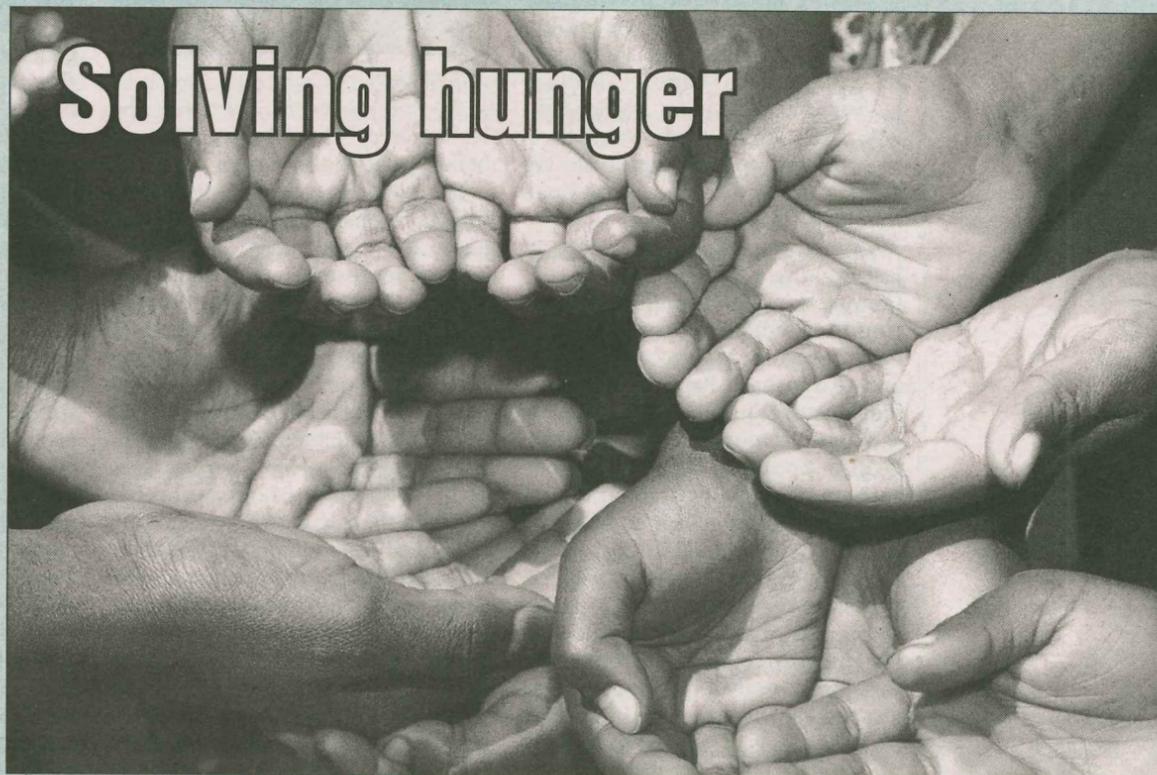
The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse said last month that compared to children who have five or more family dinners per week, children who have less than three family dinners per week are two-and-a-half times more likely to have used marijuana and tobacco, and one-and-a-half times more likely to have consumed alcohol.

"If you asked me based on CASA's 16 years of intensive examination of substance abuse and addiction in our nation what's the most effective thing we can do to curb this scourge and protect our children, I would say parental engagement," CASA Chairman Joseph Califano said.

"Years of surveying teens have consistently shown that the more often they have dinner with their parents, the less likely they are to smoke, drink and use drugs," Califano added.

CASA's advice to parents includes: Spend time with your children by having dinner with them; talk to them about their friends, interests and the dangers of drugs and alcohol; answer their questions and listen to what they say; and recognize that parents have the power to help keep their kids substance free.

"Family dinners do make a difference," Califano said. "America's drug problem is not going to be solved in courtrooms or legislative hearing rooms by judges and politicians. It will be solved in the living rooms and dining rooms and across kitchen tables by parents and families."



## Hunger needs in the U.S. stretch domestic ministries' resources

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

**Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)**—With unemployment and consumer food prices rising, gasoline costs at near-record levels and the possibility of more job layoffs looming on the horizon, business is sadly booming for the 1,500 domestic hunger ministries that receive support from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

While 80 percent of the World Hunger Fund is earmarked for the International Mission Board to fight world hunger, the remaining 20 percent is dedicated to feed the hungry of North America and is administered by the North American Mission Board.

Some 3.5 million meals were served to North America's hungry

in 2007 and as a result 35,000 professions of faith were recorded. Because of careful management and low overhead, the cost of a meal at an SBC hunger ministry averages about 40 cents, according to Sandy Wood, hunger ministry specialist with NAMB's servant and ministry evangelism team.

More than 67,000 volunteers assisted at hunger ministry sites throughout the United States in 2007, Wood said. Some 7,200 new hunger ministry volunteers were trained in evangelism during the year as well. The gospel was shared with more than 580,000 visitors to SBC hunger ministries.

For missionaries like Angelia Bostick in Brownwood, Texas, and Steve Faith in New Albany, Ind.—both longtime veterans of feeding

ministries—the workdays are long, hard and extremely tiring.

For 15 years, Bostick has headed up the Heart of Texas Good Samaritan Ministry in rural Brown County, located three hours south of Dallas. One-third of the county's 40,000 residents live in poverty.

Bostick, 51, is a NAMB missionary. Most of her financial support for the food ministry comes from domestic World Hunger Funds via area Southern Baptist churches and the local Brown Baptist Association. But the Brownwood food pantry and warehouse also is an inter-denominational effort that involves about 200 Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Nazarene and Assembly of God volunteers.

"Southern Baptists started the  
□ See Domestic hunger ... Page 7

## Hunger fund is necessary channel for sharing food and the gospel

By Andrea Frankenfeld  
Baptist Press

**Nashville (BP)**—It would not surprise most to hear that hunger remains a problem around the world, but in America?

Nearly 7 percent of households in the United States are at risk for hunger, according to various analysts. In a 2006 report on "household food security," the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that these families have lower quality diets—by necessity, not choice—or must resort to emergency food sources because they are unable to afford the food they need.

The same report indicated 4 percent of U.S. households experience hunger, with members of the family frequently skipping meals or eating too little. A significant number of children are in both groups.

In response to this need, more

than \$1.2 million was given through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to underwrite 2,200 hunger ministries overseen by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board in 2007. Yet, needs remain.

Oct. 12 is World Hunger Sunday throughout the SBC. So, why support the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund? "Only the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund uses 100 percent of all contributions to feed hungry people," according to the fund's Web site. This promise is made because other income lines support the mission personnel on the field, while other budget lines cover administrative and promotional costs of the fund itself.

The goal of the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund goes beyond feeding hungry people, in not only caring for individuals' physical

needs but also looking to "build relationships" and "make disciples for Christ," the Web site stated. When food aid is given in emergency situations, the ultimate practical goal is "to create independence from rather than dependence on food aid."

Contributions to the World Hunger Fund, unless otherwise designated, are split 80/20, with 80 percent directed to hunger relief work by International Mission Board missionaries and 20 percent for work by NAMB. Every dollar that is received at the national level for the fund is used to help those in need, said Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, adding, "Not a penny is skimmed off the top to cover administrative or other costs."

Due to rising unemployment, high costs of energy and food, and the aftermath of several hurricanes,

needs are great along the U.S. Gulf Coast and elsewhere around the country. Last year, the gospel was shared with more than 560,000 people in North America through SBC hunger ministries.

Land emphasized that while the Southern Baptist calendar has one day designated as World Hunger Sunday, people are hungry every day of the year. "God's Word clearly expresses His compassion for the poor and hurting," he said. "When we neglect this scriptural responsibility to care for those in need, we are being disobedient."

Since the World Hunger Fund's inception in 1974, \$230,877,650 has been given and targeted for people in need. Land said that while much has been given, the needs are greater still, noting any idea there is a separation between a "social gospel" and a "spiritual gospel" is a false idea.

## Hunt calls for 'Great Commission resurgence'

Nashville (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt called for a "Great Commission resurgence," a renewed zeal for proclaiming the gospel similar to the fervor that went into the fight for biblical orthodoxy in recent decades.

During his first presidential address to the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville Sept. 22, Hunt quoted Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Daniel Akin who said, "When there was a theological drift, we corrected it. We must now correct our Great Commission drift."

"When you win less people to Jesus, you're drifting from the Great Commission," Hunt indicated, referring to the mandate Jesus gave His disciples at the end of Matthew 28 and to Southern Baptists' less than ideal baptism numbers.

Hunt also quoted Chuck Lawless, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, who said, "We have stood faithfully for a message that we have chosen to keep to ourselves."

As pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., for 22 years, Hunt said he has learned that whatever is important to the leader is important to the people. As the new SBC president, he has set his sights on motivating the multitude to take as many people to heaven with them as possible.

"The Lord has greatly blessed Southern Baptists and our commitment to Him and to His Word and to His mission through the years,"



Johnny Hunt

Hunt noted. "However, we'd love to believe that the best is yet to come. ... If not, we have so far missed the major emphasis of what we're all about."

In order to generate a Great Commission resurgence, Hunt urged Southern Baptists to have a greater confidence in their message.

"Thank God for the gospel and what the gospel has done in our lives. I am indebted to Jesus and to the gospel," he said.

In addition to a greater confidence in the message, Southern Baptists need a greater clarity in their mission if they are to experience a Great Commission resurgence, Hunt explained. He noted that Southern Baptists have about 5,500 missionaries serving overseas through the International Mission Board, but they only account for one missionary for every 1.6 million people in the world. Southern Baptists need to realize that if they are saved, they are individual missionaries, and most of them live in the third largest lost nation on earth, Hunt insisted.

Southern Baptists also need greater camaraderie in their Baptist

family, he acknowledged. Former SBC president, Adrian Rogers, called for unity in diversity in the midst of the conservative shift years ago, and Hunt said it is time to sound the call again, this time to include those of a younger generation who may not dress, think or worship like those who make up the SBC's majority.

"Some would say the younger generation is our problem. I'll say this: If they're our problem, we don't have a future. I say they're our future," Hunt declared.

While embracing the younger generation, Southern Baptists also must unify with those who hold different theological stances on secondary issues that have tended to cause heated discussions within the Baptist family in recent years.

"The real enemy is Satan, the world and the flesh," Hunt emphasized. "What we need to do is get back on the battlefield and engage once again our real opponent and adversary. Dr. Rogers was right. We need to be shoulder to shoulder back on the battlefield with the sword of the Spirit and the incomparable gospel of Jesus Christ.

"I'm ready to say let's rally together for the express purpose of the Great Commission. Let's all get under that banner. Let's let every entity speak into it and say, 'Here's what we're going to do to bring more people to faith in Jesus Christ,'" Hunt added. "There is a bottom line, and the bottom line is when you draw your last breath, we believers only have one question to ask around the coffin or at the cemetery: Did he know Jesus?"

## Bobby Welch urges connection with Korean evangelical leaders

Seoul, South Korea (BP)—"Everything is in place to fulfill the Great Commission in our lifetime," Bobby Welch declared.

"But it cannot happen without a great connection," he told Korean evangelical leaders and personnel with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board during a visit to South Korea last month. Welch also met with Southern Baptist military chaplains and other U.S. military leaders to offer encouragement and support.

This "great connection," he said, involves building relationships around the world with evangelical Christian leaders for the sake of the gospel.

While Welch may be best known for developing the F.A.I.T.H. evangelistic materials and as a former SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., he visited South Korea in his role as strategist for global evangelical relations with the SBC's Executive Committee.

In the first four days of his visit, Welch met with IMB personnel and Korean Baptist leaders in three cities. He also preached at First Glory Presbyterian Church in Seoul. According to First Glory's senior pastor, Jun Wha Kim, Welch was the first Baptist ever to preach at the church.

Billy Kim, president of the Far East Broadcasting Company and for-

mer president of the Baptist World Alliance, also organized a prayer breakfast during Welch's visit. Invited guests included representatives from the IMB, the Korea Baptist Convention, Korean Baptist churches and the BWA. During the meeting, discussion turned to the SBC's 2004 decision to withdraw from the BWA.

While BWA leaders voiced their desire for the SBC to return, Welch outlined plans to seek broader global relationships.

Welch noted that Southern Baptists are not seeking to form another institution, nor will they make global friends choose between the SBC and the BWA. Instead, Welch emphasized that Southern Baptists love and appreciate Great Commission Christians worldwide who are committed to connecting for the sake of the gospel.

Overall, Korean leaders responded positively to Welch's visit. Daniel Lee, pastor of Global Mission Church, a large Baptist congregation in Bundang, said he was encouraged.

"I appreciate the vision, and I think it is great progress to go beyond Baptists as we discuss fulfilling the Great Commission at a global level," Lee noted.

Choon Sik Choe, president of the Korean Home Mission Board, also expressed optimism about connecting in a broader way. Both Lee and Choe agreed to explore future opportunities to connect with the SBC.

## Longtime NOBTS president Leavell dies at age 81

Wichita Falls, Texas (ABP)—Landrum Leavell, who led New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for nearly three decades, died after an extended illness Sept. 26. He was 81.



Landrum Leavell

Leavell was elected the seminary's president in January 1975, and helmed the institution through some of the most turbulent years in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Although he retired from the post in 1994, Leavell remained as interim president for a year until Chuck Kelley, the current president, succeeded him.

"By any standard of measurement, Dr. Leavell is one of the greatest presidents that this seminary ever had," Kelley said.

Leavell led New Orleans Seminary through the entirety of the fundamentalist-moderate conflict that fractured the SBC during the 1980s. However, unlike his colleagues at the other five Southern Baptist theological schools, Leavell managed to avoid significant scrutiny and controversy on his campus. That may have been, Kelly told the New Orleans Times-Picayune, because many in the conservative camp recognized Leavell as a theological ally—if not necessarily a political one.

He "kept the institution focused on its mission, which was turning out the next generation of pastors and ministers," Kelley said. "There was no talk of the conflict in chapel (services), no public reference to it anywhere. He never asked what side anybody was on."

Leavell was ordained to the ministry in 1948 and was a graduate of Mercer University in Atlanta and New Orleans Seminary. Prior to accepting the NOBTS presidency, he spent 27 years as a pastor of churches in Mississippi and Texas.

Leavell is credited with several innovations and improvements during his tenure at New Orleans. He led the school to establish a network of extension centers, established the first center for evangelism and church growth, and re-established an undergraduate program, which the seminary renamed Leavell College in 2003.

He also was active in denominational life, including a stint as the SBC's first vice president in 1968 and as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1971 to 1973.

Funeral services were held Sept. 30 at First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, where he served as pastor before taking the seminary's reins. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann, four children and 10 grandchildren.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Allen tapped as ABP senior writer.** Veteran Baptist journalist Bob Allen returned to Associated Baptist Press Oct. 1 to fill a newly created senior writer position. It is Allen's second stint with the news agency, which he once served as news editor. Since 2003, Allen has been managing editor of EthicsDaily.com, the news-and-opinion outlet of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics. The new position was created by the agency's board of directors in a staff reorganization necessitated, in part, when longtime ABP Executive Editor Greg Warner announced he was stepping down. Warner took sick leave following back surgery Aug. 28, with the expectation that the leave would transition into permanent disability.

**Baptist archives reunited at Mercer Univ.** The American Baptist Historical Society dedicated the Samuel Colgate Historical Library and Archives on Mercer University's Atlanta campus last month, bringing its vast collections previously housed at Valley Forge, Pa., and Rochester, N.Y., under one roof. The space also represents something of a reunion for Baptists—who divided over slavery in 1845 and have never reunited. The building also is the new home for the Baptist History and Heritage Society, which was the successor to the former Southern Baptist Historical Commission. The archives hold tens of thousands of artifacts of Baptist history, some from as early as the 1500s.

**Baptist relief surpasses 3.7 million meals.** Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers have prepared more than 3.7 million hot meals for victims and trained volunteers in the month-long aftermath of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in Louisiana and Texas. Another 100,000 meals were prepared in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Some 30,000-40,000 meals are now being cooked daily at SBC feeding units based near Scholes Field on Galveston Island. The units are staffed by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Texas Baptist Men, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and Illinois Baptist State Association. Three other mega-kitchens still are preparing and distributing food at a ball park in League City, at Houston's First Baptist Church and at a former K-Mart parking lot in Baytown.

## Steve Rice resigns KBC post to lead Shelbyville church

Louisville—Steve Rice, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's discipleship and assimilation director since 2006, has announced his resignation to accept the pastorate at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville. He will remain in his current role through the end of this month.



Steve Rice

A pastor for 18 years prior to joining the KBC Mission Board staff, Rice has led Williamstown Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of Belfry; and Island Creek Mission, a ministry of First Baptist Church of Pikeville. He is a graduate of Morehead State University; Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga.; and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Alan Witham, KBC's church development team leader, noted Rice's direction in the areas of discipleship and assimilation. Witham highlighted the spiritual maturity study that Rice spearheaded in conjunction with LifeWay Research. The results were released at last year's KBC annual meeting.

"He's led the effort to try and identify areas of need out of that research," Witham said of Rice.

In addition to his work to strengthen discipleship, Rice also has been instrumental in leading efforts to improve assimilation in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Rice, along with KBC Sunday school department director Darryl Wilson, initiated the first Assimilation Tour in churches across the state last spring. Nearly 400 pastors and church leaders participated in nine training events.

"We will certainly miss his ministry," Witham noted.

Rice said he feels he has been successful in helping Kentucky Baptist pastors get a better handle on what it takes to build disciples in their congregations.

"One of the things I've tried to help churches focus on ... is to develop an overall, holistic view of discipleship, and to build a strategy to accomplish that in the church," he noted. "Discipleship is more than just ... classes we offer; it should be infused in everything we do."

Rice said he intends to take his passion for assimilation and discipleship with him as he returns to the pulpit, and to help First Baptist, Shelbyville, become even more effective at reaching its community.

"It's been a strong church in the community and in the convention," he noted.

Rice and his wife, Laura, have three children, Matthew, Lauren and Andrew.

## KBC annual meeting scheduled for Nov. 11

### Megachurch pastor David Platt to speak at evening session

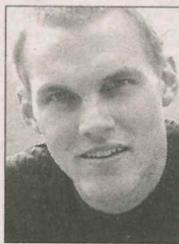
Lexington—Kentucky Baptists will focus on the urgent need to share the good news of God's love during the 171st Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

The annual meeting will include an address by 30-year-old megachurch leader David Platt, senior pastor at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., during the final session on Tuesday night, as well as the election of new convention officers and an address by KBC President Bill Henard.

Messengers to the meeting will vote on a new Cooperative Program budget goal for 2009-10 and consider a formal definition of what constitutes a gift to the missions funding program for the convention. The annual Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award also will be presented.

More than 1,500 messengers from churches across the state are expected to meet for convention business, fellowship and inspiration. The theme for the annual meeting will be "Kentucky Baptists Connect: Sharing Christ with Urgency," continuing the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis which began at the 2004 annual meeting.

Kentucky Baptists Connect is a five-year initiative focused on renewing commitments to evangelism, missions, leadership training, church growth, networking and relationships with Baptist agencies and institutions. This year's convention will place an emphasis on en-



David Platt



Bill Henard

couraging churches to make a strong push toward achieving the goals of the initiative.

Three convention sessions are planned—Tuesday morning, 8:20 a.m.-noon; Tuesday afternoon, 1:25-4:45 p.m.; and Tuesday evening, 6:50-8:35 p.m. Convention messengers voted last year to forgo routinely holding a Wednesday morning session and no such session is scheduled this year.

The Tuesday morning session will feature an address by Henard, who was elected Southern Baptist Convention first vice president at the SBC annual meeting in June.

The highlight of Tuesday's afternoon session will include the election of a new KBC president. John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, is currently the only announced candidate for the post.

The election of other convention officers—first vice president, second vice president, secretary and assistant secretary—also will be held during the afternoon session. Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, is the only announced candidate for first vice president. Nominees for the other positions have yet to be named.

Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, will bring the convention's annual sermon Tuesday afternoon.

Smith, an assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, served as first vice president of the convention in 2006-07.

Platt's message will highlight the annual meeting's final session on Tuesday evening. The senior pastor at the 3,500-member Church at Brook Hills since 2006, Platt has traveled at length, both nationally and internationally, to teach the Bible in churches, seminaries, underground churches and even under shade trees in Africa and Latin America.

A self-proclaimed lifelong learner, Platt has earned two undergraduate degrees from the University of Georgia, and holds a Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He previously served at New Orleans Seminary as dean of chapel and assistant professor of expository preaching and apologetics, and as staff evangelist at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans.

"I believe that God has uniquely created every one of His people to impact the world," Platt said. "Some may count it as idealistic, but I believe it is thoroughly biblical, rooted in Psalm 67:1-2, yet covering Scripture from beginning to end. God is in the business of blessing His people so that His ways and His salvation might be made known among all people."

The annual KBC Pastor's Conference will be held Nov. 10. Featured speakers include Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and James Merritt, pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga.

For more information about this year's KBC annual meeting, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/AnnualMeeting](http://www.KyBaptist.org/AnnualMeeting).

## Ky. Christian magician to be featured on ESPN2

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—Pop quiz: David Garrard is: A) a Christian magician who has been performing for more than 40 years; B) an NFL quarterback who is in his seventh season with the Jacksonville Jaguars; or C) all of the above.

The answer is C. Of course, the two Garrards also happen to be two completely different people.

The magician David Garrard also is part-time children's minister at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. But he is probably best known for his magic act which he has performed all over the United States and abroad. "Using tricks to share the truth," is how he described his ministry.

So, what do these two men have in common besides a name?

That is the question NFL Films Producer Chip Swain asked when he contacted magician Garrard back in March. Swain told Garrard that he was collecting information for a profile piece about the Jaguars quarterback to be aired on ESPN2, and each time he did a Google search on the name "David Garrard," the magician's Web site would show up. Garrard said Swain offered him an opportunity to be a part of the TV segment and he accepted.

As Swain continued his research for the piece, he found something else the two men shared—a strong faith in Jesus Christ.

Two weeks later, Garrard was scheduled to perform at an Upward awards program at East Pointe Church in Jacksonville, Fla. Prior to his act, he met with Swain and quarterback Garrard for a dual interview segment. The magician said it was exciting to meet his namesake whom he had followed since his days playing college football at East Carolina University.

"He was just a real friendly, genuine kind of guy," Garrard recalled. "I'm a little bit taller than he is, but he's a whole lot bigger than I am."

Magician Garrard was surprised to learn that the NFL quarterback also knew of him prior to their meeting. "He would go to the Internet to search himself after a game ... and I would come up," Garrard said. "He was interested in what I was doing."

Following the interview, magician Garrard and an NFL Films camera crew hurried to the church to start his act. Close behind was quarterback Garrard, who agreed to serve as the magician's assistant for his straitjacket escape.

"I ... introduced him, and of course the place just went crazy," Garrard recalled.



On a tight time schedule, the quarterback had to leave immediately following the trick, but magician Garrard said he was pleased to get to know a little more about the man whose name he shares.

"When that is your name, you're grateful the guy's not a thug," Garrard explained. "It just kind of reminds us that we carry the name of Christ, and how do we represent Him? Because a lot of times that's how people will know Him is through knowing us."

The NFL Films program is scheduled to air on ESPN2 Oct. 14 at 1:30 a.m., and Oct. 15 at 2 p.m.

### DYNAMIC DUO

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard (right) helps magician David Garrard (center) with his straitjacket escape act during an Upward awards program at East Pointe Church in Jacksonville, Fla., while an NFL Films camera man captures the whole scene. (Photo courtesy of David Garrard)

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Hurricane relief showcases cooperation

By Keith Collier

Fort Worth, Texas (BP)—Little did I know when I traveled to southeast Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike that I would learn more about pastoral ministry, the resilience of God's people and the power of the Cooperative Program than I have learned in 11 years of ministry.

As seen in individual churches, local Baptist associations, state conventions and on the national level, Southern Baptists proved their devotion to Christ and one another during difficult times.

My father, Bill Collier, is pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, a small congregation in Bridge City, Texas, near the Louisiana border. The storm surge from Ike submerged his house with six feet of water and his church with three feet of water, leaving layers of mud and marsh grass everywhere.

My wife and I drove down from Fort Worth, where I attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, to help my parents remove their appliances, furniture and carpet and stack them on the curb for debris removal units to pick up.

Nearly every house in Bridge City and the surrounding area experienced similar flooding and devastation, so I was stunned when my father said his church was having Sun-

day morning worship only a week after the hurricane. Their sanctuary was destroyed, but their hope in the Savior was not. More than 40 church members exchanged their rubber boots and work gloves for lawn chairs and Bibles on Sunday morning and reunited on the church parking lot for worship.

During the weekend, I also had the privilege of riding along with Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, as he toured the area and encouraged churches that were affected by the flooding. He reminded each church that they were not going to be left alone and that Southern Baptists would be supporting them in the recovery process.

Our first stop was First Baptist Church of Vidor, Texas, the disaster relief command post for Golden Triangle Baptist Association. Southern Baptist volunteers from across the country had arrived and were preparing meals, sending out chain-saw crews and providing chaplaincy ministry in the community. Selflessly serving the water-soaked area, these yellow-clad volunteers offered hope in a time of confusion.

Later we visited Cove Baptist Church in Orange, Texas, another church damaged by the widespread flooding in the region. Currently

## FIRST PERSON

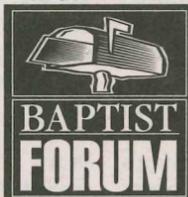
## Name change?

LifeWay's recent survey of Southern Baptist pastors indicated a strong disagreement that the word "Southern" in the Southern Baptist Convention is a hindrance to the work of SBC churches. I wonder how many of the 778 pastors surveyed were located north of the Mason-Dixon Line or west of the Mississippi River.

As a church planter in Northern Indiana in the early 1980s, I took a very informal survey among pastors of other denominations in the local

ministerial association as to what they thought of when they heard the name "Southern Baptist." The prevailing answer was "red-necked, snake-handling Pentecostals." I befriended the local police chief and invited him to our church revival services. His answer: "I'll come because I enjoy the singing, but when the snakes come out, I'm leaving."

I would like to challenge LifeWay to conduct a survey of pastors outside of the Bible Belt and ask them if having "Southern" in the name is a hindrance. I say that "Baptist"



## Traveling across Kentucky

It is a privilege to travel across the state and meet so many Kentucky Baptists. We are very diverse in many ways, but committed to the Word of God and cooperation in missions and evangelism.

My wife, Kay, and I traveled to the eastern and western parts of the commonwealth on six occasions in September. I spoke at seven churches and associational meetings, as well as at a missionary retreat. I also attended the Kentucky Baptist Foundation meeting at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

One of the associational meetings we attended was the 50th anniversary of Pike Baptist Association at First Baptist Church of Pikeville. Former directors of missions Robert Jones and Carl Boyd shared how God had blessed over the years. The music, food, messages and reports were outstanding.

It also was a special privilege to speak during the homecoming celebration at Premium Baptist Church

in Letcher County. From its beginning as a Sunday school mission with about 20 boys and girls, the church has grown to about 350 resident members. David Banks was used by God in the development of the church and Doc Frasier has continued that growth.

About 65 missionaries were present for the missionary retreat at Mammoth Cave Hotel. Geoff Hammond, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, and Bill Henard, dually serving as Kentucky Baptist Convention president and Southern Baptist Convention first vice president, were speakers along with myself. We are grateful to Eric Allen, KBC's mission service and ministries department director, for his leadership in support of KBC missionaries, which include 149 Mission Service Corps missionaries.

It also was a privilege to be present for homecoming at South First Street Baptist Church in Mayfield.

without a pastor, the congregation banded together to clean out their family life center so they could worship together. Hearing their stories of resilient faith despite the circumstances was heartwarming.

As I drove home from the weekend, I realized how proud I am to be a Southern Baptist. In a time of chaos, Southern Baptists in the area turned to their church families for support while Southern Baptists across Texas and from all over the United States responded with disaster relief. I cannot imagine what it is like for non-SBC churches with minimal or no denominational support as they seek to recover from such a devastating blow.

Meaningful cooperation defines Southern Baptists. Evidence of its power can be seen in the selfless service of local, state and national disaster relief volunteers; in the emotional embrace of church members; and in the long-term commitment to recovery through financial gifts and volunteer teams.

The Cooperative Program may well be the most powerful collective effort for missions and ministry in the world today. My prayer is that the gospel would continue to be proclaimed as we partner with one another to reach our neighbors and the nations.

Keith Collier is director of news and information for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas

should be an integral part of the name of the church; I'm not sure that "Southern" is necessary. In fact, the SBC is a global denomination, not localized in the South.

Think about these names: Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Annuity Board, Radio & Television Commission. What do these entities have in common? They changed their names to better reflect their missions. Maybe it's time to change the name of the Southern Baptist Convention.

J. Stuart Cundiff  
Frankfort

Pastor David Key and the church had a Saturday night dinner followed by a service of music. God moved in a wonderful way with several people coming to the altar.

I also enjoyed speaking at Pilot Oak Baptist Church in Water Valley in Graves County Association. Pastor Jimmy Brown has launched a "Comeback Church" emphasis there. A young boy asked to share before he was baptized. He thanked the church for loving him and helping him to come to Jesus Christ.

In addition, it was a very special privilege to be present for the 120th annual meeting of Ohio Valley Baptist Association at First Baptist Church of Uniontown. The program featured Bill Smithwick from Sunrise Children's Services along with Jerrell White who spoke about Job Corps ministries. We also enjoyed inspirational music, great food and fellowship, and the doctrinal and annual sermons.

I praise God for the common commitment to God's Word and the cooperation in missions and evangelism among KBC churches.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

## How has the recent downturn affected your investments?

By Don Spencer

Are your retirement funds invested in stocks? Do you have money in a stock mutual fund? Do you own stock in a company?

If you answered yes to any of these,

you've probably been concerned about recent losses. Market declines are no fun, but are a natural part of investing. Your reaction to declines plays a crucial role in your long-term investment success. History teaches that an investor who is frightened into making big investment approach changes will usually end up with mediocre results.

Three important things you should remember about market declines are:

■ No one can consistently predict when market declines or increases will happen.

■ Most market declines are relatively brief, and—for a long-term investor—relatively painless. Yes, this market downturn is deeper and longer than most. However, history shows long-term stock investors still come out ahead.

■ Successful market timing in a decline is extremely difficult. It requires two near perfect actions—getting out and back in at the right time. Few people are successful in doing one of these consistently; even fewer can do both.

A common mistake investors make is to lose patience and get out of stocks near the bottom of a downturn. Many people will see their recent losses and decide to get out. Generally those same people will sit on the sidelines as stocks go back up, only to move back into stocks as they approach their highs. Psychologically, they feel good since they got out of the market when the news was bad and back in when the news was good. Their financial results often suffer because both moves were at the wrong times.

Most people have heard that two things drive the market—fear and greed. Taking that concept a step further, individuals must realize their personal decisions about investing are often driven by their own fear and greed. We don't like to describe ourselves as being fearful or greedy, but we must apply those terms to our personal experience. Know why you are investing. Investing in stocks should be based on long-term goals. Don't change your long-term investment strategy based on shorter-term market events.

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



## Kids can learn to keep proper perspective on material things

**Q: How can I teach my children to have the right attitude toward possessions?**

We live in a country that is very materialistic. Here are five attitudes that, when learned and practiced, will help our children have a right attitude toward their material possessions:

### PARENTING

■ Remember that everything you have and receive is a gift from God. He makes it possible for us to have what we have. We need to be thankful for our things and we need to use them wisely. Instead of wearing ourselves out trying to get more stuff, we should depend on God to provide for our needs.

■ Share and give. Because we have plenty, we can share with others instead of being selfish and keeping everything for ourselves. We can give to people who aren't as fortunate. John the Baptist told people to show their love for God by sharing clothes and food (Luke 3:11).

■ Learn to enjoy without owning. Many things in life can be shared and enjoyed without having to be owned as personal possessions. Books, music, swimming pools, parks, beaches and tools are just a few examples.

■ Learn to wait when you want. Disciplining ourselves to wait when we want something can teach us self-control and help us learn to be content.

■ Always put God first. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught not to worry about stuff. "Just put God first," he said, "and you won't have to worry about anything else" (Matthew 6:33). When God is at the center of our lives, He teaches us to trust Him, which helps us keep stuff from becoming too important.—David Garrard

**Q: What is a male mid-life crisis? As a single woman in my middle years, I would like to remarry, but I am afraid I'm going to get stuck with a man who's not yet made a frightful journey into his second adolescence.**

Author M. Scott Peck once said that the secret to happiness is to have your mid-life crisis as early as possible.

Mid-life crises have to do with seeing one's life as half over, with plenty of things that might never be accomplished. It can take the form of going after that elusive "fountain of youth," grasping to avoid the reality of the finitude of life. Often associated with "empty nest," it is a major transition that can happen when the task of active parenting is over. It can be a time of deep introspection and regret.

With men, it often comes by way of reflection on what has not been achieved in their careers. Melancholy can turn into depression even to thoughts of suicide. Some men feel they must prove their manhood by having a relationship with a younger woman, driving a faster car or doing things that make him feel younger than he is. He may be looking for the death of an old life and a short cut to a new life. Author Thomas Moore challenges men to assimilate that melancholy into their souls, to make wisdom out of life's experiences rather than avoiding it.

It is an interesting topic of conversation to see if the gentleman you are looking at has begun the process of self-discovery and growth. Ask about his hopes and dreams, his accomplishments and disappointments. Ask where he sees his life in five, 10 and 15 years. Make certain he knows the reality of Jeremiah 29:11. The Old Testament prophet challenged those facing impending doom to live in the present, knowing that God has the future in His hands. Look for that wisdom in the person you are considering as a prospective partner in the second half of your life.—James Stillwell

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## Churches: Do not take membership lightly

It seemed like a normal service. The choir sang. The pastor preached. The invitation was given. A couple in their mid-20s came forward asking to transfer their membership from a nearby sister church. After the couple was presented to the congregation, the young man asked to say a word. The pastor handed the microphone to him and listened as the fellow announced that because the church was experiencing difficulty in the fellowship, he and his wife had decided to join in order to "fight" for the pastor.

That statement was not well received by the congregation. When the pastor asked for a show of hands to receive the couple as new members, the majority voted "no." The church refused to receive them. Several families were heard saying that joining a church is supposed to be more than "coming to fight."

Another church had the most attractive sanctuary in the area. It was a popular site for weddings, not just for church members but for the whole community. But the number of weddings taxed the facilities and the staff. The church voted to up the costs for all weddings but increased the costs for non-members substantially.

Not long afterward, a mother approached the pastor about scheduling the church for her daughter's wedding. The family was not a member of the church and, in fact, was not active in any church. The pastor probed the family's spiritual relationships and was told flatly that the family had no interest in spiritual matters. It only wanted to use the building for the wedding.

The pastor explained the wedding costs to the mother and gave her a printed list. The mother was taken aback at the charges and said so. Somewhere in the conversation, the pastor indicated that the cost list was for non-members and that members paid a lesser amount.

The next Sunday, the mother was in church. She was not accompanied by her husband, daughter or any other family members. When the invitation was given, she came forward asking for membership. The pastor had an uneasy feeling that the lady was more interested in lowering the costs for the wedding than becoming a part of a congregation. His fears proved true. As soon as the wedding was over, the mother stopped attending. A report came back that she had told a friend about an easy way to cut the cost of a wedding at this particular church.

That people join a church for other than spiritual reasons has long been acknowledged. In this political season, some churches will see political candidates that have not been in a worship setting since the last election. That some people identify with a particular church because "it is good for business" has long been recognized. Others join because of family tradi-

tion or other reasons.

No Baptist church wants such members. The gospel is too important for such trivia. The eternal destiny of a human soul is in the balance. Churches want members who have established a personal relationship with God through faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ.

Churches want members who not only share a common faith but who are committed to a common cause—the Kingdom of God. A generation ago, that desire was expressed through the church covenant in which members made personal commitments, accepted corporate responsibilities and defined ways they would work together through the church to advance God's Kingdom.

Today, churches make little use of a church covenant. In fact, a growing number of churches do not even act to accept members. The initiative is with the individual. Anyone who presents himself or herself for membership is automatically received.

Rationale for this position relates to the inability of anyone to know the spiritual motivation of another. Some pastors have said they do not want to be "security guards" or be in a position of "trying to keep people away from Jesus," and voting on membership conveys that image.

Most Baptist churches today do vote in some way, usually at the time an individual is presented for membership. It is mostly a perfunctory act.

A few churches do more. Some visit the individual seeking membership and explain the meaning of church membership, the focus of the particular congregation and the expectations of members. Only after one has been presented with this information and agreed to it is that individual presented for church membership, usually at a business meeting.

Some churches have formalized new member classes one must complete before one actually becomes a member. Usually these include an introduction to basic beliefs as well as information on how the church functions and what is expected of members.

A variety of approaches are being tried to emphasize the importance of church membership and what it conveys about one's spiritual relationship with God. Still the vast majority of Baptist churches accept anyone presenting himself or herself for membership at that time.

Whatever approach a church uses, membership should not be taken lightly. The individual's relationship to God through faith in Jesus Christ must always be the foundation. And there is more. The work of the church and the welfare of the church demand that a new member be more than one "coming to fight" or one looking to cut the cost of a wedding.

Bob Terry is editor of *The Alabama Baptist*.

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Bob Terry

## What to do with leftover literature

By David Francis

**Nashville (BP)**—What do you do when the quarter is nearly over and you have extra Sunday school learner guides and magazines

left over? The easy answer is just to throw it away. But maybe there are some more creative uses. Here are a few ideas:

■ Take them to places people have to wait. A doctor's office is an obvious place. Or maybe you could smuggle a few Sunday school quarterlies into an airline terminal; hospital waiting rooms; the break room at work; the auto repair shop. Be creative.

■ Leave them in places where people read while they're doing

something else. "Accidentally" leave a copy at the coffee shop. Leave copies on the magazine rack at the fitness center or in the seatback pocket on an airplane.

■ Hand them out at church events. Give a copy of ParentLife to parents who come with their kids to vacation Bible school family night or attend an Upward basketball game. Provide copies of Christian Single through your divorce recovery ministry.

■ Bundle them with your ministry efforts. Put a copy of a magazine or Bible study resource in the grocery bag of clients at your food pantry. Take copies to people you visit through homebound, nursing

home and prison ministries.

■ Share them with a campus Baptist Student Ministry. Is there a BSM on a nearby college campus? Ask if they might have use for some Bible study materials or magazines.

■ Help out a struggling congregation or mission. Do you know of a church or mission that might rejoice to receive and/or reuse your leftovers?

■ Send them to military personnel and other "adults away." Some churches set up a special ministry for "adults away." It really has no "attendance," just group leaders. One way to stay in touch—and exercise biblical encouragement—is to send Bible study material and magazines.

David Francis serves as director of Sunday School for LifeWay Christian Resources

### COMMENTARY

## Disaster response is essential responsibility for churches

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Morehead**—Churches that meet needs during disasters will discover opportunities to fulfill Christian obligations, according to a disaster relief specialist from Hopkinsville.

Speaking last Saturday at the annual convention of Kentucky's Baptist Men on Mission, Tom Westerfield said providing food, clothing and other necessities during emergencies helps spread the gospel.

Jesus "didn't talk about a lot of glamorous activities," explained Westerfield, disaster relief coordinator for Christian County Baptist Association. "He talked about providing food, clothing and shelter. The gospel may be sitting down and listening to someone who's had their home blown away."

A healthy turnout for the annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Morehead saw 171 advance registrations, although that figure was a bit misleading, according to Baptist Men's Director Randy Foster.

The numbers received a boost from reunions for disaster relief workers and Kentucky Changers volunteers, he pointed out, commenting that when they move the site out of Central Kentucky turnouts usually decline.

Still, the reunions helped spot-

light disaster relief, which Foster said remains the signature endeavor of Baptist Men 11 years after he became director.

"Now we have a good strong balance of other activities; everything has increased a great deal," Foster noted. "But our hallmark is still disaster relief."

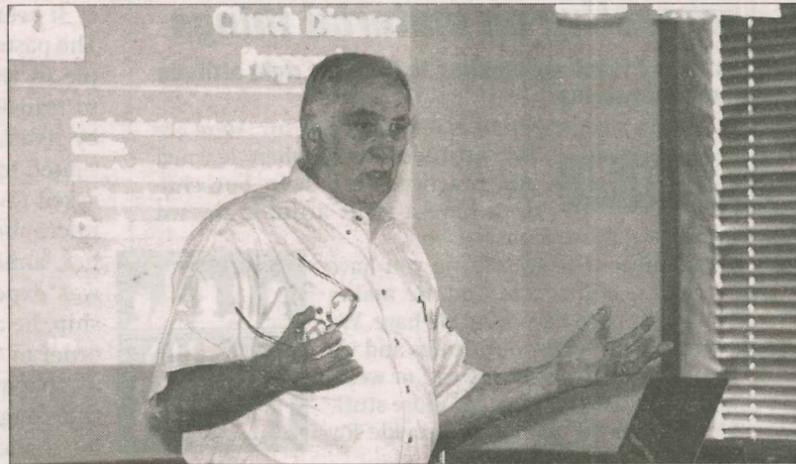
Ironically, Westerfield returned the previous Sunday from Texas, where dozens of Kentuckians aided victims of Hurricane Ike.

At a Saturday morning workshop, the member of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville encouraged participants to lead the way in helping their churches prepare for disasters.

Using his city as an illustration, Westerfield discussed how commonly flooding, severe snow and ice, tornadoes and earthquakes can strike the commonwealth.

Other possibilities he mentioned include terrorist activities, such as attempts by intruders to strike Kentucky's military installations; or an infectious pandemic like bird flu. A rapidly-spreading disease could mean serious interruptions of daily life, Westerfield said.

"Is your church ready for two months of no meetings?" he asked. "Public gatherings are excluded when something like this happens.



**BREAKOUT SESSION** Tom Westerfield, a disaster relief specialist from Hopkinsville, discusses the importance of local church involvement in disaster response at last weekend's Baptist Men on Mission annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Morehead. (Photos by Becki Tyler)

If you study history, it happened in the 1920s."

He emphasized that churches are in a unique position to respond, since their properties can be used to minister in multiple ways.

One church in Texas provided meals and various services to hurricane victims in recent weeks even though its power was cut off and it only had a gravel parking lot, Westerfield pointed out.

He suggested Kentucky Baptists start preparations by surveying their congregations to determine members' interests, such as helping feed others, serving as chaplains or counselors, helping with emergency communications, or providing child care.

Such a survey can uncover needs within the church. When First Baptist, Hopkinsville, conducted one, it discovered 20 individuals whose lives would be threatened by losing power for more than 24 hours—such as a man who depends on a respirator around the clock.

In addition, the church learned it had 60 elderly widows who did not know how to repair malfunctioning furnaces or how their electrical systems work.

"Make sure you have resources to take care of them," urged Westerfield, who helped prepare an inventory of church members with generators and volunteers to deliver them.

Churches must plan for and train their members to minister to those caught in crisis, he added, noting that Baptist Men offers ongoing di-

aster relief training—which in 2009 will become mandatory every three years for active volunteers.

As part of their emergency planning measures, churches should list how their properties can be utilized. Among examples Westerfield listed are as a center for bulk distribution of supplies; child care; communications and information; emergency shelter for victims and volunteers; a staging area; and a feeding site.

Churches interested in tackling the task can start by electing a disaster relief committee to identify members' skills, talents and interests, and that can persuade members to make their facilities available in case of a disaster.

"You've got a selling job to do," Westerfield noted. "You have to keep this in the front of people's minds."

The committee also can communicate with other churches, Christian agencies, community groups and civic and government officials.

But churches should not only think of high-profile disasters when drawing up plans, he emphasized.

"A single-family fire can be as tragic as a huge storm," Westerfield said. "Crime, accidents, fire and vandalism are opportunities to minister and show the love of Christ."

No election of officers was held at the Baptist Men's annual convention, although current president Wendell Bowen of Campbellsville is stepping down.

Foster said Baptist Men's six-member leadership team will meet during the coming month to select Bowen's successor.

### Upcoming ministry opportunities abound in the bluegrass

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Morehead**—The world will come to Kentucky during the next two years, with plans underway to involve a multitude of Kentucky Baptists in serving visitors and sharing the gospel.

Spotlighted at last Saturday's Baptist Men on Mission convention were ministry opportunities at two major events unfolding in the commonwealth.

It starts with next June's Southern Baptist Convention, being held in Louisville to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Then, in the fall of 2010, the Kentucky Horse Park near Lexington will host the World Equestrian Games, expected to draw upwards of 600,000 people from around the world.

"We're having people contacting us wanting to know how to get involved," said Larry Martin, a missions consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and director of Affiliated International Ministries, an inter-denominational group formed to minister at the Games.

"People are so interested and excited. We're thrilled at the momentum that's building, especially in the Lexington area."

Crossover 2009 will convene the weekend prior to the SBC annual meeting June 23-24, although Kentucky's Baptist Men on Mission plan to start working much earlier.

John Edwards, director of Kentucky's Baptist Builders, is contacting Baptist Men nationwide to enlist volunteers for a "Blitz Build" June 15-20 just south of downtown Louisville.

The aim is to put a 32-bed, 6,000-square-foot house under roof. It will be used as transitional housing for former prison inmates who are re-entering society.

Also, Baptist Men will be working June 17-20 with the New Directions housing ministry to do Kentucky Changers-type remodeling projects on seven to 10 homes in Louisville.

"We'd like to see 300 volunteers for the Blitz Build and the Changers event," Edwards noted. "We hope half of those will be from Kentucky. Hopefully, it will draw people who have never been part of a Changers event."

Volunteers for the building projects will be housed and fed at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County.

People who want to participate in the building projects must pre-register and complete liability forms and other paperwork, Edwards said. The goal for this initiative is ambitious, considering that only 500 volunteers participated in all Crossover events last summer in Indianapolis.

In addition to the building projects, next June's initiative will include personal and street evangelism, block parties, prayer walks and other events.

Kentucky Baptists interested in participating can find more information at the Crossover Web site, [www.CrossoverLouisville.com](http://www.CrossoverLouisville.com).

They also can send an e-mail to Baptist Men's Director Randy Foster at [Randy.Foster@KyBaptist.org](mailto:Randy.Foster@KyBaptist.org), or Ross Bauscher, KBC's evangelism department team leader at [Ross.Bauscher@KyBaptist.org](mailto:Ross.Bauscher@KyBaptist.org).

Although the World Equestrian Games will not be held for another two years, Martin said ministries already are forming to build momentum for an effort that will continue after the event.

Among the ministry opportunities that will be available:

- Helping strengthen Equestrian Ministries International fellowships—of which there are presently 20 in Kentucky—and starting new ones.

- Conducting an international children's reading project related to the Games.

- Helping involve youth in a three-year-long leadership training project.

- Working with Touched Twice Ministries to provide free medical and dental care for horse farm workers.

- Volunteering for various tasks during the event.

- Providing RV hook-ups on available properties for volunteers coming to serve at the Games.

Those interested in volunteering or signing up on a mailing list for announcements can send an e-mail to [aim@hthomas.net](mailto:aim@hthomas.net).



**SING PRAISES** Steve and Terri Gibbons of the Living Faith Baptist Church Praise Band in Hartford lead a praise and worship time during the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission's annual meeting last Saturday.



**LIFE'S WORK** Angelia Bostick (left), executive director of Heart of Texas Good Samaritan Ministry for the past 15 years, helps prepare a shopping cart of free groceries for a local Brownwood, Texas, family in need. The ministry distributes food to some 650 area families each month. (NAMB photo by Mark Dumas)

## Domestic hunger ministries stretch to meet food needs

Continued from page 1

ministry, but there are no theological differences about what Jesus said about helping the poor," noted Bostick, a long-time resident of Brownwood. "We want to work together because the resources here are so limited."

Brownwood's economic situation is fragile, she explained. Her ministry added 50 new families at the end of July, on top of the 600 families it normally serves each month. In November and December, the number of families requesting food typically expands to 800 because of seasonal layoffs by local plants and factories.

Only Brown County residents can receive food from the ministry, Bostick said. Families can come to the pantry once each month. The amount of food distributed depends on family size, but each donation consists of several grocery bags, including frozen and canned meat, cereals, vegetables, rice and pasta.

"The majority of the people who come in are elderly or disabled on fixed incomes. Brown County has a higher percentage of elderly than the Texas average," Bostick pointed out. "We also have a lot of the working poor, because there are not a lot of good paying jobs around Brownwood. Most make minimum wage."

Fifteen years ago, Bostick agreed to take the ministry's executive director job until someone else could be found. No one ever was.

"I had served on the original team creating the ministry," she said. "But running the warehouse and pantry were not what I was trained to do. I wanted to teach. Now, 15 years later, I'm still in the job."

"This is what God called me to do and He prepared me to do it all my life," added Bostick, a preacher's kid and a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Sometimes I get tired and want to quit. But like Jeremiah, there's a fire that burns in me and won't go out," she insisted. "Sure, you get tired sometimes. But I've never doubted that God called me to do this. How could I do less?"

A thousand miles away from central Texas, it takes a lot of "Faith"—Steve Faith, that is—to run the Southeast Indiana Baptist Food Warehouse in New Albany, Ind. Faith, 64, is administrative community evangelism

director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Unlike Bostick—whose feeding pantry distributes directly to families—Faith is more like a "wholesaler" of free food for the hungry. He gets large ministries such as Feed the Children or Operation Blessing to donate pallets of food, paper goods and other products. He also asks large firms like Tyson Foods to donate their products.

No associational funds are ever spent on the food or products, which always are donated and then distributed free of charge to churches or other hunger ministries with 501(c)3 charitable tax status.

"Our only expense is rental of trucks and the diesel fuel we need," Faith noted. Of course, with diesel fuel up to as much as \$4 a gallon, the association's budget is stretched.

"I don't get the world hunger funds directly," said Faith, who is co-supported by the Indiana state convention and NAMB. "We have 63 churches in our association and nine of them get the hunger funds. But we couldn't do without them."

From January until the end of July 2008, the warehouse received and distributed 1.5 million pounds of "product," according to Faith. He estimated that he contributes some 90,000 meals a month in the Southern Indiana region.

"We can unload a tractor trailer of any product in 12 minutes. Many loads come in at night. Sometimes I don't know exactly what I have until I get it here," he said. But whether the load comes in at night or early the next morning, it will be unloaded and turned around in less than a day—sometimes in 90 minutes. Perishable items get top priority.

Faith, who established the warehouse in 2000, works 12-hour days, six days a week. He has to be on the scene when the food or other products are delivered to the warehouse, which takes him away from his wife most evenings.

"I do it because I just love people," Faith maintained. "Brother, there are people out there and they really need help. We have more needs than product. It's currently worse than I've ever seen it. In this economy, many families are having to make tough decisions. 'Do we buy food or do we buy gas so we can get to and from work?'"

Support the Southern  
Baptist World Hunger Fund

# Fast One TO Feed One

Turning the Table on Hunger!

"Isn't the fast I choose ... to share your bread with the hungry?" Isaiah 58:6-7

The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund is one of the vital links between Kentucky Baptists and a world in need of both physical and spiritual nourishment.

Fast One to Feed One is a great way to focus on prayer for your community while helping the hungry here in Kentucky and around the world. Here's how it works:

1. **Fast one meal a month. Use the meal time to pray for needs in your community.**
2. **Give the amount you would have spent on the meal through your church to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.**

World Hunger funds are used solely for the purchase of food that is distributed in Jesus' name by approved food ministries and by Southern Baptist state, North American and international missionaries.

Find out more about hunger, download free resources for your church or give online at [www.kybaptist.org/hunger](http://www.kybaptist.org/hunger).

**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

For More Information, contact:  
Mission Service and Ministries Dept.  
(502)489-3530 or (866) 489-3530 (Toll free in Kentucky)

Because administrative costs for the Southern Baptist World Hunger are covered by the Cooperative Program, 100% of your gifts are spent on feeding the hungry!

## Pastor: Helping the hungry also helps the congregation

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

**Hendersonville, Tenn. (BP)**—If a church's giving is down, conflict is up and baptisms are nonexistent—and the pastor has tried everything he can think of to remedy the problem—Steve Nelson has a suggestion.

Minister to the poor.

"We have been praying for revival for years and yet not seen it. A lot of churches are in conflict. I believe one of the stumbling blocks is that we have become more callous toward people in need," said Nelson, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., and former director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Too often, ministry to the poor is nothing more than a footnote in a church's ministry plan. But other than salvation itself, no issue is addressed more often in Scripture than ministry to the poor, Nelson pointed out.

"The Bible is very clear that 'whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard,'" he noted. "What I have seen is that churches are happier and stronger when they get more involved in ministry to the poor, whether it be direct physical aid, ministry to the homeless or financial gifts.

"I believe ministry to the poor is dear to God's heart."

Nelson recalled a conversation several years ago with Philip Lane, who then was pastor of West Main Baptist Church in Alexandria, Tenn. A child in the congregation had become burdened for hungry children because of a television commercial she had seen. Her passion spread to other children and then to the adults. Over the next year, the congregation raised more than \$20,000 for world hunger, Nelson said.

"I asked (Lane), 'How are your other offerings?' and he said, 'They are all up and budget giving over the next five months was up over 50 percent,'" Nelson recalled. "And he said, 'The strangest thing is that there's no conflict anymore. When something comes up, it's like smoke. It just blows away.'

"He asked if I could explain that and I said, 'Yes, Proverbs 14:21 says, 'He who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.' You got some happy Christians on your hands.'"

Starting a ministry to the poor does not have to be a major undertaking, Nelson insisted.

"Churches need to start where they are. If they haven't been very involved, they need to start in a non-threatening way," he explained. "I wouldn't try to take a church that has been doing nothing and immediately launch a homeless shelter or some major thrust."

Nelson said a congregation could start with the simple biblical practice of gleaning.

"Leviticus 19:9-10 tells us not to go over the fields a second time but to leave something for the poor and the alien among us. We certainly can relate to that in our day in America," Nelson noted. "Most of us, however, aren't farmers. So how can we practice gleaning?" He explained that gleaning, as opposed to tithes and offerings, "is a systematic practice of making a portion of our excess available to people in need."

"This can be done by collecting spare change on a regular basis or writing small checks ... to the World Hunger Fund or the church benevolence fund," he pointed out. "Small gifts, systematically given—just our gleanings—can make a huge difference. If every Southern Baptist gave \$1 a month, hunger funds would multiply many times. We're averaging well under 50 cents a year per Southern Baptist right now. That certainly hinders the progress of programs and I think it grieves God's heart."

Ministering to people's physical needs—whether done directly by the congregation or indirectly through monetary gifts—creates openness to the message of salvation in Jesus Christ, Nelson added.

"Gleaning is a demonstration of God's caring for all people," he said. "It piques curiosity about who would do this for us and why, and therefore opens hearts to the Bread of Life, and not just bread for their bodies."

Ministry to the poor gives hope where there is no hope, Nelson said.

"When someone is desperate, when they are hungry and don't have the resources to provide their next meal, they are without hope," he emphasized. "Ministering to them gives them hope."

"A ministry of presence is powerful," he added. "No matter how meager what you are doing for them is, the fact that you are there and that you care opens doors."

## Baptist funds feed Malians during shortage

By Emily Peters  
SBC International Mission Board

**Mali, West Africa (BP)**—In the Bambara culture, pride often prevents people from admitting they are hungry. But evidence abounds.

Mud-wall granaries stand empty. Five-year-old Mariama\* sprouts reddish fuzz on the top of her head—a sign of malnutrition.

When asked what his family has been eating lately, Mamadou\* plucked a green leaf from a nearby tree. "It tastes very bad," he admitted, "but ... it keeps you alive."

And when a sack breaks at the grain distribution site for a Southern Baptist hunger relief project, a village elder drops to his knees to gather grain out of the mud with his fingernails.

"I just know that when Christians come to work in a place, we can't close our eyes to this hardship," said Steven Roach, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board worker.

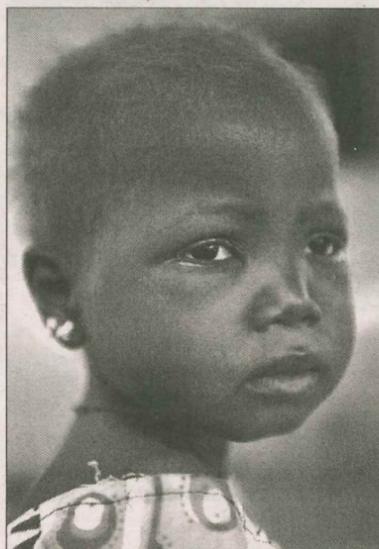
So he invited a team from the South Carolina Baptist Convention and requested Southern Baptist World Hunger Funds to help stave off starvation for about 31,000 people living in the area.

And the area, which covers about 120 villages and camps, is where Roach recently has seen unprecedented openness to the teachings of Jesus.

Four million Bambara people live throughout West Africa, and more than 99 percent are not Christians.

"We've been working in this particular area for about 18 months now," Roach noted. "Dozens of Christians are now meeting regularly for church where there were none before."

Multiple churches from the United States partner with Roach and send teams periodically to disciple new believers. But as the Americans guide the young churches and see a spiritual harvest ripen, they have noticed local crops of corn and millet



**FACE OF HUNGER** With her reddish-tinged hair and frail frame, 5-year-old Mariama\* shows signs of malnutrition, which accounts for more than 50 percent of Mali's infant mortality. Volunteers from the South Carolina Baptist Convention recently helped her receive medical care at a nearby hospital. (IMB photo)

failing and people struggling.

Mali is one of the poorest nations on the planet. In fact, the United Nations reports about one-third of Malian children are malnourished.

That is largely because most Bambara farmers grow only enough food each year to feed their families, which leaves little room for unexpected disaster.

"It's hard to pin down one reason why things got worse these last two years," Roach acknowledged.

Worms infest some fields. Others suffer with the collapse of the national cotton market. The rest were destroyed by patchy rains, part of a climate change phenomenon that will continue to batter the region through 2050 with extreme floods and droughts, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

Whatever the reasons, Roach said

he hopes this grain gift shows the Bambara the compassion of Christ as it helps them make it to the next harvest.

Roach and his team of volunteers set up two distribution sites in village schools. They stacked 250 tons of grain at each site and called village chiefs from all over the region to receive their share of grain.

The roads are not fit for trucks, especially during rainy season, so villages sent hundreds of donkeys and rickety wooden carts, which arrived caked in mud.

Bambara elders and chiefs, draped in their religious robes and leather fetishes meant to ward off evil, gathered to thank the Americans and the new Christian Bambara men. They took the opportunity to explain the gift and give the chiefs Christian literature in the Bambara language.

"We're not trying to buy Christians," Roach told the crowd of chiefs and elders. He explained that the gift was free, prompted by Christ's compassion, and anyone interested in knowing more could ask.

And they did.

A village chief's son revealed he had been interested in Jesus for a long time. After watching the "JESUS" film by moonlight, another man and son decided to follow Christ.

Even the local teacher of another religion said, "Change comes slowly, but one day I could see myself becoming a believer."

The young Bambara churches in this area have agreed to follow through with these connections, bringing the gospel to these surrounding villages and start new churches.

"The people everywhere are thanking us," reported Adema\*, one of the Bambara Christians. "We can only hope this will show them who Jesus is and bring them to start meeting with us."

\*Names changed for security reasons

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## Violence against Christians continues in eastern India

By Vishal Arora  
Religion News Service

**New Delhi (RNS)**—For more than a month, Christians in India have faced an unprecedented wave of violent attacks. Dozens of Christians have been burned alive and hundreds of houses and churches destroyed in the eastern state of Orissa. Attacks are being reported from other states as well.

So, what's behind the violence?

For starters, Christians are a distinct minority—roughly 2.3 percent—of the population. Hindus make up about 80 percent of the nation's 1.1 billion citizens. Hindu nationalists who say that to be Indian is to be Hindu resent Christian proselytism.

Tensions flared after Laxmananda Saraswati, a leader of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad—or World Hindu Council—and four others were killed on Aug. 23 in Orissa's Kandhamal district.

A radical Marxist group claimed responsibility, but the World Hindu Council blamed local Christians for the death of Saraswati, who had been fighting the conversion of Hindus to Christianity.

The council, which alleges that Christians use force and material benefits to convert Hindus, linked the subsequent reprisal attacks to

“Hindu rage.” Christian leaders deny allegations of forced conversions and say the council orchestrated the violence against Christians.

Bearing the brunt of the attacks are Christians in Orissa, the southern state of Karnataka and the northern state of Madhya Pradesh—all ruled by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, the main opposition party.

Critics say systematic attacks on Christians began when the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance ruled the country from 1998 to 2004.

The ruling United Progressive Alliance has issued a warning that unless attacks were halted, it would invoke a constitutional provision that would suspend the state governments of Orissa and Karnataka.

“The government moved only after (Hindu) council's youth wing ... admitted to attacking Christians in Karnataka and after the council openly converted Christians to Hinduism under duress in several places,” said Dominic Emmanuel, spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of New Delhi.

Baptist World Alliance leaders also have condemned the attacks on Christians in Orissa, calling on the Indian government to intervene and end the violence.

## Cuba's hurricane survivors getting Baptist relief

**Havana, Cuba (BP)**—Southern Baptists have sent two containers of relief supplies to Cuba to help victims of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike rebuild their homes and lives.

An agreement negotiated with the U.S. and Cuban governments allowed a container of building supplies and food to be sent to both Baptist conventions on the island nation, according to Jim Brown, U.S. director for Baptist Global Response.

Assessment teams of representatives of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, Florida Baptist Convention and BGR toured opposite ends of Cuba, evaluating needs and discussing possible responses with Cuban government officials. Hurricane Gustav wreaked havoc on western Cuba; Hurricane Ike ravaged the eastern end of the island. Estimates of the damage range as high as \$5 billion, according to news reports.

“The entire island of Cuba has been damaged in one degree or another by both Gustav and Ike,” Brown said. “Most of the damage was related to housing. ... There also is a tremendous need for food and water.”

The government dispatched soldiers to clean up roads and fallen trees and Cuban Baptist churches mobilized after the storm, meeting needs out of the limited resources immediately available to them, Brown recalled.

“Baptist churches in both the east and west did a superb job meeting needs in the aftermath of both storms,” he said. “As we traveled around the country, people all across the island were commenting how well the Baptists assisted them in their time of greatest need.”

The assessment teams arrived in Havana Sept. 16 and met with the Cuban Office of Re-

ligious Affairs. The team received assurances from the government that additional supplies and food sent by Southern Baptists would be distributed to churches as intended, according to Craig Culbreth, director of the Florida convention's partnership missions department.

The government meeting was arranged by Victor Gonzales, a Havana oncologist who serves as president of the Western Cuba Baptist Convention.

One of the containers being shipped to the country will go to the Island of Youth in western Cuba and the other will be delivered to eastern Cuba, Brown noted. A Baptist leader in each area will work with three government officials to decide how the contents will be distributed.

The relief effort is an opportunity to demonstrate to Cuban residents that Baptists are people who care about people in need, said one member of the assessment team.

“It is heartbreaking to see areas already struggling with poverty and scarcity to be so badly damaged,” noted Willy Rice, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., and president of the Florida Baptist State Convention. “Many small villages will be without power for months and desperately need supplies.”

“We went to one village where we were specifically told that the church had been the first to help provide support and supplies to hurting people,” he recalled. “This has given those churches an incredible opportunity to demonstrate compassion and build a bridge to share the message of hope.”

“The church in Cuba is still vibrant and strong and growing despite difficult circumstances,” Rice added. “We are sowing seeds for the future.”

## KBC Mission Board recommendations

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's constitution requires that the KBC Mission Board publish its recommendations in the Western Recorder at least 30 days before they are voted on during the annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held Nov. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. For more information about these recommendations, call the KBC Mission Board at (502) 489-3577 or toll-free (866) 489-3577.

### Recommendations to the Messengers of the 2008 Kentucky Baptist Convention:

#### Recommendation 1. Definition of a Cooperative Program Gift

The Cooperative Program (CP) is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.

A Cooperative Program gift is an undesignated gift made through the Kentucky Baptist Convention and distributed for the support of KBC and Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries according to a formula approved by messengers to the KBC annual meeting.

#### Recommendation 2. 2009-2010 Budget Goals and Percentages

The annual Cooperative Program Goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in annual session.

Upon recommendation of the Mission Board, the Convention at Elizabethtown Nov. 12, 2007 set the 2008-2009 goals and percentages as shown below. The Mission Board will recommend to the Convention in Lexington November 10, 2008 the 2009-2010 goals and percentages.

	ORIGINAL 2006-2007 BUDGET		ORIGINAL 2007-2008 BUDGET		ORIGINAL 2008-2009 BUDGET		PROPOSED 2009-2010 BUDGET	
<b>I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL</b>								
A. OPERATIONAL BUDGET	<b>23,562,000</b>	2.0%	<b>24,000,000</b>	1.86%	<b>24,000,000</b>	0.0%	<b>24,480,000</b>	2.0%
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	8,564,628		8,807,318		8,890,184		9,136,887	
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	14,997,372	36.35%	15,192,682	36.70%	15,109,816	37.04%	15,343,113	37.32%
B. CHALLENGE FUNDS	1,300,000	63.65%	1,300,000	63.30%	1,300,000	62.96%	1,300,000	62.68%
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	472,550		477,063		481,520		485,160	
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	827,450	36.35%	822,937	36.70%	818,480	37.04%	814,840	37.32%
<b>TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL</b>	<b>24,862,000</b>	63.65%	<b>25,300,000</b>	63.30%	<b>25,300,000</b>	62.96%	<b>25,780,000</b>	62.68%
<b>II. OTHER ESTIMATED INCOME</b>	<b>2,546,908</b>		<b>2,593,950</b>		<b>2,735,460</b>		*	
A. RESTRICTED KY ONLY	475,000		450,000		400,000		*	
B. OTHER	2,071,908		2,143,950		2,335,460		*	
<b>III. TOTAL BUDGET GOAL</b>	<b>27,408,908</b>		<b>27,893,950</b>		<b>28,035,460</b>		*	

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

\*To be approved by the Mission Board upon recommendation of the Business and Finance Committee May 4-5, 2009.

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## U.S.-Muslim engagement is key to security, prosperity

By Elizabeth Wood  
Baptist Press

Washington (BP)—Deep misunderstandings between the United States and Muslim communities around the world are causing serious problems and solving them will require constructing “bridges of understanding,” according to the president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

“Polls show there is a huge lack of understanding of Americans in the Muslim world. We need to broaden and deepen the understanding on both sides,” Richard Land declared. “The U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project will galvanize every aspect of American society to engage the Muslim society.”

The project is a broad bipartisan coalition that recently completed 18 months of extensive research into the challenge of reversing extremism, increasing international security and improving relations with the Muslim community. The project’s 33-member leadership group included, among others, the ERLC’s Land, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Texas congressman Steve Bartlett, and for-

mer Minnesota congressman Vin Webber.

The group, which had 11 Muslim-American members and was supported in its work by Search for Common Ground and the Consensus Building Institute, held a briefing last month on its report, “Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World.”

“This initiative is a serious, comprehensive, bipartisan effort that seeks to address a critical problem: The world Muslim community misunderstands Americans and Americans misunderstand them,” Land said in a written endorsement. “This initiative lays out a detailed and comprehensive plan to vastly decrease that misunderstanding through a multi-faceted approach that will build constructive bridges of mutual understanding between Americans and the Muslim world.”

The group’s plan calls for significant shifts in American foreign policy to create a safer United States and a better world, and suggests a “new blueprint” on how to reconstruct America’s relationship with Muslims around the world, noted Stephen Heintz, president of the Rocke-

feller Brothers Fund. Project leadership has called for the next president of the U.S. to recognize the importance of improving U.S.-Muslim relations in his inaugural speech.

“We hope this work will be taken seriously in the presidential campaign,” Heintz said. “We look forward to working with the next administration, because this is going to take a significant presidential leadership and ongoing leadership from the Congress of the U.S.”

The report suggests a “four pillar approach” for U.S.-Muslim engagement:

- Diplomacy as the “primary tool for resolving conflicts involving Muslim countries.”

- Efforts “to improve governance and promote civic participation in Muslim countries, and advocate for principles rather than parties in their internal political contests.”

- An emphasis on “job-creating growth in Muslim countries.”

- A focus on improving “respect and understanding between Americans and Muslims around the world.”

“The leadership group believes that we must elevate diplomacy for

conflict resolution,” Land acknowledged. “The leadership group, the U.S. military and the U.S. public all recognize the limits of military force and the need for a more comprehensive set of tools to resolve conflicts with and within Muslim countries. Military force may be necessary but is not sufficient alone to defeat extremists in Muslim countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan or prevent attacks elsewhere.”

The need for improving governance also is crucial to building better relations between the U.S. and Muslim worlds.

Dalia Mogahed, senior analyst and executive director of Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, said the U.S. should support good governments in the Muslim world.

“Far from hating democracy or rejecting it, it is what they admire most about the West,” Mogahed noted. “Instead of pushing specific personalities or substituting mere elections for democracy, we should instead build robust institutions. ... Instead of pushing specific parties, we should have a principled approach to governance and democracy promotion in the Muslim world.”

### NATIONAL NOTES

**Congress moves to protect unborn babies.** A bill to protect the lives of unborn children diagnosed with disabilities has passed both chambers of Congress and is awaiting President Bush’s signature. The Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act, sponsored by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., would provide support and balanced information to parents who receive a diagnosis of Down syndrome or any other condition prenatally or until a year after birth. The bill requires parents who receive a diagnosis of an impairment for their child be provided with the latest information on the condition and be informed of support services available. It also would establish a registry of families willing to adopt special needs children. Studies indicate that in the United States, between 80 and 90 percent of children diagnosed in the womb with Down syndrome are aborted.

**Evangelicals urge focus on global poverty.** Responding to a call from their Third World counterparts, U.S. evangelical leaders are urging church members to pay greater attention to global poverty, saying increased advocacy is necessary in light of the current U.S. financial crisis. In August, 21 leaders of churches in Africa, Asia and South America wrote that the U.S. church has preached the gospel in their lands but “has not also raised its voice in protest against the injustices that powerful governments and institutions are inflicting on the global South.” In response, several evangelical leaders, organized by the group Micah Challenges USA, spoke Sept. 22 about the need for action by U.S. churches. Brian Swarts, national coordinator of Micah Challenge USA, said U.S. evangelical leaders that have partnered with his organization will be circulating a letter to be sent this month to presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama seeking their attention to global poverty.

**Arkansas ballot proposal would end gay adoptions.** On Nov. 4, voters in Arkansas will consider whether to pass a law prohibiting adoption by cohabitating heterosexual and homosexual couples. Although the law would cover all non-married couples, it’s been dubbed by some the “gay adoption ban.” Only one other state—Utah—has a similar law banning adoption by all couples living together before marriage. The proposed law would apply to both private adoptions as well as foster care children. Supporters, like Jerry Cox of the Arkansas Family Council Action Committee, believe the measure can pass. For one thing, he said, research is on their side. A 2003 study for the Center for Law and Social Policy cited data showing that the average cohabiting union lasts only two years. The same study showed that cohabiting relationships that do result in marriage have a “much higher” divorce rate than couples who do not live together before marriage.

### Watchdog group files ‘Pulpit Freedom Sunday’ complaints with IRS

Washington (RNS)—A Washington-based watchdog group has filed six complaints with the Internal Revenue Service after dozens of pastors participated in a challenge to rules that ban politicking from the pulpit.

At least 31 pastors took part in “Pulpit Freedom Sunday” Sept. 28, according to the initiative’s organizers at the Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative Christian law firm based in Arizona.

“These pastors flagrantly violated the law and now must deal with the consequences,” said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and

State in a recent statement.

Pastors endorsed Sen. John McCain for president in five of the six churches, Lynn noted.

Gary McCaleb, senior counsel with ADF, said, “It’s not a matter of separation of church and state when you’ve got the IRS in the pew. That’s oppression of free speech.”

He said 31 pastors who agreed to participate in the plan preached on the Sunday. The ADF has asked the pastors, most of whom are evangelical, to send their sermons to the law firm, which plans a court challenge of the IRS rules against partisan politicking by tax-exempt organizations.

Asked if all the participating pastors had endorsed a candidate for president, McCaleb answered, “I think some had a pretty direct statement.” He said the goal was to find a group of pastors who supported an “exercise of faith” that could lead to a Supreme Court case.

Americans United’s complaints were filed against Calvary Chapel on the King’s Highway in Philadelphia; Bethlehem First Baptist Church of Bethlehem, Ga.; Fairview Baptist Church in Edmond, Okla.; Warroad Community Church in Warroad, Minn.; New Life Church in West Bend, Wis., and First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif.

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### Where charity dollars come and go

#### Foundation breaks down giving trends in the U.S.

According to Giving USA, overall charitable giving in the United States in 2007—the latest available figures—increased to \$306 billion, a 3.9-percent increase over 2006, or a 1-percent increase when adjusted for inflation.

Giving from individuals represented the largest source at \$229 billion, or 75 percent of the total, which was a 2.7-percent increase, but a 0.1 percent decrease when adjusted for inflation. Only 56 percent of households give routinely; 15 percent do not give at all; and 29 percent sometimes give. Combined individual giving represented 2.3 percent of combined disposable income, which is relatively close to the historic pattern.

Foundation grants represented the second largest source at \$38 billion; bequest giving was third at \$23 billion and corporate giving was fourth at \$16 billion. Foundation grants showed the largest increase at 10.3 percent, or 7.3 percent when adjusted for inflation. Furthermore, this was the highest percentage of total giving foundations had ever attained, which reflected the fact that a portion of

personal giving is now done more often through family foundations.

Religious organizations were the largest beneficiaries of charitable giving in 2007 with \$102 billion, or 33 percent of the total. That represented a 4.7-percent increase over 2006, or 1.8 percent when adjusted for inflation. The second largest beneficiaries were educational institutions with \$43 billion, or 14 percent of the total. That represented a 6.4-percent increase, or 3.4 percent when adjusted for inflation. The third largest recipients were grant-making foundations at \$28 billion, or 9 percent of the total. However, contributions to foundations declined 9.4 percent over the prior year, or 11.4 percent when adjusted for inflation. This was the only category in which contributions declined. The other recipient organization categories are human services; health care; public-society benefit; arts; culture and humanities; international affairs; and environmental/animals. Each of these received an increase in giving over the prior year.

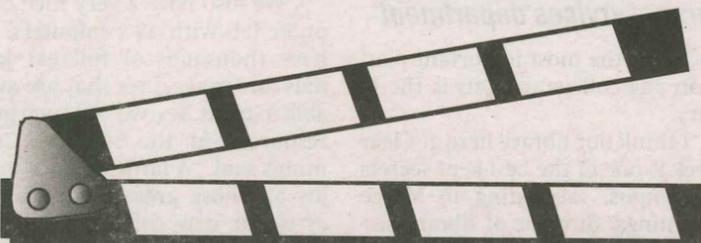
Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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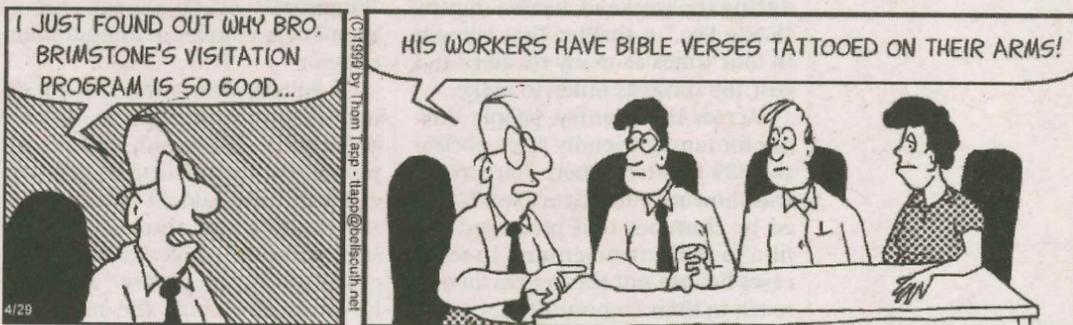
### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



### Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

#### Across

- 1 Once more; again
- 5 Egyptian cobra; for one
- 8 "Launch out ... let down your \_\_\_\_\_ for a draught" (Luke 5:4)
- 12 Feminine nickname (var.)
- 13 1/1000th of an inch
- 14 "\_\_\_\_, lama sabachthani?" (Mark 15:34)
- 15 With "off," visibly upset
- 16 Defined time of history
- 17 Bobbin of a weaver's shuttle
- 18 Have
- 20 U.S. medical research org.
- 22 Woman married (two words)
- 25 "The Lord is thy \_\_\_\_\_ ... thy shade upon thy right hand" (Psalm 121:5)
- 29 Doesn't pedal
- 30 "But to him that \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness shall be a sure reward" (Proverbs 11:18)
- 31 Assn.
- 32 Definite article
- 33 Depended upon
- 37 "\_\_\_\_, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy" (Acts 9:33)
- 40 What the frontrunner will do
- 41 One of "the seven churches in Asia" (Revelation 1:11)
- 42 Long, undetermined time
- 43 Son of Noah (var., Luke 3:36)
- 44 Having to do with the community (abbr.)
- 47 Anger
- 49 Wood for a funeral rite
- 53 "\_\_\_\_ was a great man among the Anakims" (Joshua 14:15)
- 55 Corn serving

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53			54		55			56			
57					58					59	

- 56 "Not one \_\_\_\_\_ of his head fall to the ground" (1 Samuel 14:45)
- 57 Gossip (colloq.)
- 58 Promotion for a police officer (abbr.)
- 59 They attend Promise Keepers events

#### Down

- 1 Corporate giant (abbr.)
- 2 Jacqueline Kennedy, \_\_\_\_\_ Bouvier
- 3 Before (poet.)
- 4 "But the younger \_\_\_\_\_ refuse ... they will marry" (1 Timothy 5:11)
- 5 Make \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Title of respect
- 7 "So Solomon ... covered the floor of the house with \_\_\_\_\_ of fir" (1 Kings 6:14-15)
- 8 "He shall neither have son nor \_\_\_\_\_ among his people" (Job 18:19)
- 9 High priest who raised Samuel
- 10 High, rocky hill
- 11 Wrongdoing
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_ paint
- 21 Vowel trio
- 22 Prepare meat for grilling
- 23 One of the fenced cities of Naphtali (Joshua 19:38)
- 24 "Though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the \_\_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 49:16)
- 26 His name literally means "a stone"
- 27 Leader Allen of the Green Mountain Boys
- 28 Father of Joanna (Luke 3:27)
- 34 Wrath
- 35 Part of the psyche
- 36 "The cock shall not crow, till thou hast \_\_\_\_\_ me thrice" (John 13:38)
- 37 Express one's opinion
- 38 Crony (arch.)
- 39 Maiden in mythology
- 44 Possessed with a devil
- 45 Eastern state univ.
- 46 Where an inch is really an inch (abbr.)
- 48 Feminine name
- 50 Sweet potato
- 51 Grain mentioned in the Old Testament (Isaiah 28)
- 52 Sea eagle
- 54 "Then said I, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord God" (Jeremiah 1:6)

#### Last week's solution

1	A	C	T	4	S	E	T	7	P	E	N		
10	S	A	H	11	L	A	O	12	E	L	A	N	
13	P	R	E	D	E	S	T	15	I	N	A	T	E
16	S	T	R	I	P	E	17	S	O	T			
18	E	N	T	19	S	O	L	O	20	M	O	N	
23	C	A	F	E	25	P	A	L	S	26	O	L	E
27	A	G	O	D	31	L	U	D	29	A	R	E	A
30	M	A	R	G	A	T	E	32	S	T	O	P	
33	P	R	E	S	A	G	E	35	S	E	A		
36	L	I	I	37	S	E	A	L	E	D			
40	P	R	I	N	C	I	P	A	L	I	T	Y	
43	A	I	D	S	44	S	A	T	45	T	R	E	
46	N	A	E	47	M	T	S	48	Y	E	S		

## 'Fireproof' burns up box office in film's opening weekend

By Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

Hollywood, Calif. (BP)—Audiences turned out in force Sept. 26-28 for the opening weekend of "Fireproof," the latest film from the makers of the 2006 surprise hit "Facing the Giants."

"Fireproof" grossed \$6.8 million during its first three days in theaters, making it the fourth-highest grossing movie in the U.S. The film also generated the second-highest average revenue in theaters shown during the weekend, beaten only by "Eagle Eye," a thriller that showed in four times as many theaters and cost 160 times as much to make.

Across the country, people hungry for family friendly films packed the 839 theaters where "Fireproof" was showing. Attendance was boosted by churches that promoted the film to their members and in some cases bought out theaters as an outreach to their communities.

### Outreach opportunity

In Starke, Fla., almost 20 percent of the city's entire population saw the movie, according to Joe Fennell, executive pastor of First Baptist Church of Starke. The congregation contracted with the local theater to show "Fireproof" free to all moviegoers—more than 1,100 people took advantage of the offer.

Moviegoers came from "across the spectrum," Fennell noted. Church members brought co-workers and neighbors and non-believers came because it was free. He said he was especially pleased to see several engaged couples in the audience.

"I think the movie will provide

a good foundation for them and increase their communication. It is an encouragement for healthy marriages, too," Fennell acknowledged.

"As in many churches, we have marriages that are struggling," he added. "We hope people will find in the movie enough truth of the gospel and truth about typical marriage that they will think that their own marriage is worth saving."

Kathy Steele, an assistant professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said she believes "Fireproof" will be a great encouragement to couples in difficult marriages.

"I believe this movie can have a huge impact on marriages. It is extremely realistic and deals with problems that are real in marriages today," she said. "I think one of the greatest ways this movie could strengthen marriages is that it can give hope to one partner who really wants to change the marriage; that if they change, the marriage can change."

"I think 'Fireproof' could spark a new wave of Christians seeking to love their marital partners unconditionally, and to realize it has to be practical, everyday ways they treat each other," Steele added. "My hope is that the neutral story of another couple, seen from the 'inside,' will motivate Christian couples in our churches to start seeking to be more obedient to Christ in how they respond to each other."

### "Date night"

When Pam Weitzel of New Hope Community Church in Baltimore heard Fireproof was coming out,



ON THE RED CARPET Actor Kirk Cameron, who portrays troubled fireman Caleb Holt in "Fireproof," talks to Hollywood media about the new movie during a reception at the Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Society Museum and Memorial after the movie's Hollywood premiere. (BP photo by Joe Westbury/The Georgia Christian Index)

she and her husband, Mark, helped spearhead a "date night" at their church. They were pleased to see many of their church friends in the theater on opening night.

Many couples take their marriages for granted, Mark Weitzel said, and "Fireproof" urged him to think differently about his wife.

"I thought it was an awesome movie. It was good for marriages," he noted. "We need to act as 'first date' sweethearts. I want to continually treat my wife as if we are courting again ... even if we are 75."

Bart Walker, pastor of Kingsville Baptist Church in Ball, La., said he believes the film also can help congregations reach people who do not attend church.

"The chief thing Fireproof is doing for us is giving a talking point for marriage and families," Walker explained. "It shows how hard marriage really is. It shows the struggle for marriages to be mended. It takes supernatural intervention. And it shows no marriage is beyond repair."

"Fireproof" speaks volumes about Christ's power to change lives, he added.

"The world's view of the veracity of the gospel is tied to the world's view of God's transforming power in His followers," Walker said. "And since marriage is a living illustration of Christ and the church, then healthy marriages present a healthy picture of Christ and the church."

## 'All other ground is sinking sand'

### Times of financial turmoil reinforce need to stand on 'solid rock' of Jesus

By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;

In ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the 'whelming flood;

When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

There are few Christians who do not love Edward Mote's great hymn. As I read those words, financial events dominate the world news. The kingdoms of this world are—to use biblical language—in an uproar. As often as we sing those words, I wonder how often we apply them. What is the "sinking sand" that so many are standing on? The darkness that veils Jesus' face? The storm that calls us to trust in Christ as our anchor? The flood that surrounds our souls, presenting us with the choice to make God our hope, or to sink beneath the rising waters?

When Christians sing these songs in times of peace and prosperity the words are no less true, but they may not speak to us in the same way as when the rock seems like our only hope.

OBI is a Christian ministry that relies on the generosity and partnership of thousands of Christians around the country, so financial chaos can be very frightening. Even a ministry like ours

that has strong financial foundations and many friends can wonder about the future.

Our confidence must ultimately rest in Christ. We know our friends are praying for us. We know our financial supporters will remember our needs as well as their own. We know that, in many ways, Oneida lives a vision of stewardship that prepares us daily for difficult times.

Our calling is not only to stand on Christ our Rock, but to keep ministering with the confidence that the Kingdom of God is the same yesterday, today and forever. When the world is shaken it looks closer at us who claim to belong to the God of the universe. If we have less money, if we do not know what tomorrow holds, then do those who are near us see our trust in the solid rock that is Jesus Christ? Or do they see panic, worry and desperation? The truths of the stock market or the price of gasoline are unavoidable. For Christians, the truth of the Kingdom of God and the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord is greater.

Paul said, "In Him we live and move and have our being." Is God the greatest reality, or do the facts of troubled times put God in a closet with the fairy tales we use to comfort small children? Another great hymn says, "The sands of time are sinking." The events of any one week do not define the beginning or the end. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Oneida Baptist Institute appreciates your support, prayers and gifts during these changing times in which we live.

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



W.F. Underwood

## Meet the Clear Creek family

### Cummings directs CCBBC's library services department

One of the most important places on any college campus is the library.

"I think our library here at Clear Creek is one of the best-kept secrets on campus," according to Marge Cummings, director of library services. "Twenty years ago, the library was one little corner in the building that we now occupy."

The library offers many resources for our students and the local community. "We have over 40,000 titles, thousands of CDs, DVDs and videos," Cummings noted. "We are also a curriculum lab for LifeWay Christian Bookstores. We can order anything LifeWay publishes if someone wants to look at it and see if they want to purchase it for their church. ... We also want our community churches and alumni to know they can come to our curriculum lab and check out these resources."

"Another thing that is ... unique to our library is that we also have a children's room," she pointed out. "We have a weekly story hour for all the children on campus. The parents enjoy bringing their kids down for that. We are also a lending lab for all the Child Development Cen-

ters in our county.

"We also have a very nice computer lab with 13 computers. We have thousands of full-text journals and magazines that are available in print. Yes, we still keep print resources in the library," Cummings said. "A favorite place to enjoy all those great resources is our new coffee lounge that

we have opened in the library. The lounge has become a favorite place for students to hang out."

Cummings also wears multiple hats like many others at Clear Creek by serving as director of institutional effectiveness and instructor of computers in research. "We want our campus to be effective," she emphasized.

"We also want our students to be the best they can be. I am able to help them transition into the academic setting with all this new technology by teaching this class. I cannot think of a better place to work."

We are thankful for people like Marge Cummings who give their best to help equip our students for 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.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu



Donnie Fox

## Resources, new Bibles promote stewardship, debt management

Nashville—LifeWay Christian Resources and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention are hoping that a New Testament might help families reduce their debts. If that happens, churches will benefit.

The Executive Committee worked with LifeWay's Holman Bible Outreach International to develop a New Testament that includes 30 daily devotions written by Crown Financial Ministries to be used by churches with the "It's a New Day" curriculum series.

The "New Day" course includes a 10-week Bible study that leads individuals through the biblical principles of money management. Churches that implement a four-week emphasis on financial freedom also may use sermons provided on a DVD that teach foundational principles for handling money God's way.

"We are a debt-driven culture. We define ourselves by the stuff we have," said Ashley Clayton, associate vice president for stewardship with the Executive Committee. "People in the pews are just as much in debt as people outside of the church. Even pastors and church leaders are not immune.

"We believe Southern Baptists want to give," Clayton added, "but they just can't. Our goal is to bring liberty and freedom to believers. We may never know what an im-

pact we can have on the Kingdom if believers are free to give. When individuals begin exercising good financial discipline personally, it will carry over to good financial discipline in the church."

While financial freedom is a personal issue, Clayton said he believes progress can be made when a church addresses stewardship corporately.

HBOI Executive Director Phill Burgess insisted that the New Day New Testaments can encourage community for those learning about biblical principles of money management.

"With the entire congregation going through the series together, a sense of 'oneness' within the church can be created, like we are 'all in this together,'" he said. "Using the New Day New Testaments during the series is like a tender walk through God's Word that can lead an entire congregation into a life-changing commitment that will bring peace in their lives."

In support of the "It's a New Day" initiative, LifeWay Christian Stores is offering envelopes available through its envelope service, according to coordinator Ben Stroup. With so many struggling financially outside of the church, Stroup said he believes the New Day program also can work as an outreach.

## Rainers address hot topic of church dropouts in new book

By Shawn Hendricks  
LifeWay Christian Resources

South Florida—Karen grew up in church. When she went off to college she became active in student ministry. After graduating, she found and joined a comfortable church.

Seven months later she dropped out.

For Karen, church was no longer an important part of her life. Living in south Florida, she decided there were plenty of other things to do on a Sunday.

"I really don't feel that guilty," she said. "I still pray and read my Bible."

Karen is just one of the 70 percent of young adults between the ages of 18-22 who stop going to church.

In the new book, "Essential Church?: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts," LifeWay President Thom Rainer and his son, Sam, take a close look at people like Karen and examine why they are leaving churches in droves. They also offer solutions for churches who want to reach out to this growing number of dropouts.

### Doing the numbers

The Rainers found in their research that plenty of people are members of churches who either rarely attend or do not go at all. Specifically, there are 16 million who are members of churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, but on any given Sunday, only 6 to 7 million of them show up. There are 5 to 6 million members who never show up, or their attendance pattern is CEO (Christmas, Easter and Other special events), the Rainers contend in the new book.

"We saw this research and this book as a tool to remedy that problem," Thom Rainer said in a recent interview.

The book points to many reasons for individuals dropping out of church. Some of them simply want a break. Others move off to college and stop attending. Many start working on Sundays and can no longer attend church.

The problem is that once they stop going, they rarely find a reason to return.

The Rainers said they believe all of these reasons come down to one thing—most of these people no longer see church as an essential part of their lives. It is that discovery that fueled the Rainers' desire to write their book on reclaiming a generation of church dropouts.

"We believe that it is possible, but not necessarily easy, for every church to become essential to the lives of their members," Thom Rainer noted.

### Recipe for change

Churches first have to be willing to try new approaches if they are going to appeal to those who have lost interest—especially younger generations. Pastors and church leaders need to give people a reason to keep coming back, the authors write.

Younger generations hunger for more in-depth Biblical training, not "anemic teaching and preaching," Thom added.

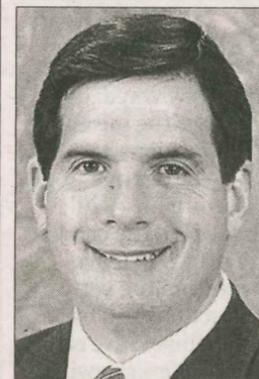
"I would hear about passages from three or four books of the Bible in a single sermon, but I couldn't figure out how they tied together," said one church dropout, who is identified in the book as "Marcus."

"And then I would go to a small group, and we would talk about some great issues, but no one explained how it tied in to the totality of Scripture. After four years at that church, I had not received any significant doctrinal teachings."

Another solution involves giving younger members more responsibility and opportunities for leadership. This gives them more reason to commit and engage in the church, the Rainers write.

Regardless of what the problem is, the authors contend, the problem will not be fixed overnight. It will take commitment and a willingness to make changes.

"In most churches, meaningful change is accomplished by 'eating the elephant' one bite at a time," Thom Rainer said.



**"We believe that it is possible, but not necessarily easy, for every church to become essential to the lives of their members."**

LifeWay President  
Thom Rainer

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

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## How to Become a Christian

By Ed Amundsen

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:5).

In the passage from 1 Corinthians, Paul challenged the church at Corinth to move away from the petty distractions and back to the imperative call of every believer: sewing, soaking and seeking.

**Sew.** Notice the first thing Paul says: "I planted." Obviously Paul is referring to a seed. The seed he is referring to is the Good News that Jesus led a sinless life for us. Because of that, He was able to die in our place—on our cross—to pay for our sins against God. He was buried in our grave to conquer our enemy, death. He was raised again on the third day so we can follow Him to heaven to be in fellowship with God forever.

As Christians our "imperative call" is to plant such Good News seeds in the hearts of lost people. It is simple: Share your testimony and/or Scripture with lost people today.

**Soak.** Paul says, "Apollos watered." Whenever we reach out and satisfy a person's physical needs, the door to their spiritual needs is opened. Whether we are building upon someone else's gospel presentation to a lost soul, or we are mentoring a newly converted soul to be more like Jesus, we are always to be persistent and consistent in ministry.

**Seek.** Finally, Paul says, "But God gave the increase." Some people today claim that evangelism isn't evangelism until someone gets saved. Friend evangelism is evangelism every single time you share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Why? The outcome is up to God. He gives the increase. Go sew, seek and soak the lost.

*Ed Amundsen is pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset*

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BENTON**—Ferguson Springs Church will celebrate Heritage Day Oct. 12, 11 a.m. Services will be held at its original location at Ferguson Springs at Land Between the Lakes. A meal will follow the services and **The Messengers** will provide special music. **James Keeling** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Decoursey Church recently called **Joe Krebs** as pastor.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church ordained **Charlie Conrad** and **Jody O'Nan** as deacons Oct. 5. **Joe Kitchens** is pastor.

■ **FERGUSON**—Ferguson Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Oct. 12, 11 a.m., with the church's former pastors as guest speakers. A dinner on the grounds will follow the morning service and **2nd Generation** will provide special music. **Jason Moore** is pastor.

■ **FORT THOMAS**—First Church recently called **Glenn Chasteen** as pastor.

■ **LONDON**—New Salem Church recently ordained **Kenny Adams** as deacon. **Greg Deaton** is pastor.

■ **KINGS MOUNTAIN**—Pond Church will hold revival services Oct. 12-17, 7 p.m., with **Doug Bridges, John Cummins, Andrew Dyer, Mike Hamby, Bill Haynes** and **Matt Mitchell** as evangelists. **Eric Douglas** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Broadway Church will host a Harvest Festival Oct. 11, 11 a.m., featuring food, a farmer's market, children's activities and a community recycling event. **Lewis Mathis** will provide special music. **Chris Caldwell** is pastor.

**Tim Boles** recently resigned as

## Spotlight on ...

### Central City



Muhlenberg County Association will host the Muhlenberg County Crusade for Christ tent revival Oct. 12-16, 7 p.m., at the Muhlenberg County Agriculture and Convention Center with **Ronnie Owens** as evangelist. Oct. 14 is youth night featuring a concert by **Clay Crosse**. **The Mike Speck Trio** will provide special music Oct. 16.

minister of music at Green Acres Church.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—Central Church will hold revival services Oct. 12, 11 a.m.; Oct. 13-15, 7 p.m., with **Dan Russell**, pastor of Central Church in Paris, as evangelist. **Robert Donovan** is pastor.

Scaffold Cane Church will hold revival services Oct. 12-15, 7 p.m., with **Zandell Hasty**, pastor of Liberty Church in Crab Orchard, as evangelist. **Chris Cobb** is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—The Journey Church recently called **Robert Johnson** as director of family ministries and strategic systems. He previously was pastor at Northside Church in Mayfield.

■ **WINGO**—Fellowship Church recently called **Paul Bogard** as pastor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

9-11 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.

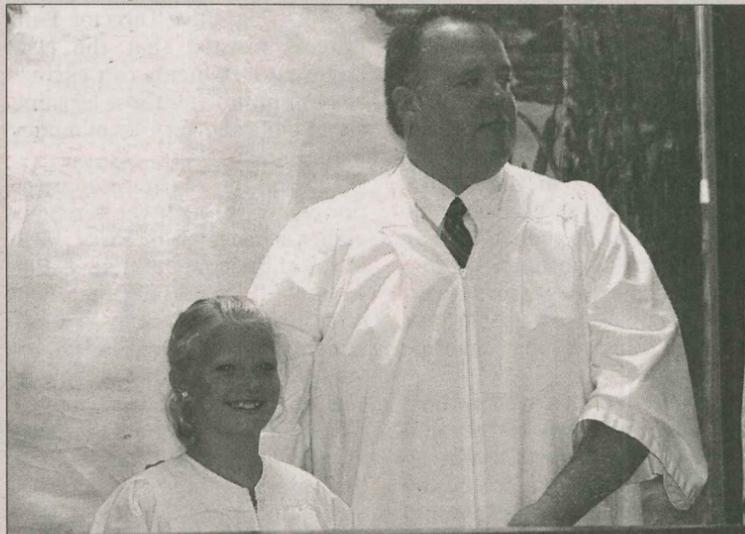
10-11 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

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.

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



**REVIVAL** Ed Amundsen, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, prepares to baptize a new believer. The girl is one of more than two dozen people who have made decisions for Christ since March, reported Amundsen, who was called to High Street Baptist in April. He also noted that membership at the Pulaski County church has increased in the last six months, and that attendance has reached levels not seen in several years. High Street members have been involved in numerous local and national missions projects, and will begin a building project next month to accommodate the congregation's need for more Sunday school and fellowship space. (Photo courtesy of Ed Amundsen)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Church buses and vans—new and used. Call American Bus and Accessories, Inc., (800) 582-7118.

**FREE:** Metal chairs available for needy church. Please call Green Acres Baptist Church, (502) 964-8165.

**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.timberline.com](http://www.timberline.com); (800) 392-0152. West Virginia Wild & Wonderful.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for rural church in southern Woodford County. Parsonage available. Contact Mike Chapman, 1516 Mundys Landing, Versailles, KY 40383. (859) 873-3237.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister (K-8th) for a small, but growing church in Shelby County. Request PD or send resumé to Salem Baptist Church, 8311 Mount Eden Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065; or [drjamese1@bellsouth.net](mailto:drjamese1@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217. Responsible for blended style congregational worship and choir directing. Mail resumé by Nov. 15, 2008, to Linda Owen, Worship Committee. Cell: (502) 836-8683.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Owenton FBC. Send resumé and DVD, CD or tape of recent sermon to Pastor Search Committee, 213 N Main St., Owenton, KY 40359.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Jamestown First Baptist Church, located in south-central Kentucky near Lake Cumberland and Wolf Creek Dam. All correspondence should be mailed to Norma Wheat, Jamestown Baptist, PO Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629-0308.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music/director of music for North Fork Baptist Church of Switzer, Ky. Interested parties: Please submit resumé to the Music Search Committee, North Fork Baptist Church, 3660 Rocky Branch Road, Frankfort, KY 40601 by Oct. 31, 2008.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for East Hickman Baptist Church, an historic church located 4 miles from Lexington, Ky. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 2125 Azalea Drive, Lexington, KY 40504.

**SEEKING:** Christian school headmaster (or interim). Requirements: Masters in Education degree; administrative experience or certificate; Christian school philosophy. Send resumé by Oct. 10 to Danville Christian Academy, 401 Waveland Ave., Danville, KY 40422; or [stomberger@kywimax.com](mailto:stomberger@kywimax.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister. Send resumé and references to: Friendship Baptist, 5411 Bengal Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**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 pastor for Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Team, Pleasant View Baptist Church, 13571 Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489.

**SEEKING:** Full-time, enthusiastic, God-called children's/recreation minister to serve an energetic, loving, growing church with exceptional support from dedicated parents and congregation. Full job description available upon request. Please send resúmes to FLC Search Committee, Marion Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Marion, KY 42064; or searchcommittee@marionbaptistchurch.com. Deadline is Oct. 31.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Gap Creek Baptist Church, a conservative member of Cumberland Gap Baptist Association in Claiborne County, Tenn. Experience is preferred. Gap Creek has an active membership of over 300 and is growing. If possible, send a CD or DVD of sermons along with a resumé to Gap Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Arthur, TN 37707, Attn: Troy Poore. You may e-mail resumé to [trpoore@hotmail.com](mailto:trpoore@hotmail.com); or fax to (423) 869-8777.

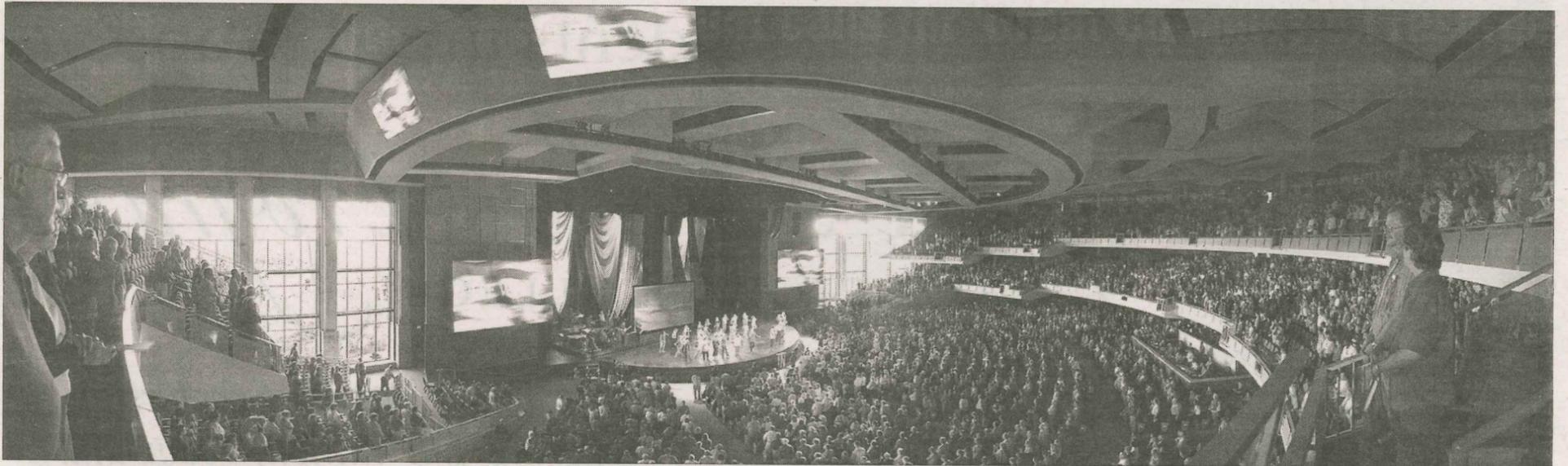
**SEEKING:** One full-time or two part-time positions: Student minister (grades 7-12) and minister of music. Each position requires 20 hours. If interested in either or both, please send resumé, DVD or CD to Ferguson Baptist Church, PO Box 247, Ferguson, KY 42533.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Responsible for overall supervision of music ministry of Green Acres Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee Chairperson, 1220 Kremer Ave., Louisville, KY 40213; or call (502) 969-5975, or the church: (502) 964-8165.

**SEEKING:** Mystery shopper. Earn up to \$150 per day. Undercover shoppers needed to evaluate retail and dining establishments. Experience not required. Call (877) 581-1854.

**TOURS:** Join other Kentucky Baptists in 2009 for a Hawaii cruise and tour in February, an Alaska cruise and land tour in June, or a fabulous Holy Land cruise and tour next September. Round trip air will be arranged from your closest major airport. For brochures or to make a reservation, call toll-free, (877) 557-0073.

**WORSHIP RESOURCES:** Need a pianist? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by. Just what you need if you don't have a pianist or if your pianist isn't always available. Call Worship Service Resources at (877) 977-6800; or visit [www.pianocds.org](http://www.pianocds.org) for info and a free sample CD. Hymns, praise songs, blended, PowerPoint, special church pricing.



## Survey: Megachurch stereotypes incorrect

*Super congregations more intimate than most would believe*

By Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

Waco, Texas (ABP)—A new survey by Baylor University researchers suggests that megachurches are more intimate, believers less gullible and atheism less prevalent than popular stereotypes would suggest.

Results of the 2008 Baylor Religion Survey were released last month at a Washington press conference during a meeting of religion reporters. It found some results that might surprise those unfamiliar with the lives and beliefs of deeply religious Americans.

For example: Stereotypes about churches that have an average weekly attendance of more than 1,000 worshippers.

"We all know that megachurches have all sorts of flaws. They're big; they have a wonderful Sunday service because they can afford a symphony orchestra. But they're kind of cold, they have kind of, like, theater audiences," said Baylor sociology professor Rodney Stark, the study's lead researcher, noting common perceptions of megachurches. "All wrong."

The survey found that members of such churches tended to have

more friends within their congregations, hold more conservative or evangelical Christian beliefs, share their faith with friends and strangers more often, and be involved in volunteer work more frequently than their counterparts in churches with less than 100 in average attendance.

"How does that make any sense?" Stark asked. "The answer is: That's how they got there. Their friends brought them to church, and then they brought their friends to church, and that's how the congregation was built."

An additional factor suggested by the survey: Megachurches are far more likely than small churches to be conservative evangelical congregations. Meanwhile, smaller churches had a higher rate of affiliation with what the survey called a "liberal Protestant denomination," or with mainline church bodies.

The survey also found that active religious believers—and particularly conservative Christians—were less likely than the general public to believe in the occult and paranormal.

"The Baylor Survey found that traditional Christian religion greatly decreases credulity, as measured by beliefs in such things as dreams, Bigfoot, UFOs, haunted houses and astrology, with education having hardly any effect," the survey's authors noted.

For instance, as measured against

an index of belief in occult and paranormal beliefs, researchers constructed, only 14 percent of respondents who described themselves as "evangelical" rated high on the index. Meanwhile, 30 percent of those who rejected the "evangelical" label scored high on the same index.

Those who described themselves as "theologically liberal" were actually more likely than evangelicals—and than the public at large—to believe in such things as the ability to communicate with the dead, the existence of mythical creatures such as Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster, and alien encounters with earth.

Stark, asked if it should surprise people that those who hold conservative biblical beliefs would reject beliefs in the paranormal, said no—but that some in academia and the scientific community hold that stereotype.

"It seems pretty logical that people who are into conventional Christianity are not going to be open to this other stuff," he asserted. "But there's an enormous amount of belief out there that they're just suckers for anything—that they're just credulous people."

The survey was funded by the Templeton Foundation, and is the second wave of a three-part survey project. The first set of results was released in 2006. The final set, researchers said, will be released next year.

## Megachurches are growing through satellite campuses

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Dallas (RNS)—Megachurches—known for their big buildings, big schools and big crowds—continue to grow, but a new study detects shifts in the way they are expanding.

"The general growth pattern is that about 90 percent of megachurches report that they are growing, and many of them at very fast rates," said Warren Bird, a researcher at the Leadership Network, a Dallas-based church think tank and co-author of the study released last month.

The average megachurch saw a growth of about 50 percent in attendance in the last five years; about 10 percent reported a decline or stagnation.

The expansion of many of the nation's estimated 1,250 megachurches is occurring through satellite campuses, and they are shifting their training emphasis by running fewer schools and more pastors' conferences.

"You have a tremendous amount of growth but not ... larger and larger buildings," said study co-author Scott Thumma, a sociologist of religion at Hartford Seminary.

The churches, with worship attendance of 2,000 or more each weekend, are increasingly using satellite locations, with 37 percent using them in 2008, compared to 27 percent in 2005 and 22 percent in 2000. The researchers found that, on average, megachurches surveyed this year had offered four services at each of two satellite locations each weekend.

Five percent of megachurches had six or more locations, where between one dozen and two dozen services occur each weekend.

Almost a third of the megachurches surveyed—30 percent—said they had started using satellite campuses in the last five years.

Outreach magazine, a church leadership publication based in Vista, Calif., recently reported that for the first time, all 100 churches on its list of 100 largest churches in the U.S. are attended by more than 7,000 people. It noted that experts predict that half of all megachurches will have multiple locations by 2010.

Yet as they continue to grow, fewer megachurches are involved in TV and radio ministry; the percentage of megachurches with a radio ministry dropped from 44 percent in 2000 to 24 percent in 2008. Likewise, the percentage with television ministries dropped from 38 percent to 23 percent.

Fewer also are operating Christian schools. In 2000, 42 percent of megachurches surveyed said a Christian elementary or secondary school was part of their ministry. This year, that figure dropped to 25 percent. The percentage with an affiliated Bible school or institute dropped from 30 percent in 2000 to 20 percent in 2008.

At the same time, more churches are offering conferences for pastors or other ministry leaders, increasing from 47 percent in 2000 to 54 percent in 2008.

Even though the majority of megachurches are affiliated with denominations, researchers said offering conferences, resources and mission opportunities suggest the rise of "mini-denominations."

"They are creating alternative ways for churches and for religious people to get resources, to do ministry, to do missions, to connect with other churches," Thumma noted.

"All the things that were typically done ... from the national denominational structure are being done at a local church level."

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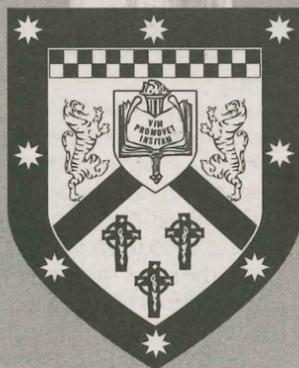
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