



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## 'Reclaiming Our Communities'

*Pair of conferences highlights need for church involvement in Ky. drug problem*

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—If it was up to Eric Allen, a conference like Reclaiming Our Communities would never happen. A day of workshops designed to help church leaders minister to those caught in the grip of drug abuse is not something he wants to have to coordinate.

"The reason we're having it is because there is a drug problem," said Allen, Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission services and ministries director. "It would be nice if drugs weren't out there, but they are."

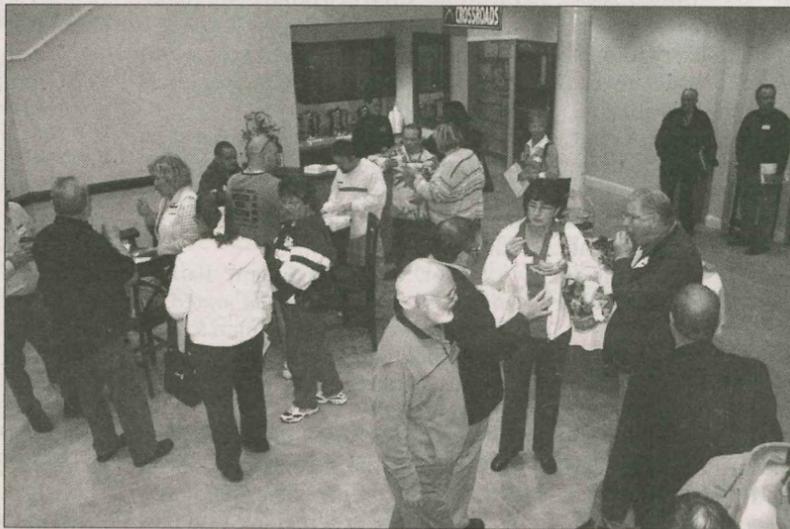
The reality, of course, is that hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians are affected by drugs and alcohol daily. And Kentucky Baptists must know how to help those who need the hope of Jesus Christ the most.

Last weekend, more than 150 people participated in the KBC-sponsored Reclaiming Our Communities conferences at two locations in the state—Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, and First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

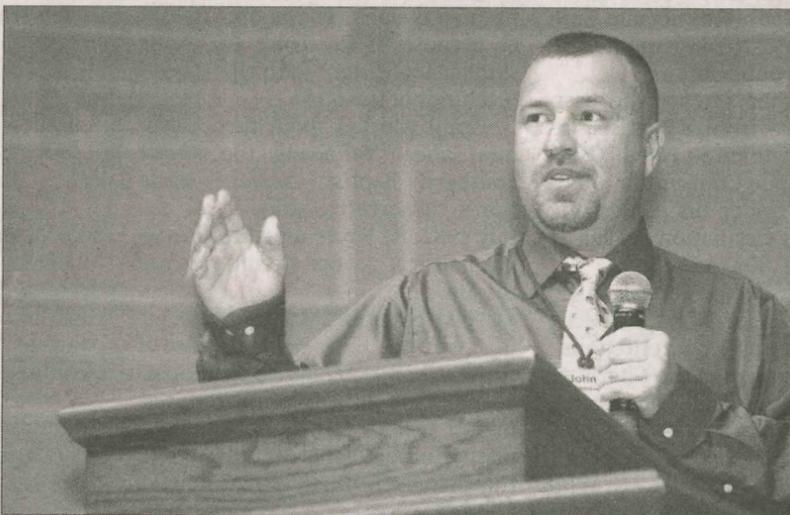
The conference featured several breakout sessions with speakers from churches and ministries across the state who know about helping substance abusers and their families recover.

Allen told participants he hoped they would "take back some resources that will help you to be more effective in reaching out to those in your communities who are hurting from substance abuse."

□ See Church involvement ... *Page 6*



**COMMUNITY CONCERN** ■ Above: Participants at the Reclaiming Our Communities socialize prior to last weekend's training event at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington. An identical conference took place the same day in the western part of the state at First Baptist Church of Madisonville. More than 150 people participated in the two conferences which focused on how local churches can get involved in ministering to substance abusers and their families. ■ Below: John Skidmore of Stanton, a former drug addict and alcoholic, shares his testimony for the first time in public. Skidmore is a former police officer who struggled with alcohol from the time he was a teenager and later became addicted to pain medication. After entering a faith-based drug treatment program two years ago, Skidmore kicked his drug and alcohol habits and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. (Photos by Drew Nichter)



## Child protection focus of new IMB missionary policy

Richmond, Va. (RNS)—The Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board has requested that participants in its short-term mission trips pass background checks before leaving for the field.

The new child protection policy, which is not mandatory and would not apply to mission trips taken independently of the IMB, was approved at a September meeting of trustees. It becomes effective Jan. 1, 2009, the board announced.

"Children are a precious resource entrusted to us and their care and protection is a top priority," according to an executive summary of the policy. "Because almost everyone serving on the mission field interacts with children, we are asking that all short-term mission trip participants ages 18 and older have child protection training and go through a background screening process."

The process will include references, a criminal background check and an interview by local churches. For those under age 18, only a reference check is required. Screenings are only necessary once every four years regardless of the number of overseas mission trips an individual takes.

"Though it is regrettable that we should even need to consider such a policy for mission team members, we are acutely aware of incidents within our own local churches—even among staff members," said Ken Winter,

□ See IMB child ... *Page 2*

## Ky. Baptists gearing up to serve local communities at Crossover

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—The fall season brings with it a chill in the air and a sign that the cold winter months are just around the corner.

Winter also is the time of year when Kentucky's neediest families struggle most. Trying to stay warm and well-fed is difficult for the thousands of low-income and homeless families in the bluegrass, many of which have children to care for.

Three Lexington-area Kentucky Baptist associations hope that next weekend's Crossover Kentucky 2008 will jump start their wintertime ministry efforts.

Elkhorn and Tates Creek Baptist Associations are coordinating blanket giveaways through their churches. Dubbed "Covering the Bluegrass with Love," the associations are soliciting donations of new and gently used blankets from their congrega-

tions to hand out at several church locations Nov. 8.

Seven churches in Elkhorn Association and two Tates Creek congregations are designated as pick-up sites for the blankets. Hamilton Valentine, director of missions for Tates Creek Association, said his association contacted the local school systems and social organizations to get the word out to needy families about the effort.

"We know these are people who need them and can use them," he added.

Not only can each family member receive a blanket, free Bibles will be available. Volunteers will be handing out the Bibles and serving meals, according to Sandra Williams, Elkhorn's director of church and community ministries and coordinator for the blanket giveaway.

"It's an opportunity for us to

□ See Crossover gets churches ... *Page 3*



**KNOCK KNOCK** Kentucky Baptists from three associations will be knocking on a lot of doors Nov. 8 as part of Crossover Kentucky 2008, the missions emphasis that precedes the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. Churches from Elkhorn, Franklin and Tates Creek Baptist Associations will participate in a wide range of evangelistic events throughout next weekend.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, October 29.

## Baylor officials express regret for student cash incentives

By Erin Roach  
Baptist Press

Waco, Texas (BP)—Baylor University's vice president for marketing and communications said Oct. 16 that the school regrets offering students cash incentives for retaking the SAT, a program he acknowledged was motivated by a desire to permit students access to additional financial aid.

"In retrospect, we regret now the cash incentive," John Barry told Baptist Press. "We've heard the criticism; we understand the criticism. It at least has the appearance of impropriety. I would tell you that was never our intent. Our intent was to try to be creative and to encourage students to take a test that would then allow them access to financial aid money that we thought they were entitled to."

In response to inquiries from students and parents, Barry said Baylor decided to move up the admissions process last year so they could notify students of award packages earlier, presumably to help students decide which college to attend.

In May, Baylor administrators noticed that the school had committed less financial aid than they had expected to award by that time, Barry noted.

"The other thing was that our SAT scores were down," he pointed out. "Our conclusion was that in pushing our processes so far forward, what we might have done is prohibit smart students—capable students—from retaking the SAT ... and doing better on their scores and therefore qualifying for higher levels of merit aid."

"We were trying to help them by moving the deadlines up, but our conclusion was that we might be penalizing them by our processes," Barry added.

Baylor, a 14,000-student Baptist university in Waco, Texas, opted to give each incoming freshman a \$300 book scholarship redeemable at the campus bookstore for retaking the exam last June.

Since the school's newspaper ran the story of the incentive program Oct. 9, controversy has ensued. Several academic experts have said Bay-

lor misused the SAT in order to boost their status in the U.S. News and World Report ranking of colleges and universities. Baylor now stands at No. 76 and has expressed a desire to rank in the top tier of schools by 2012.

Baylor's Faculty Senate passed a motion criticizing the incentives program Oct. 15, saying the practice is "academically dishonest and should be discontinued."

"It's an issue of academic honesty," Georgia Green, chair of the senate, told the school paper. "We think it's fine for students to retake the SAT to enter a higher scholarship bracket. What we disapprove of is giving a financial incentive to be able to say we have a higher average SAT score."

Barry told BP it "was routine at Baylor until two weeks ago and it is routine at many universities around the nation" to permit students who already have been admitted to provide additional SAT scores if those scores would benefit their academic profile.

Asked why the admissions office

did not notify the Faculty Senate about the incentive program, Barry said he did not think such admissions or financial aid programs generally were run by the representative body.

Barry did express an intention to alter the school's practice in the future.

"The thing that we regret, and the mistake we made was to provide the cash incentives. It was motivated by a desire to recognize a mistake we had made in a process and to permit students access to additional financial aid. We probably shouldn't have done that," he said. "We should have just communicated it as strongly as we could and hoped that students would take advantage of the opportunity."

About 28 percent of the newly admitted Baylor students accepted the incentives offer, and 151 of them earned the merit scholarships, collectively raising Baylor's average SAT score for incoming freshmen from 1200 to 1210, still nine points below last year's freshman class and three points below the 2006 class.

## Marse Grant, longtime editor for N.C. Baptist paper, dies at 88

Raleigh, N.C. (ABP)—Marse Grant, editor emeritus of North Carolina Baptists' Biblical Recorder, died Oct. 17 at his home in Raleigh, N.C. He was 88.

Grant edited the Recorder from 1960-82, longer than any other editor in the paper's history. He previously was editor of Charity and Children, a North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes publication.

Grant became one of the best-known North Carolina Baptists, attending more than 50 North Carolina Baptist State Convention annual meetings. Under his leadership, the Recorder's circulation peaked at more than 120,000 in 1978.

He previously had served as editor of two secular North Carolina newspapers. After his retirement, he wrote columns for the Charlotte Observer and the High Point Enterprise.

Grant was profiled in The North Carolina Century: Tar Heels Who

Made a Difference, 1900-2000. The article, by former Fayetteville Observer editor Charles Clay, details how Grant took an unpopular stand on race relations in just his second month at the Recorder.

"God loves all people," Grant wrote. "To think that he prefers one over the other because of the color of skin is inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible."

Grant warned about turmoil ahead following the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative shift. In July 1982, he wrote an editorial saying political groups should not use the SBC.

"Marse was among the Baptist editors who had to try to make sense of the sea change in Baptist life that occurred near the end of his tenure," noted current Recorder Editor Norman Jameson. "That he interpreted the changes through a lifetime lens

of what he felt was being lost should be no surprise."

Wilmer C. Fields, who was public relations director for the Southern Baptist Convention during much of Grant's tenure, said Grant dedicated himself "24/7" for 33 years to journalism in the Baptist cause.

"His vocational commitment set high marks for his contemporaries and all who would follow," Fields said. "Somewhere, somehow, there is newly written beside his name in the Lamb's Book of Life, 'Well Done!'"

When Grant announced his retirement in 1982, Tommy Payne, then chairman of the Recorder's board of directors, wrote an editorial calling Grant a fighter.

"Agree with him or not, you have to admire the effort that he puts into issues he believes in," Payne wrote.

Grant fought hard whenever he

saw discrimination, Payne recalled.

"In the early 50s when it was costly to say segregation was wrong, Marse Grant did just that," Payne said. "He was one of the few early voices in our state to speak strongly about the needs of our black citizens, and the need to change laws as well as attitudes."

In an editorial announcing his retirement, Grant said many North Carolina Baptists had told him over the years that they did not always agree with him, but were glad the Recorder could express itself when differences came up in Baptist life.

"I like to hear that, and the Recorder will remain free," he wrote. "North Carolina Baptists like it that way. They don't want their state paper to become a house organ."

In addition to Marian, his wife of 66 years, Grant is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, a brother and a sister.



Marse Grant

## Mohler: Southern Seminary not shaken by economy

Louisville (BP)—Economic times might be difficult in the United States, but Albert Mohler told trustees that Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is not being shaken by the downturn.

The SBTS president, in his report at the board of trustees' Oct. 14 meeting at the Louisville campus, said the seminary's mission of producing pastors to lead local Southern Baptist churches will continue regardless of the economy.

"We ask if Southern Seminary can survive, I can tell you the answer is, 'Yes,'" Mohler declared. "The task to which we are called is derivative of the great gospel whereby we have been saved and, because of that, (the seminary) can't be shaken."

"When we are in a time like this, it is important for us to remember that we really have an important assignment, and it's not something this is economically dependent in terms of the needs of the church, he added.

Mohler pointed out that the seminary, founded in 1859, emerged on the eve of the Civil War, perhaps the most difficult time America has ever faced and the most costly war in the nation's history. The economy was far worse then,

he noted, but the seminary survived because of its unique gospel mission and will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary next spring.

With other seminaries in severe decline, Mohler said Southern will remain healthy as long as it continues to remember that it exists ultimately to serve the Kingdom of God and not the kingdom of man.

He added that the church must have preachers even if it cannot afford to have buildings.

"There is an economy on which we are absolutely dependent and it is a spiritual economy," Mohler said. "It is a gospel economy, it is the economy of God's way of saving sinners. It is God's way of feeding His church and tending to His own, and the church has learned that you've got to preach when you can't even eat."

In addition, Mohler announced the appointment of Lawrence Smith, who has served as vice president of communications for the past seven years, as dean of students at Southern Seminary and Boyce College, and will serve as vice president of community relations. Smith's wife, Garnetta, also was appointed associate dean for women.

## IMB child protection policy will apply to short-term missionaries

Continued from page 1

IMB vice president of church and partner services, in announcing the new policy Oct. 21.

"We know that many Southern Baptist churches are already providing background checks and training for members who are serving in local church ministry, but it may not extend to those headed overseas as part of a mission team."

In a "Frequently Asked Questions" portion of the policy posted online, the board said individuals who refuse to submit to a background check will not be permitted to participate in a mission team working with the IMB. The board also will not permit anyone with a history of sexual abuse to serve on a board-related mission trip, and it requested all mission trip participants complete child protection training.

The IMB's existing policy com-

pels the investigation of any accusation or indication of sexual abuse, as well as immediate dismissal and filing of appropriate criminal charges if sexual abuse is confirmed.

The SBC has come under scrutiny by abuse victims' advocates who have said their efforts to prevent sexual abuse have been insufficient. Last year, the SBC passed a resolution expressing their "moral outrage" about child sexual abuse.

Earlier this year, the SBC Executive Committee chose not to pursue a proposed database that would track staff members who have been convicted or accused of sexual abuse. The decision was based in part on the autonomy of local churches.

More detailed information about the IMB's child protection policy can be found at its Web site.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

## Crossover gets churches 'eyeball to eyeball' with people

Continued from page 1

touch their lives in a positive way and meet a practical need," she noted.

This is the eighth year for Crossover Kentucky, which precedes the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. The emphasis is patterned after the annual missions event that takes place in Southern Baptist Convention host cities prior to the SBC annual meeting.

The Crossover approach has taken on different forms in years past, and this year the emphasis is individual churches. Associational leaders have taken the lead in planning Crossover events, but local church leaders have spearheaded their own events.

"It's going to be up to each individual church," said Stuart Cundiff, director of missions for Franklin Baptist Association. He has encouraged his churches to get involved in Crossover through prayerwalking and handing out community surveys door to door. The association also has provided training for those activities.

### Blanketing areas in prayer

Prayerwalking is a common initiative for this year's Crossover. Members of Elkhorn Association churches will prayerwalk through areas of Lexington, specifically the Irishtown neighborhood in the city's downtown area.

Groups will pray over the community in the morning, then lead a parenting seminar for women in the afternoon, according to Pam Pyle, who directs Elkhorn's Irishtown ministries. Volunteers from Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown will lead the event.

"It's going to be helping the mothers learn to interact with their children in a positive way," Pyle noted. The training also will provide

mothers with information on proper discipline for overactive children.

Not all Crossover events will happen on Nov. 8—many already are in progress or will be held prior to next weekend.

One of Elkhorn's Hispanic congregations, Ministerio Cristiano Esperanza in Nicholasville, got a jump on Crossover in early October by partnering with the Jessamine Jamboree, a community fall festival held near the church.

Ray Van Camp, director of church planting and development, reported that church members and Pastor Emilio Zapata connected with 120 people during the festival through kids' games and free food.

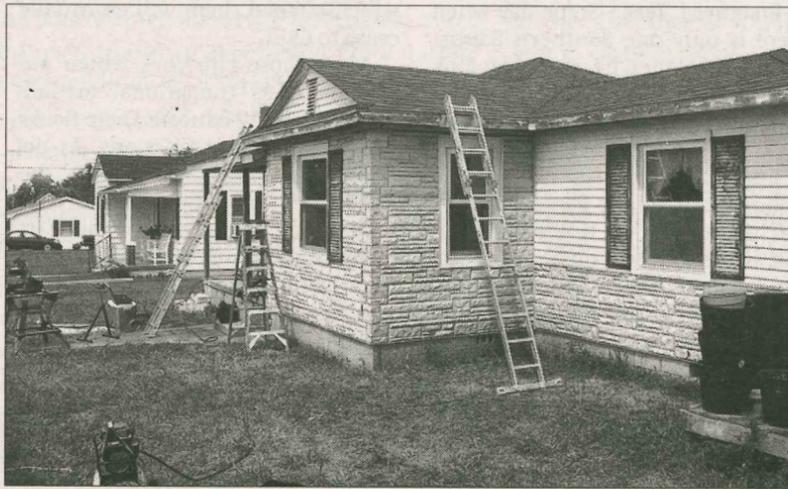
In the heart of Lexington's Hispanic community, Iglesia Bautista Cardinal Valley will host a festival in the church's parking lot on Oct. 31. Van Camp estimated there are about 15,000 Hispanic people living within walking distance of the church, offering an abundance of opportunities to connect with unchurched people.

Meanwhile, Tates Creek Association has been hard at work on the Rose Lane Project, a home repair job that began back in early spring.

The home belongs to a man in his 50s, according to Jimmy Closterman, pastor of Faith Decision Baptist Church in Paint Lick. He said the house was in bad shape with a tarp covering a large hole in the roof. The resident also has been living without indoor heat or hot water.

"We're not making it brand new, but getting it to the point that it's livable," noted Closterman, who also is Baptist Men on Mission director for Tates Creek Association.

He said he expects that the Rose Lane Project will continue far beyond Crossover weekend, and likely will not be completed until next



**HOME REPAIR** The Rose Lane Project is one of Tates Creek Baptist Association's events that are part of Crossover Kentucky 2008 prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 11. The home repair project has been ongoing since early spring and is expected to continue until next February. (Photo courtesy of Tates Creek Association)

February.

Leaders at all three associations agreed that the central thrust of Crossover is to take the love of Jesus Christ to the community and to get to know residents better.

To that end, all three associations are coordinating community-needs surveys that will be taken to neighborhoods door to door during the weekend.

### Plugging in to communities

"What we're trying to do with the survey is not pressure them into what we want, but rather to ask them what they want," Van Camp explained. "What kind of prayer concerns they have, what kind of community concerns they have (and) how can a church plug better into the community? It's pointed to help people to see that the church cares about them."

Cundiff agreed.

The surveys "are part of the Great

Commission," he emphasized. "As you go, go out into the community. Sitting in a church building having a worship service ... is not reaching the community if you don't know what the needs are.

"You have to get outside the four walls, walk down the sidewalk and knock on doors; get eyeball to eyeball with the people," he added. "You've got to say, 'Here we are. We're the church. What can we do for you?'"

Cundiff challenged Kentucky Baptist churches and associations not to wait for an event like Crossover to emphasize community missions and evangelism.

"We shouldn't have to wait for the KBC to come to our area to have a Crossover event," he said. "It's so important that it should be carried on by the churches on an ongoing basis. ... We just can't sit in a building and hope people are going to come to us."

**"You have to get outside the four walls, walk down the sidewalk and knock on doors; get eyeball to eyeball with the people. You've got to say, 'Here we are. We're the church. What can we do for you?'"**

Stuart Cundiff, director of missions for Franklin Baptist Association

## NAMB appoints KBC employees as newest missionaries to state

Alpharetta, Ga.—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has appointed two Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff members as missionaries.

Coy Webb, disaster relief associate with the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department, and his wife, Cathy, were appointed by NAMB as missionaries to the state. Webb joined the Mission Board staff last October. He provides leadership in the areas of disaster relief, Baptist Builders, men's ministry and missions education.

Previously, Webb served as pastor at First Baptist Church of Monticello, Niles Ferry Baptist Church in Greenback, Tenn., as well as churches in Missouri and Kansas. He also served as an on-site coordinator with the Kansas/Nebraska Baptist Convention.

A native of Shelbyville, Webb is a graduate of University of Tennessee in Knoxville and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He also attended Air Force Chaplain School in Alabama.

His wife, Cathy, studied at Draughon's Business College and University of Tennessee, both in



Coy Webb



Teresa Parrett

Knoxville. The Webbs have two sons, Matthew and Marc.

Teresa Parrett, who has served as state missions mobilization coordinator since April, also was recently appointed as a NAMB missionary. Based in Somerset, Parrett is responsible for connecting long- and short-term missions teams with KBC churches, associations and ministries in the state. She had served the convention since 1999 as a regional consultant. Immediately prior to her new role, she worked closely with Appalachian Regional Ministry Director Bill Barker.

Parrett is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

## Campbellsville to host youth ministry forum

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University will host "Think Again," a forum designed for youth ministers to gather and discuss various aspects of their ministries. The event is set for Nov. 15 at the school's Ransdell Chapel.

Think Again "is designed to provide insight and help on the challenges of youth ministry" noted Ed Pavy, director of campus ministries at Campbellsville. "At the same time it gives youth ministers a chance to connect with CU students who have come from their respective churches."

Shane Garrison, an educational ministries instructor at the school and a featured speaker at the event, said the program was recommended by several ministers from Campbellsville University's Church Relations Council, then developed by the school's Office of Church and External Relations, School of Theology and Baptist Campus Ministry, in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Garrison explained the seminar's key purposes.

"One is to invite youth ministers to our campus so that they can reconnect with the students from their churches and youth groups," he said.

He also called the seminar an opportunity for youth ministers to become better equipped for youth ministry. "Youth ministry is tough these days, and we hope to encourage and equip them to reach more students with the gospel."

In addition, "we hope this event can meet

one of the principle core values of the School of Theology, which is to be part in enduring fellowship," Garrison noted. "We want to connect with CU alumni who are youth ministers ... (and) to lift them up and praise their diligence in ministry."

Garrison said he will speak about shifts in the American post-culture and the impact they are having on students, as well as youth ministry paradigms that are both working and failing in their efforts to students.

"We hope Think Again will be the first in a series of annual fall meetings that bring ministers on our campus for a brief Saturday seminar on a number of Christian ministry-related topics," said John Hurtgen, dean of Campbellsville's School of Theology. "The exciting thing we want to happen is for many youth ministers who have students at CU to attend the event and then attend the tailgate and football game with their students after Think Again is over."

The featured speakers at the event's are Garrison, who will lead the forum's first session, discussing the challenges, methods and solutions in youth ministry; and Joe Ball, KBC's youth strategist, who will lead an "unpacking" of Steven Wright's book "reThink," examining the state of today's student ministries. All participants will receive a free copy of Wright's book.

Registration cost for the seminar is \$15 by Nov. 6, and \$20 after Nov. 6. To register, call (270) 789-5227, or visit [www.KyBaptist.org/ThinkAgain](http://www.KyBaptist.org/ThinkAgain).

## 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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## Lack of missions education will doom SBC

By **Lonnie Wilkey**

**Brentwood, Tenn.**—Some day when there is only one Southern Baptist left on the planet, he or she can look back and try to pinpoint the reason why our denomination became extinct.

I predict that person, whomever it might be, will point back to this generation and see it as when missions education began its downward spiral.

I recently had the opportunity to spend two days at the headquarters of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., at a briefing for Southern Baptist editors.

It was an informing, enlightening two days. Some of the information, which includes trends, is a little disheartening as well.

The IMB has identified and grouped Southern Baptist Convention churches into six categories—the legacy church, the transitional church, the purpose-driven church, the seeker church, the emerging church, and the affinity church.

In 2006, the IMB estimated that legacy and transitional churches comprised 70 percent of all Southern Baptist churches with 30 percent coming from the other four groups. A year later, the IMB estimated the number of legacy and transitional churches had dropped to 64 percent. They acknowledged that these are estimates and have no hard data to back these figures.

Yet, more than likely, they are correct. As someone pointed out during our meeting, the number of legacy churches, which I define as traditional, old-fashioned Southern Baptist churches, is declining. And as many of these churches cease to exist, they are being replaced by non-traditional type churches.

There is nothing wrong with these churches as long as they are Bible-based and teach what we as Southern Baptists hold dear. Yet, if these churches do not offer mis-

sions education, the denomination which birthed them will eventually cease to exist.

Even those churches which are categorized as “transitional” are failing to properly educate their flocks about missions. As defined by the IMB, the transitional churches have strong legacy roots. It appears to me these churches know where they came from, they just aren't teaching it.

More and more Southern Baptist churches are not offering traditional educational programs such as Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action and Mission Friends.

This will ultimately be our downfall.

Churches have gone to other programs—and while they are good programs—they do not teach our children about the denomination and our missions heritage. What's more, they do not teach about the Cooperative Program which funds our missions enterprises. I think many leaders do not equate missions education with the Cooperative Program.

Countless Southern Baptists my age and older first heard about CP through RAs and GAs. In today's culture, people do not give to a cause they aren't familiar with. The letters “CP” will become irrelevant without proper education.

IMB officials did express concern that many churches are not doing missions education. While the majority of Southern Baptist missionaries once learned about missions from RAs and GAs, that is no longer true, according to the IMB.

One comment, however, concerned me: “We get locked into what worked in another era. We want to sustain it though it's not relevant now.”

I counter that RAs, GAs and other missions organizations will work and are still relevant if utilized. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and Woman's Mis-

## FIRST PERSON

## Strong evangelistic outreach

I am so grateful for pastors and associational leaders who take the initiative in evangelistic outreach. I recently was exposed to two great examples of this evangelistic commitment.

The first example is Muhlenberg Baptist Association where God worked in a tremendous way through an evangelistic crusade held Oct. 12-16.

Thirty-six churches from the association were involved in sponsoring the crusade led by evangelist Ronnie Owens from Tazewell, Tenn. According to Director of Missions Ray Gilliland, the crusade resulted in 51 professions of faith, 20 rededications, a commitment to missions service and other decisions.

As a result, New Harmony Baptist Church in Bremen baptized seven people the next Sunday.

The second example is that set by Second Baptist Church of Greenville where Ray England is pastor. I had the privilege to preach at this church during Friday through Sunday night services that saw several

people make decisions for Christ.

This church actively reaches out to its community through 34 different ministries. These include an Angel Food ministry that serves

350 each month, a youth and children's ministry that has 147 enrolled in Sunday school, a summer lunch program that serves 250 children, and a meal ministry that serves 65 senior adults three meals each week. Church members also are actively involved in Upward sports programs that serve children and families through youth basketball and soccer leagues.

Second Baptist, Greenville, has experienced outstanding growth during the past 10 years. Sunday school average attendance has grown by 100 percent (401) while worship attendance (566) and resident membership (901) have each grown by 120 percent. During the same time, undesignated receipts have grown by 166 percent (\$831,750 in 2007).

Since 1949, the church has contributed more than \$1.7 million to missions through the Cooperative

Program, with 40 percent given in the last 10 years. CP gifts totaled \$88,864 in 2007-08.

The church has added a family life center where the contemporary worship services are held, along with special services. The church's family life center is spacious and includes a full stage, bride's room, large gathering space and up-to-date technology.

England said the church's five “essentials” for growth have been:

- Being genuinely friendly.
- Developing evangelistic relationships.
- Knowing people and relating to them.
- Adding contemporary worship.
- Becoming missional in emphasis.

The church's ministerial staff includes Bob Thurman, associate pastor and minister of education; Brian Schindler, minister of music and youth; and Josh Smith, minister for children and recreation. England said he is very grateful for the staff, outstanding lay leaders and those who share the gospel with passion.

Please pray for Brother England's health as he continues to give visionary leadership and for pastors and staff members in all churches.

*Lonnie Wilkey is editor of the Tennessee Baptist & Reflector*

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

## STEWARDSHIP

## Endless bad news in today's world is nothing but 'noise'

By **Jeremy White**

A handy item on an airplane or in any area with a lot of distractions is noise-canceling headphones. You put them on and outside noises are muffled. I can't explain the acoustical physics of how they work,

but you're able to focus better if you need to concentrate. You're also able to sleep easier.

After you've had them on for a while, you become used to a quieter atmosphere—similar to your eyes gradually adjusting to darkness. Then, after taking the headphones off, you think everything is so loud and bothersome.

Financial fear and stress can increase with so much “noise” in our economy. It seems that the goal of media is to make you fearful. Frightened analysts, worried politicians, anxious officials and shrieking talk-show hosts all are scared about all sorts of things—especially the future. The goal of advertising is to make you uncomfortable or discontented enough to buy a product or service.

Bad economic headlines in the newspaper; talking heads on the cable business channel; blogs on the Internet; all bothersome noise.

You hear the radio news saying, “Unemployment rose to 6.1 percent and jobless claims increased by 20,000 over last month.” Useless noise. It sounds unnerving because no context is given. The news reporter doesn't provide perspective. Such perspective like 6.1 percent is still much lower than the last four recessions, or that jobless claims usually rise in colder months because of slowing construction.

When the stock market drops 200 points, the headline is bigger in the newspaper than when it goes up 200 points. Distracting noise.

The TV anchor says on Friday that the market ended the week on a bad note by dropping 150 points. She doesn't tell you that it went up 50 points each day from Monday to Thursday. She doesn't emphasize that it ended the week higher. Chalkboard-scratching noise.

My advice is to put on your imaginary noise-canceling headphones and muffle the day-to-day noise. Stay focused on your long-term financial goals. Read truths in God's Word more often than the newspaper. Avoid the distractions. Don't be convinced that everyone is fearful and that you should be too.

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



## Single adults face difficulties in culture that extols marriage

**Q: I wish I could sit down and have one authentic conversation with someone of the opposite sex without a misunderstanding. I don't want to have a love interest right now, I just want to be friends. Why is that so hard?**

Even though at least half of all adults in the United States are single (never married, divorced or widowed), there still is a culture where it is expected that you either are part of a couple or would like to be. TV commercials, sitcoms, movies, magazines and everyday water-cooler conversations seem to revolve around who's dating whom.

### SINGLES

This culture often is just as difficult for single people in church. Against that stereotype is the biblical example of Jesus, Paul, the disciples, and the teaching of both Paul and Jesus regarding the advantages that single people have when it comes to having an undivided focus on pleasing and being on mission for God.

Besides the cultural challenges, there is the interpersonal aspect. Members of the opposite sex may be hormonally preoccupied with the "urge to merge." Some folks really do want to get married and they see you as a good candidate. With these people, be clear about your intentions. You want to be friends and you value friendship.

Be careful in words, deeds and dress not to send mixed messages. Sit down with someone whom you know and trust and ask them to give you honest feedback on how you might be sending mixed signals to the opposite sex without realizing it.

Seek out a single adult Bible study, fellowship, activities group, etc., in your area where "coupling" is not the purpose, where the peer pressure is not about dating.

If someone simply cannot accept or understand this concept, it may be simply that it is not God's timing for a relationship to proceed. View that as information that will help you avoid heartache down the road.—James Stillwell

**Q: My wife and I have been married six years. I'm afraid we are already getting bored with one another. Are we in a rut already? How do we get out?**

Have you heard about the guy in the movie who took a 40-day dare to learn to love his wife again? If you have, you have probably seen the movie "Fireproof." Around day 18 of the dare, he is challenged to "study" his wife. The idea is to study the person you are married to as if you were trying to earn a bachelor's degree, then a master's, then a doctorate. Earning degrees requires a lot of time, energy and money. In the process, many people experience tremendous growth and learning.

If you are in a rut, perhaps you have stopped studying your wife. Some college courses are basic and then become more focused and advanced. Eventually some students acquire great expertise in their fields of study. Where would you rank yourself in your field of study—your wife? Are you still taking the basics, or have you become more focused and are studying with more intensity and depth?

Ruts are boring, but human beings are not. They are God's most complex creation. Learn to study your wife. Get creative. Imagine you had to design an entire degree program majoring in her. What would you name the courses? What would the course requirements be? What level of expertise would be required for you to graduate and earn each degree?

Yes, this could take a while. Consider what God has given you. Are you willing to make the investment? What do you imagine might happen in your marriage if you became an expert on your wife? What if you took her so seriously as to study her and learn about who she is and what God wants to do in her life? What might God reveal to you as you study, grow and learn?—Valerie Vincent

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## Christian perspective on a historic election

Much has been written about the historic nature of the election we're about to experience. On a national level, U.S. voters will elect either the first African-American president or the first female vice president. The election of either candidate will be long remembered as a significant moment in the American experience.

Beyond the elements of skin tone and gender, however, Americans seem to sense this time also marks an important cultural moment in our history. We go into this election as a nation at war and in the midst of severe economic crisis. Emotions are running high and nerves are becoming frayed as partisans for each set of candidates maneuver, spend and calculate.

As we approach this significant moment, it's only right that we ask ourselves as Christians, "How would God have me respond?" As we look to the Scriptures, we find that God actually has quite a lot to say about our relationship to governmental authority. In 1 Peter 2:13-14, Peter says to "submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him." In Romans 13:4, Paul (while living under the rule of a pagan government) said, "Government is God's servant to you for good." In Mark 12:17, Jesus himself reminds us to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

So how does this play out in a practical way in 2008? Here are some concrete ways to allow your faith and American politics to intersect:

**Pray.** Pray for your country, for this election and for all of the candidates, even those you do not support. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 urges that "petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority."

**Vote.** If you are eligible to vote, do so. Examine the words, past actions, qualifications and experience of the candidates. Look beyond the smiles and personalities to the platforms of their parties and ask God

for His guidance as you decide for whom to cast your ballot. Party platforms, voter guides and comparative analysis of the candidates' issue stances are readily available on the Internet and in various publications.

**Engage.** Voting should only mark the beginning of Christian civic involvement. In Matthew 5:13-14, Jesus tells us to be salt and light. In the context of Christian citizenship, this means being willing to be counted on issues of importance. Be willing to call or write your government leaders. Attend rallies, support resolutions or sign petitions as appropriate. Government leaders often hear

only from people with extreme viewpoints because the vast majority of citizens avoid getting involved. **Participate.** One of the greatest needs in America today is for Christians to take their citizenship to the level of actual service. Most elected positions in the United States are not full-time jobs so committing to public office does not necessarily mean a career change. People who are juggling the responsibilities of other jobs, church obligations and busy family lives can fill school boards, city councils and even state legislative positions. Serving is not easy. Most people don't want the hassle. But if you have the qualifications to serve, maybe you should be praying about whether God is calling you in this direction.

Here's a final point to remember about the interesting times in which we live: God still is in control. He will be in control on Nov. 4, and He will still be in control on Nov. 5, no matter who is elected. And it is to Him that we owe our ultimate trust and allegiance. In his own farewell speech as a national leader, Joshua reminded the people of Israel of this crucial point. "Choose you this day whom you will serve," he said, "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

*John Chowning is vice president for church and external relations at Campbellsville University. He also serves as chairman of the KBC's Committee on Public Affairs and pastor of Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville.*

### GUEST EDITORIAL



John Chowning

## Profound sentiments in simple statements

By Tom Ehrich

**New York (RNS)**—I learned years ago to write simple declarative sentences. Now I am going the next step: simple declarative thoughts.

My mind is naturally drawn to the complex and dialectical. So is reality. Few things are as simple as they could be stated. Reality, however, is more like the formula Jesus used: "You have heard it said, but I say to you ..."

These "but" clauses aren't equivocations. They describe the nature of things. People and situations generally are more complex than they seem. By allowing room for "but"—"She is a fine person, but her attitude frustrates me"—we honor the complexity.

Yet sometimes you just need to say the simple words. "I love you." Or, "God is good." "God is love." "God forgives." Such statements can describe reality at a depth that truly engages our behavior.

This need for clarity came into focus last weekend as I began a new writing project: 40-word pieces intended for daily inspiration. My first efforts were awkward. Too long, too complex, too much steeped in the "but" and "or" of dialectic. I had to

focus, strip away the over-thinking. Like writers in the era since magazines stopped paying by the word and began to reward brevity and clarity, I had to achieve extreme economy of language and thought.

For examples of the genre, I consulted the book of Proverbs. I found gems of clarity. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." "Wisdom cries out in the street." "Do not plan harm against your neighbor."

### Statements of faith

For statements that expressed my own faith, I had to dig deep. I wrote, "Love proves that God exists." Also, "Faith relishes the truth and is crippled by lies." More can be said; often, more needs to be said. Inspiration cannot stop at the one-liner, at the "sound bite" much loved by political candidates, or at pretty aphorisms.

I just know that probing and thoughtfulness must go deep enough to be owned and stated. It has taken me a lifetime, for example, to learn this truth: "Love proves that God exists."

The simple and declarative open doors. When a visitor tries church, for example, they tend to ask basic

questions: "Do I feel welcome here?" "Am I safe here?" "Is God being spoken here?"

No matter how many layers of complexity and spinning our candidates deploy, the depth of voters' concern tends toward a few simple questions. "Does this person seem smart enough and wise enough to govern effectively in a complex and dangerous world?" "Can he or she be trusted?" "Will they surround themselves with capable and honest people?"

An in-depth study of the cascading financial crisis leads to similar questions: "Did they behave honorably?" "Can they be trusted tomorrow?" "Are they competent?"

Those questions can be answered Yes or No. It is Yes or No that guide our behavior. Advertisers try to create an artificial Yes, based on appetite, and politicians press appeals based on fear and prejudice. Those blind alleys are different from the Yes or No that springs from deep thought. Authentic simplicity takes effort.

A true "October Surprise" in this pivotal election year would be for us all to sit quietly, think deeply and make decisions grounded in our deepest convictions and yearnings.

*Tom Ehrich is a writer, church consultant and founder of The Church Wellness Project.*

## Church involvement is needed to help community drug issues

Continued from page 1

And it is for those like John Skidmore that these conferences exist. Skidmore is a former alcoholic and drug addict who found Christ and sobriety through a church-based drug treatment program.

Skidmore formerly was a police officer in Eastern Kentucky's Powell County who struggled with alcohol from the time he was a teenager. Following a car accident in his 20s, he developed a dependency on pain medication.

Two years ago, at age 35, he was completely hooked on both drugs and alcohol and his marriage was in trouble. "I had to have the alcohol, had to have the pain pills," Skidmore said. "It wasn't to get high, it was to feel normal."

That was when he said he prayed for the first time since he was a child.

"I said, 'God I need your help. I can't keep living like this. Something's got to change and I can't do it myself,'" he recalled.

Soon after, Skidmore's family urged him to check into a faith-based drug treatment program. It was an interdenominational church ministry formed in Powell County, with help from several local KBC churches and state Baptist leaders.

Skidmore spent two weeks as a resident at the treatment facility, and attended 10 months of follow-up meetings at local churches. During that time, he accepted Christ as his Savior, thanks to the love and support of church members.

"I just couldn't get that out of my head why someone would care enough to take time out of their day to help me when I was at one of the lowest points of my life," Skidmore noted. "I didn't know it, but I guess God had plans for me, because maybe I was worth something."

According to Eric Bruns, John Skidmore is a perfect example of how churches can help addicts move to an "abstinence-based lifestyle with grace and mercy."

Bruns, an associate professor of Psychology at Campbellsville University and a clinical psychologist, discussed the psychological factors of addiction. In a breakout session, he urged conference participants to learn and be able to recognize "the process that brings people into addiction so that we can help love them out of addiction."

"A church-based paradigm is so vital, because just like John testified, he was loved into a sobriety-based lifestyle," Bruns explained, "and that is why God has to be in the forefront and center of (our) efforts."

Bruns described the five stages of change that each addict must move through in order to attain a sobriety-based lifestyle. They are:

**Pre-contemplation.** "They don't yet have a conscious awareness that what they're doing is a problem," Bruns noted, "because perhaps the consequences for their drug and alcohol abuse has not caused them sufficient memory to get their attention."

**Contemplation.** This is the stage where addicts become aware that they have a problem, mostly because of consequences like divorce, job loss or jail, Bruns said. Addicts in this stage "are on a teeter-totter, weighing the pros and cons of quitting or modifying their behavior," he noted.

**Preparation/determination.** This is where "the person wakes up and says, 'I've got to do something,'" Bruns pointed out. "This is where (churches) have to be prepared to hook them and get them into the treatment process."

**Action/willpower.** "This is the stage where (addicts) finally believe they have the ability to change and they become actively involved" in treatment, Bruns noted.

**Maintenance.** This stage "involves (the addict) being able to successfully avoid the temptation to return to the bad habit," Bruns said. This also is where relapse will most often occur, he added, and if it does, the addict's old lifestyle may reawaken.

"This recovery process is ... just like the journey of our salvation: It's something that we're always going to be on," Bruns added. "So, as Christ's body, ... we've got to work diligently to rescue souls and to save souls, and to let people know they have the image of God within them. They don't have to be stuck in this world."



Eric Bruns

## Missions partnership enjoys mutual benefit

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Ocean City, Md.**—If you want to see a story about what the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware means, look at Cathy Chinn's face.

The member of Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford is still smiling after leading a young boy to faith in Christ this summer during a visit to a campground in Ocean City, Md.

A 14-member team of Acteens and leaders from three churches led children in Bible studies, stories, crafts and games at several campgrounds during their nine-day trip in late June.

Working with North American missionaries Terry and Lynn Davis, the team also helped with a dinner for lifeguards, another for international students, distributed toiletry kits to internationals and witnessed on the beach.

"I've been in Maryland before but never for a mission trip," Chinn noted. "This is a wonderful place for any church to go. There's a lot of needs there."

"A lot of seeds were planted at the campgrounds and with international students and lifeguards," added LaRaine Rice, youth/college consultant for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Although this is the first year of the three-year partnership, 2008 appears to be primarily for planning, according to a check with several directors of missions around the state.

No teams have coordinated visits through the state partnership missions office, although Director Scott Pittman said that is the way he wants it.

The state convention is moving toward mobilizing churches and associations to form their own partnerships, Pittman explained.

"With our theme, 'All the World,' we're focusing more on training," he

said. "We had 60 come for training (in September) to be volunteer team leaders. There are definitely signs of teams going out."

Grassroots partnerships are forming too, such as one between Western Maryland Baptist Association and three in Kentucky—Knox, Three Forks and Bracken.

A team of seven women from Three Forks Association traveled to western Maryland in mid-August to help operate a baby comfort station at the Garrett County Fair.

In addition to operating two areas where parents could change diapers and feed infants, volunteers handed out balloons and stickers to children, and did some prayer-walking.

"For four of them, it was their first time to do anything on a mission trip," said Three Forks' team leader, Shelby Castlen. "We came back and the women are exceedingly zealous to do more mission work."

### Helping each other

The partnership works both ways. A group from a Western Maryland church, Grace Baptist, visited Owingsville Baptist Church in June to help renovate its youth center.

A year ago, a local business donated an old grocery store to Owingsville Baptist. A team of 10 from Grace Baptist helped erect walls in the back part of the building. That portion of the facility is being divided into a multi-purpose computer lab, office and two classrooms. It also will have new handicapped-accessible bathroom facilities.

Owingsville Baptist also has started showing family-friendly movies in the space periodically, a feature Collins said he hopes will become a weekly attraction.

"It was very positive," Collins said of the Maryland residents' visit. "It gives us a better perspective on outreach and some things they were doing in Maryland that we can incor-

porate down here, such as visits to fairs and leisure ministry."

"That's what we wanted, a two-way street," noted Bill Boldt, Bracken Association's director of missions. "We have gone on record as forming a five-year partnership with the Western Maryland association, starting in 2009."

The first group to form a partnership was a group of African-American churches. They invited 24 Baltimore-area pastors and their spouses to the annual meeting of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky last February.

Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, said the Kentucky pastors invited the group in an effort to get to know them better.

The two groups plan to help five struggling congregations and plant five new churches in each state, Bingham explained.

Members of the Maryland/Delaware convention plan to return to Louisville next June for Crossover prior to the 2009 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, and to participate in Kentucky Changers.

The first mission endeavor saw a six-member team from El-Bethel Baptist Church in Fort Washington, Md., and Christian Bible Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., come to Louisville in mid-July.

Part of the team led a vacation Bible school for children at Nicole's Place, a crisis pregnancy and community center.

The others conducted a Bible study for adults. Five participants in the adult class accepted Christ as their Savior, according to James Dixon, cooperative ministry consultant for the Maryland/Delaware convention and pastor of El-Bethel Baptist.

"I feel good about it," Dixon said of the partnership with Kentucky. "I see some exciting things we can do together to impact the Kingdom of God."

*"I believe that God has uniquely created every one of His people to impact the world"* — Dr. David Platt

meet **DAVID PLATT**

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The **171st Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting** will include an address by 30-year-old church pastor Dr. David Platt, senior pastor at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala. in its final session on Tuesday night. The senior pastor at the 3,500-member Church at Brook Hills since 2006, he has traveled extensively to teach the Bible in churches, seminaries, the underground church and even under shade trees in Africa and Latin America.

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## Pastor says Scripture is believer's ultimate voter guide

By Michael Foust  
Baptist Press

**Grapevine, Texas (BP)**—Scripture provides guidance for Christians as they decide which candidate to support on Election Day, Texas pastor Ed Young Jr. told his congregation Oct. 19.

The pastor of Fellowship Church in Grapevine gave five categories believers should examine about each political candidate.

**Character.** "Everything begins with character," Young said, pointing to Proverbs 29:2: "If we elect righteous leaders, our government will be righteous, and if our government is righteous then the laws will be righteous."

Christians should take a politi-

cal candidate's private conduct seriously, Young said. "For a long, long time, people have said, 'Who you are in private does not really affect who you are in public office.' That's absolutely nuts because who you are in private is who you are."

**Conviction.** Reading from Proverbs 28:1, the "righteous are bold as a lion," Young explained, "We need to elect lionesses and lions in this day—people who are not politicians but people who are statesmen, people who are leaders."

Issues such as gay marriage, and abortion are examples of society is moving away from the conviction of scriptural teachings.

"God has told us from cover to cover that there is only one context

where sex should be enjoyed and practiced and celebrated—marriage. ... The Bible tells me and it tells you that during the end of time ... what is right (will be viewed as) wrong and (what is) wrong (will be viewed as) right."

On abortion, Young said, "We're taking the lives, of ... 3,200 (developing) babies a day, when you'll get thrown in prison and pay an astronomical fine if you disturb the eggs of developing sea turtles."

**Courage.** "Courage is the God-given ability to stand," Young noted. "Conviction is belief. Courage is behavior."

**Compassion.** Giving the biblical definition of compassion, Young read from Proverbs 31:8-9, "Speak

up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." He also read from Proverbs 24:11, "Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter."

**Constituency.** Young said examining who supports and opposes the candidate can help determine who to support.

"I can meet your friends, without even meeting you, and tell you what kind of a person you are," Young explained. "If the mainstream secular media supports a candidate ... there is a great chance that something is sideways, (and) you better look at that one very, very closely."

## Fla.'s proposed marriage amendment needs super-majority

By Michael Foust  
Baptist Press

**Jacksonville, Fla. (BP)**—It might seem odd but supporters of a constitutional defense-of-marriage amendment in Florida will not be happy if on Election Night their proposal receives only a simple majority of votes.

That's because a law approved by voters in 2006 states that all constitutional amendments require 60 percent of the votes to pass. If the proposal—known as Amendment 2—gets only 59 percent, it fails.

If passed, Amendment 2 would prevent any state court in the nation's fourth most populous state from legalizing gay marriage, as has happened in California, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Gay marriage already is outlawed in Florida but an amendment would prevent state courts from judging the law unconstitutional.

The 60-percent hurdle is a tall order but one that Amendment 2 backers are cautiously optimistic they can reach. They have overcome several obstacles already.

■ A lawsuit in 2006 by the American Civil Liberties Union attempted to have the amendment stricken from the ballot. The Florida Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of Amendment 2 supporters.

■ After a press conference to celebrate the more than 611,000 signatures of Floridians who wanted the measure on the November ballot, Amendment 2 supporters learned that some of the signatures had been counted more than once.

Two weeks prior to the deadline to place the amendment on the ballot, Amendment 2 backers lacked 22,000 signatures. They gathered 92,000 in those final days.

■ In 2005, supporters of traditional marriage fell short by 150,000 signatures to place the question on the 2006 ballot. State law allowed those signatures to carry over and count toward qualifying it for the 2008 ballot.

"When we started it was 50 percent and now it's 60 percent," said John Stemberger, chairman of "Yes 2Marriage.org," the main organization supporting the amendment.

"We're the only state in the country that has that unique hurdle."

The fact that courts in two states—California and Connecticut—legalized gay marriage this year has helped Amendment 2 supporters stay on message.

"The No. 1 thing that most reporters, and most pundits and our opponents, say is, 'Gay marriage is already outlawed, so this is a waste of our time,'" Stemberger said.

### Looking to Arizona

Amendment 2 opponents borrowed a page from Arizona—where an amendment was defeated in 2006—and are attempting to make the debate over the proposal about anything but gay marriage.

Opponents have focused on a clause in the amendment stating that "no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized" in Florida.

That language is designed to prohibit Vermont-style civil unions—or civil unions under a different name—that grant homosexual cou-

ples all the legal benefits of marriage. But the "No On 2" campaign has launched television commercials claiming the amendment "could take benefits away from senior couples." Many say it was the seniors in Arizona whose votes defeated the amendment.

"Our opponents' ... primary argument is that this is government intervening in people's private decisions," Stemberger noted. "But that could be nothing further from the truth. In fact, the constitution is the only document where the law doesn't rule the people; the law rules the rulers."

Recent polls show the amendment shy of the 60-percent goal. An Oct. 19 South Florida Sun-Sentinel/Florida Times-Union poll of 600 likely voters showed the amendment at 53 percent, while an Oct. 8 Mason-Dixon poll of 625 likely voters had it at 55 percent.

Constitutional marriage amendments historically have outperformed polls come Election Day. Stemberger said the amendment will pass if churches promote it.

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## U.S. voters face moral issues Nov. 4

**Sacramento, Calif. (RNS)**—Although the proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in California is garnering the most attention, Arizona and Florida both have proposals to amend their constitutions to ban the practice.

More than two dozen states have passed similar amendments defining marriage as between one man and one woman. State ballots across the country will include amendments and initiatives for a number of social issues:

**Adoption.** The Arkansas ballot will have an initiative to ban unmarried couples from adopting or providing foster care to minors. Originally proposed to prohibit same-sex couples from adopting, the ban will apply to all unmarried couples.

**Abortion.** A Colorado amendment seeks to define a person as any fertilized egg, embryo or fetus. South Dakota will include an amendment to ban abortion with exceptions for rape, incest and the mother's health. A California measure would require parental notification for minors to obtain abortions.

**Stem cell research.** A Michigan proposal would lift a 30-year-old ban on stem cell research that destroys embryos.

**Gambling.** In Maryland, voters will be asked to support adding slot machines in locations throughout the state. Voters in Colorado will consider extending the hours of operation for casinos, with a percentage of the revenue going to higher education. Arkansas voters will consider a state-run lottery to fund college scholarships.

**Affirmative action.** Colorado and Nebraska will include initiatives to end race and gender preferences in government hiring and college admissions.

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In coordination with the KBC's Annual Meeting November - 2008

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Cross Over the Bluegrass is a collaborative effort of the Boones Creek, Elkhorn, Franklin and Tates Creek Baptist Associations. To get involved in Cross Over the Bluegrass '08, contact the Elkhorn Baptist Association at 859-254-7747.



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## All eyes fixed on California's marriage amendment battle

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

La Mesa, Calif. (RNS)—Pastor Jim Garlow is fasting and praying at his megachurch in La Mesa, Calif., to encourage fellow California evangelicals to vote for Proposition 8, which would amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Jan Garbosky, meanwhile, married her lesbian partner of 20 years on Oct. 4 at their Unitarian Universalist church in San Diego and has been coordinating interfaith clergy phone banks to encourage state residents to vote against the measure and preserve gay marriage in the nation's most populous state.

For both sides in the fight over same-sex marriage, all eyes are on California because what is decided by Golden State voters on Nov. 4 could have ripple effects from coast to coast.

As the theme of an upcoming 12-hour anti-gay marriage rally in San Diego bills it, "As California goes, so goes the nation."

The high-stakes battle pits traditionalists who consider marriage to be for heterosexuals only against gays and their supporters who see gay marriage as a key civil rights struggle. And it raises political concerns stemming from other 4-3 court rulings—in Massachusetts in 2004 and in Connecticut on Oct. 10—that permitted gay marriage.

"Should this kind of issue be decided by courts or should it be decided by the vote of the people?" asked David Popenoe, co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

"That's especially of concern because where it's been decided by courts, it's been by one vote. ... On the other hand, the courts take the position that this is not the kind of issue that ... should be decided by popular vote any more than slavery would have been."

#### Vote revisited

California voters already decided, in a 2000 referendum, to limit marriage to one man and one woman. But in May, the state supreme court said that vote discriminated against same-sex couples and was unconstitutional.

Proposition 8 would overturn that ruling and amend the state constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman only. It is the first time that voters would have the chance to overrule, or sustain, a state supreme court decision that allows gay marriage.

State constitutional amendments effectively banning same-sex marriage are on the November ballots in Arizona, which defeated a ban in 2004, and in Florida, where a 60-percent majority is needed for passage.

While opponents of Proposition 8 speak mostly of the importance of securing marriage rights for gay and



lesbian couples, supporters say larger issues are at stake.

At a satellite simulcast rally hosted by Garlow's church on Oct. 19 and downlinked to 170 church auditoriums across the state, speakers cited instances where people have been arrested or fined because of their views on homosexuality. The program featured a Swedish pastor who was sentenced to a month in prison for a sermon that was critical of homosexuality, a New Mexico photographer who was fined for not shooting a lesbian wedding and the father of a Massachusetts kindergartner who was arrested when he protested his child being taught about homosexuality in a public school.

"When same-sex marriage is legal, they (gay marriage supporters) become indescribably intolerant towards anybody who has a different view," Garlow said.

Garbosky, a retired educator who noted parents in the state have the option to remove their children from family- and sex-related education, thinks people should focus on what is happening in California, not elsewhere.

"Proposition 8 is not about schools," she stressed. "It's not about ministers. It's not about churches. It's about taking away rights from a group of people."

#### Costly battle

The battle on both sides has already attracted millions of dollars from across the country. The Protect Marriage Coalition has raised more than \$25 million, including a \$1 million contribution from the Knights of Columbus. The No on 8 Campaign has raised at least \$20 million.

"We are concerned that the consequences of same-gender marriage, which are difficult to predict with exactness, will be unhappy ones," said Elder L. Whitney Clayton, who supervises Mormons on the West Coast and urged Mormons across California to make calls supporting the proposition.

Some atheists who have objected to the strong stance of Mormons and other religious groups in favor of the measure protested in front of the Mormon temple in Oakland, Calif., last weekend.

Episcopal Bishop Mark Andrus of San Francisco alleged supporters of the amendment are using fear as a tactic for their cause.

"A lot of these arguments that are being forwarded for Proposition 8 are what would be called fearmongering," he said last week.



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## Poll: U.S. is blessed, but disruptive in world

Washington (RNS)—Six in 10 Americans think the U.S. is “uniquely blessed” by God, but a higher percentage—almost eight in 10—think the country sometimes does more harm than good when it relates to the rest of the world, according to a new study on religion and America’s role in the world.

Overall, the study commissioned by the PBS program Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly and the United Nations Foundation found that Americans, including majorities of religiously involved citizens, think the country should be involved on the world scene.

But researchers found that 79 percent of Americans feel that U.S. involvement abroad sometimes does more harm than good, and 44 percent feel that view strongly.

“I think it’s a fascinating look at our combination of idealism and realism,” said Bob Abernethy, host of the weekly television show. “We think our blessings from God require us to be active around the world but we also acknowledge that we sometimes do more harm than good.”

Almost seven in 10 (68 percent) of people who attend services at least weekly said the country has a moral obligation to take part in world affairs, compared with 54 percent of less frequent attenders.

Researchers found that people who strongly believe that America is blessed by God and should set an example as a “Christian nation” also are more likely to see the country’s worldwide involvement as a moral obligation.

Just more than two-thirds (67 percent) of those with strong beliefs about God’s unique blessing on America said the U.S. has a moral obligation to be a leader in world affairs, as did 72 percent of those who thought the U.S. should set a Christian example. In comparison, a smaller percentage—60 percent—of Americans overall thought the country had such a moral obligation.

Sixty-one percent of respondents said they believed God has uniquely blessed America.

### “The world is complicated”

Michael Cromartie, vice chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, said Americans’ simultaneous belief in God’s blessing on the U.S. and criticism of its global engagement reflect the challenges of addressing world problems, such as genocide in Sudan’s Darfur region.

“The world is complicated,” he acknowledged. “Foreign policy is deeply complex. Foreign countries are deeply complex. Foreign cultures

are deeply complex. ... These things are not fixed quickly.”

Despite an overall religious consensus on committing to international affairs, researchers found differences over some foreign policy issues.

For example, Americans divide along religious lines about the so-called Mexico City policy that prohibits federal funding for international organizations that might offer abortions. Slightly more than 50 percent of evangelical Christians, traditional Catholics and weekly churchgoers support that policy. Young evangelical Christians are more strongly supportive, with 69 percent in favor, while 58 percent of those not affiliated with a particular religion oppose it.

Global warming is another example of religious differences on foreign policy. While more than 80 percent of non-Christians, mainline Protestants and liberal Catholics favored an international agreement to reduce global warming, a smaller percentage, 70 percent, of evangelicals favored such an agreement.

Younger evangelicals, those 18-29, were more likely than their elders to support an international agreement to stop global warming, with 79 percent in favor compared to 70 percent of older evangelicals.

## Kidnappers demand ransom for California pastor

Tijuana, Mexico (BP)—Kidnappers are demanding \$1 million for the safe return of Manuel Jesus Tec, a Southern Baptist pastor in San Diego who was kidnapped in Tijuana, Mexico, Oct. 21.

Tec, who lives in Tijuana, was driving across the border with his wife and one of his sons when gunmen stopped his car and forcibly abducted him. His wife and son were unhurt.

The pastor’s older son, Johnny Tec, who also is a pastor, said his

father’s kidnappers have called the family three times, demanding a \$1 million ransom, according to Richard Vera, multi-ethnic evangelism specialist for the California Southern Baptist Convention.

“Johnny stated the last time the kidnappers called, they were very menacing and threatened to take Manuel’s life unless the family responded right away,” Vera noted. “The family is projecting a strength and a trust in Christ that is admirable. They believe they will see Pastor

Manuel Tec again.”

Tec is pastor of a new church plant in San Diego, Iglesia Familiar Amor y Vida, according to Hugo Campos, Hispanic ministries director for San Diego Baptist Association and the North American Mission Board’s Vision San Diego outreach.

Campos, who spoke to the Tec family last week, said the family now believes the kidnapping is a case of mistaken identity and that the pastor will be released once the kidnappers realize their mistake.

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Not guilty pleas entered in faith-healing death.** The parents of an Oregon City, Ore., boy who died during attempts to heal him with prayer pleaded not guilty earlier this month to criminally negligent homicide. Jeffrey Dean Beagley, 50, and Marci Rae Beagley, 46, entered their pleas, made no statements and were released on bond. A grand jury indictment accused them of “failing to provide adequate medical care to a child, in violation of the duty of a parent.” The Beagleys belong to the Followers of Christ Church in Oregon City, a nondenominational congregation that favors spiritual healing and prayer over medical treatment. The couple’s 16-year-old son, Neil, died in June from complications of a urinary-tract blockage. An autopsy showed that he had suffered repeated episodes of blockage and pain with no apparent medical intervention. A simple procedure such as catheterization could have saved his life, according to a deputy state medical examiner.

**Evolution critics added to Texas school panel.** Three of six members of a panel appointed to review proposed curriculum standards for science classes in Texas public schools have criticized evolution. And the additions could have an impact far beyond the 4.6 million students in the Lone Star State’s public schools. Because Texas is one of the largest markets for textbook sales in the United States, publishers will use the standards in creating new textbooks, and then sell those books in other states as well. A conservative bloc on the Texas State Board of Education banded together to appoint three curriculum-review panelists critical of Darwinism. One of them, Stephen Meyer, is vice president of the Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based group that advocates balancing evolution with teaching about intelligent design. Meyer and another panel member, Ralph Seelke at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, co-wrote a textbook that questions tenets of Charles Darwin’s theory of how humans and other life forms evolved. Also joining the review panel is Charles Garner, a Baylor University chemistry professor.

**Critics: Calif. opens door to assisted suicide.** California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed into law a measure that requires doctors and other health care providers to give patients with a terminal illness, or who are believed to have a year or less to live, information about “legal end-of-life options” at the patients’ request, according to Cybercast News Service. Under the law, doctors must tell such patients about “withholding or withdrawal” of even food and water, CNS reported. The new law is “a backdoor way” of legalizing assisted suicide in the state, said Randy Thomasson, president of the Sacramento-based Campaign for Children and Families. Terminally ill patients could be sedated into unconsciousness and die from dehydration several days later, he explained. Kathi Hamlon of the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide said she believes the goal of the legislation is “to push the assisted suicide agenda.” Oregon is the only state that has legalized physician-assisted suicide. That state’s law permits doctors to prescribe lethal doses of drugs to terminal patients.

**Court: Embryos are property-rights issue.** A divorcing couple’s years-old agreement to thaw out frozen embryos trumps the husband’s recent desire to donate them to another woman trying to have children, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled earlier this month. The case touched on a common and controversial social issue: how to dispose of the hundreds of thousands of frozen embryos made to assist infertile couples. The courts had to pose that new medical question against the old framework of family law, which sees things as personal property to be divided. The three-judge opinion said the contractual “right to possess or dispose of the frozen embryos is personal property,” without directly stating that the embryos themselves are property. The result of the case is in line with cases in eight other states, all of which sided with the person who did not want the embryos to be implanted.

**Parental laws shrink abortions.** State parental involvement laws have played a significant role in a nearly 50 percent decline in abortions on underage girls, according to a new study. The analysis of abortion information for minors shows the abortion rate shrinks by an average of 13.6 percent when a state approves a law requiring parental notification or consent before a female under 18 may undergo the procedure. The rate falls even more dramatically when the law is more protective in its requirements, the study found. If a state requires parental consent, the abortion rate falls by about 19 percent. If a state mandates the involvement of both parents instead of just one, the rate declines by about 31 percent.

### BIBLICAL EVANGELISM. NEW APPROACH.

We invite you to join us at LaGrange Baptist Church for a bit of a unique event. The subject is not new, but the approach is a little different. John Dickson, author and speaker from Australia, is going to teach us how to *Promote the Gospel* through the church. John gives a realistic, biblical approach to evangelism through the local church.

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CHURCHES TODAY.



## Book proposes 'triage' amid lukewarm U.S. church giving

By Bob Allen  
Associated Baptist Press

Champaign, Ill. (ABP)—Christians in the United States could engage every unreached people group around the world and stop up to two-thirds of child deaths for pennies a day if only they gave, according to a new book.

Because the church is not being mobilized for either, "The State of Church Giving Through 2006: Global Triage, MDG 4, and Unreached People Groups" notes, a strategy of global "triage" is needed to focus resources on areas of greatest need.

The 18th edition of the report, from the Christian service and research organization empty tomb, explores giving trends as an evidence of church members' commitments to their professed Christian beliefs.

It cites evidence pointing to a tepid U.S. church far too similar to the church in ancient Laodicea, condemned in the third chapter of Revelation for being "lukewarm" as opposed to either "hot" or "cold." The authors say the U.S. church needs to change its self-centered indifference or risk separation from the larger body of Christ and marginalization from the culture.

Giving as a percent of income has declined since the 1960s, and the portion spent beyond the local congregation through benevolences has declined steadily.

The overall level of giving to in-

ternational missions work between 2003 and 2006 was about two cents of each dollar donated to the church. That compares to an average of eight cents per dollar spent on denominational overseas missions in the 1920s.

The study proposes a strategy of "triage," not calling for elimination of other activities, but addressing needs in a priority order to maximize the number of survivors.

"In defining triage categories for the church to address, there is sufficient Scripture to support a focus on helping, in Jesus' name, to stop preventable child deaths as a top priority," said authors John and Sylvia Ronsvalle. "These missions of preventable child deaths fit both the medical category of triage—intervention can prevent death—as well as the moral and spiritual focus of taking care of the weakest among us."

The book uses the benchmark of No. 4 in the Millennium Development Goals. The objectives were established by world leaders to fight global poverty. Goal No. 4 sought to cut by two-thirds the mortality rate for children under the age of 5 by 2015.

An estimated 9.7 million children under 5 die around the globe each year. About two-thirds of those deaths are due to preventable causes like diarrhea, measles, respiratory infections, malaria and malnutrition. The report calculates the cost

to each U.S. church member for preventing those deaths: eight cents a day.

If members of Christian churches had chosen to give 10 percent of their income to their congregations in 2006, instead of the 2.5 percent actually given, it would have made an additional \$170 billion available for church work. By one estimate an additional \$70 billion to \$80 billion a year would be enough to address basic needs of the world's poorest.

The book also says the Southern Baptist Convention has not motivated its 16.3 million members to support missionary efforts adequately.

SBC leaders say 2,800 more missionaries are needed to engage 5,900 people groups with little or no access to a Christian witness. At an estimated expense of \$65,000 per cross-cultural missionary, the total cost for these missionaries would be \$182 million a year.

The 2008 goal for the SBC's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, however, was only \$5 million larger than the 2007 amount. Had Southern Baptist leaders included the cost of sending those additional missionaries in the goal, they would have asked for an extra \$11.16 per Southern Baptist church member. The average dollar figure per member given to SBC overseas mission work in 2006 was \$17.

"There is growing consensus that the resources and methods exist to alleviate the physical suffering of

people around the globe," the book says. "Church leaders also consider the task of presenting the gospel to every people group on earth an increasingly attainable goal.

"In both cases the problem is not that the needs are too great. The problem is that the available resources are not being mobilized to implement the available solutions."

Americans gave more than \$128 billion to charitable causes in 2006. Most of that—70 percent—went to churches and religious organizations.

In order to respond to global need, the book says individuals need to feel connected to a larger body.

"When church leaders are not providing strategic direction that helps set priorities to solve, not just cope with, global word and deed need, church members feel overwhelmed," it states, using the phrase the book employs to refer to global physical and spiritual needs.

"Church leaders could empower their members by helping to set priorities that give those members permission to care about the entire need," it continues. "In the same way that triage provides battlefield medical units with the ability to respond amidst the chaos around them, a broadly accepted strategy of triage for global word and deed need could help replace hopelessness with engagement among church members."

## Abortion trauma hits both women and men

By Elizabeth Wood  
Baptist Press

Washington (BP)—Martha Shuping knows the trauma of abortion.

The Winston-Salem, N.C., psychiatrist recently told the story of a client who was a happily married, stay-at-home mom until she found out she was pregnant with another baby. Her husband said he had no room in his life for another child and asked her to abort the baby. After consulting with their pastor, who supported the husband's decision, the woman terminated the pregnancy.

"After the abortion took place, my patient became severely depressed, unable to function in her role as a mom and homemaker, and she ended up being admitted to the hospital," Shuping recalled. "She identified the abortion as the cause of her problems."

Shuping described the incident at a Family Research Council panel discussion earlier this month in Washington about post-abortion trauma and its effects on women and men.

A recent Elliot Institute poll showed 85 percent of 626 Americans surveyed believe negative emotional problems are common after having an abortion.

"There is little doubt today that we face a crisis of credibility," noted Vincent Rue, director of the Institute for Pregnancy Loss.

Rue said Planned Parenthood, which describes itself as the leading health care provider for women, does not treat its patients for post-abortion trauma. He also said members of the American Psychological Association task force on abortion report they do not treat clinical patients for such a disorder either.

Priscilla Coleman, associate professor of human development and family studies at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, said abortions worldwide average one per woman and, by the age of 45, more than 35 percent of U.S. women have had one. She also pointed out the identification of risk factors involved in abortions plays

a major role in research results.

Shuping noted that research shows a high percentage of women experience post-traumatic stress after an abortion. She said she believes it is not uncommon for women to feel pressured into having unwanted abortions, pointing to a 2004 study that found 64 percent of women who reported having abortions under duress.

David Reardon, director of the Elliot Institute, said he believes there is not only a crisis of unwanted pregnancies but also of unwanted abortions.

"It is up to us to prove abortion is dangerous," Reardon said during the panel discussion, "because the assumption is abortion's safe."

Catherine Coyle, co-director of the Alliance for Post-Abortion Research and Training, said she believes men also battle with post-abortion trauma.

A two-year survey conducted to find results of post-abortion effects on males revealed patterns of depression, fear, anger and guilt.

"These authors stated that 58 percent of the men were potentially at risk of prolonged or unresolved grief, as they did not discuss their feelings or complaints with anyone," Coyle explained.

Rue indicated the trauma of abortion often is hard to publicly acknowledge or support.

"The woman or man lose in isolation, dreaded silence," he said. "For such an individual, grief is disenfranchised."

Rue said it is a common assumption that abortion is an intentional human death event. He believes this can often cause mental health concerns with both women and men.

"Politics attempts to camouflage what the head and the heart know all too clearly," Rue noted. "This is not a wart removal or the moral equivalent of a tooth extraction. If abortion is perceived as violating one's moral code or religious values, we know it is likely to precipitate significant intra-psychic conflict and present a risk to one's health."

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## Oklahoma Baptist University names Whitlock president

Shawnee, Okla.

(ABP)—David Whitlock, 46, an administrator at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., has been named Oklahoma Baptist University's 15th president, school trustees announced Oct. 10.

Whitlock has been associate provost and dean of the college of business and computer science at Southwest Baptist since 1999. He also has served as dean of adult and satellite-campus programs since 2007.

Before that, he taught for 14 years at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He also has been a bivocational pastor for churches in Oklahoma and Missouri.

Whitlock follows Mark Brister, who retired in November 2007 after serving Oklahoma Baptist since 1998. John Parrish has served the past 12 months as interim president. Whitlock will assume the post Nov. 3.

## N.Y. pastor faces child-porn charges, revoked ordination

Oswegatchie, N.Y. (ABP)—A statewide fellowship of independent Baptist churches in New York is recommending the removal of one of its pastors arrested on child-pornography charges.

Leaders of First Baptist Church in the Upstate New York town of Oswegatchie demanded and received the resignation of Pastor Merton Parks after local media reported he was part of a federal investigation. Parks, 60, was arraigned Oct. 9 and charged with possessing child pornography.

Craig Golden, state representative for the Empire State Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches, said his group's polity means it would be up to the local church that ordained Parks to withdraw its ordination.

Golden said he does not yet know where Parks was ordained—or even if he is ordained at all—but that when the ordaining church is identified, "We would suggest or recommend to them or advise them that they follow through, and if the charges are true, that they would revoke his ordination certificate."

Golden acknowledged that the Baptist focus on autonomy of the local church creates a special challenge for preventing or addressing pastoral misconduct among Baptists. But, he added, the task is easier today because of the Internet and other technological means that enable rapid communication.

"If (Parks) goes to Utah and some little church gets his name, if they even go on the Internet and check it out, they'll see the whole story," Golden noted.

The Empire State Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches is not formally affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, but it partners voluntarily as a regional association with the GARBC in ministry endeavors. Local churches may affiliate with either or both groups.

The GARBC separated from what is today called the American Baptist Churches USA over doctrinal differences in 1933. They strongly emphasize local-church autonomy and reject denominational structures like the Southern Baptist Convention as too connectional.

"We are more disconnected than Southern Baptists," Golden said, "but we still recognize (that) this disqualifies a man" for the ministry.

This year, the Southern Baptist Convention considered establishing a national database of clergy sex abusers, but the SBC Executive Committee rejected the idea as impractical due to local-church autonomy.

That has caused some activists against clergy sex abuse to criticize the SBC. The fact that an independent Baptist group is recommending that a local church remove a pastor in this case may only sharpen such criticism.

"It's interesting that a Baptist group that claims to be even 'more disconnected' than Southern Baptists can nevertheless take the initiative to research an accused minister's ordination and to publicly urge the revocation of his ordination," said Christa Brown of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

## The most frequently asked question these days

### Financial struggles bring renewed emphasis on being good stewards

Unless you have been living on another planet the past 12 months, you certainly are aware of the current economic situation. You can call it a Wall Street problem or a Main Street problem, but if you do not have a nickel in the stock market you still are affected by what is going on in the world economy. The world is indeed much smaller than it was 25 years ago.

Faith-based ministries are keenly aware that economic conditions have a tremendous effect on their funding. When you listen to your favorite Christian radio program or watch your favorite Christian TV show, you often hear an urgent plea for additional support. You also are likely receiving more requests in the mail.

Administrators dread times like these. Many of us like to believe that we are being the best possible stewards of our money all the time, and that further cuts in budgets are not possible since all "needless" expenses have already been eliminated. Yet every administrator also knows that when push comes to shove, further cuts simply must be made. It is not good stewardship to ask friends to increase their giving unless your ministry has made every reasonable effort to cut costs.

Our son serves in another faith-based ministry. We talked to him recently, and my wife could sense the uneasiness in his voice. He sensed that several people in his ministry could be laid off or even lose their jobs. While he felt his job was reasonably secure, he was grieving over the possibility of losing some close ministry friends. The financial gifts were not coming in as they normally

do. Most of us who serve in faith-based ministries know that there is no real light at the end of the financial tunnel at this time. So things are likely to get worse before they get better.

One of the most commonly asked question of me these days is, "How is Oneida doing financially?" OBI has a long history of being very frugal. I often have stated that I would rather have less during "good times" and know I had to make every dollar go as far as it could possibly go, than have plenty during "good times" and know that we had not been the best possible stewards of our money. I feel having more than one really needs makes it easy to forget stewardship.

If you spend much time with me, you will learn that I have very little patience for waste or poor stewardship. I am glad God made me that way. Yes, I keep things others throw away and I use things that others likely would not. My faculty and staff have had to adjust over the years to the reality that there are few things that will cause me to lose my cool quicker than waste. Most of our friends believe that OBI, day in and day out, strives to be a good steward.

Where are we today? Like other ministries, we suffer from fewer and smaller donations. However, you are suffering, too. Oneida does not make pleas for additional funds except on rare occasions. In my 15 years as president, we have only made two such requests. We will continue to strive to be the best possible stewards of what we have. I believe God will supply the friends and funds to meet our needs. May God bless you as you struggle to meet your needs, too.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

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## A Great Cloud of Witnesses

### Christian was encouraged by those God placed around him

He hardly even had a chance to choose to go anywhere else. That's the thought I had when I heard Justin Christian's testimony about how he followed God's call to Clear Creek. Justin is a 21-year-old freshman from Lancaster and a member of Forks of Dix River Baptist Church where alumnus Jerry Browning serves as pastor.

God literally placed a Clear Creek influence all around Justin to help him with his decision as to where he needed to go for ministry training. "When I shared my call to preach with my pastor, he told me about Clear Creek," Justin recalled. "There were three other people in our church who were taking online classes; there was also someone in the church whose brother had graduated from Clear Creek; and on top of that, I have a great, great, great grandfather who graduated from Clear Creek two years after the school started."

Now you know what I meant. Justin is glad to finally be at peace with where he knows God wants him to be. "I was saved when I was 10 years old," Justin said. "As I grew older I drifted away from the Lord, spent some time at another

college and was not really serious about growing in my relationship with Him.

"Earlier this year, I went to a Bible conference with my church as a chaperone. I heard the conference speaker tell a story about some missionaries in Turkey who were being persecuted for their faith. These missionaries were lit-

erally being tortured and told to deny their Christian faith but they would not do it, even if it meant losing their lives. I remember telling God at that time that I wanted to be that serious about my faith. It was there at the conference that God began to speak to me about surrendering to His call to preach the gospel. I

have been following God's call seriously since then. That is why I am here at Clear Creek."

Now Justin is one of those "witnesses" that can encourage others to come to Clear Creek just like those who went before him. What would he say to them? "Come and check it out. If Clear Creek is where God wants you, He will provide the way for you to come."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

## Neonatal intensive care unit is Alabama ministry's focus

By Jeremy Dale Henderson  
The Alabama Baptist

Montgomery, Ala. (BP)—Many babies admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit—those born unexpectedly early, some even before their own baby showers—receive their first gifts from Dana Gallahair.

She knocks on the door of an anxious mother's room, gives the new mom a gift bag and then gets on with her job as a registered nurse and care coordinator for the neonatal and newborn nursery at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery, Ala.

The bags help Gallahair with introductions, but they are not issued by the hospital. They are supplied when needed by her friend and former patient Kim Wilson, founder of Footprints Ministry and member of Heritage Baptist Church in Montgomery. Wilson started the neonatal intensive care unit ministry in August 2007 to uplift and encourage parents of NICU babies.

Some 800 babies are admitted to the NICUs of Baptist South and Baptist Medical Center East in Montgomery each year.

In 2006, Wilson's son, John Parker, was one of them.

Wilson can remember everything about her personal experience with the NICU at Baptist South—all the smells, sights, scary medical terms and crying, from both the babies and the parents. And there, behind

a glass partition, in an incubator was John Parker. He was rushed to the NICU from Montgomery's Jackson Hospital for emergency surgery after his lung collapsed the day after he was born by planned Caesarean section.

Even if John Parker's mother had been able to be by his side, she could not have held him because of the IVs in his tiny arms. Monitors and wires were everywhere. Wilson could not be with her son nor help him.

It was, she said, "indescribably overwhelming."

John Parker was released 10 days later. She and husband, Glenn, credited the prayers of friends, family and their church for the health of their son, who now is nearly 2 years old.

Wilson also praised the compassion of nurses such as Gallahair, with whom she would soon partner, with helping her family through those days.

"It was such an emotional roller coaster," Wilson later wrote on the blog that serves as the ministry's Web site.

It is a ride that she and Gallahair, through their Footprints ministry, are determined to make less scary for others.

Footprints "helps cushion what many parents would describe as a nightmare," noted Gallahair, a member of Wadsworth Baptist Church in Deatsville, Ala., where her husband,

Bill, is pastor. "It can be a little bit of a silver lining in what might seem like a really dark cloud."

That silver lining comes with the gift bags—more than 400 distributed to date. The bags are filled with the expected goodies—from baby magazines to burp cloths and gift cards for local stores and restaurants. They also provide for less-obvious needs like travel necessities.

Wilson said the toiletries such as a toothbrush and Kleenex are important because most of the babies in NICU are premature and their families are unprepared for an overnight stay in the hospital.

But it is the blankets a new mother can sleep with and then place with her baby, and the prayer request cards she can fill out and send to churches that people seem to appreciate most.

For Beth Barranco, it was the disposable cameras that came in the bag, which she gave to the nurses to capture her daughter Peyton's first bath. Peyton arrived seven weeks early and weighed less than 3 pounds when she was born. Barranco could not give her the bath or even be there to watch, but thanks to Footprints, she feels as though she were there.

"It was just really great," recalled Barranco, a member of Heritage Baptist. "They gave us a gift basket when we had her, and Kim came and prayed with us all the time. It was so



uplifting."

Peyton stayed in the NICU at Baptist East for six weeks. When she arrived home more than a month ago, Wilson and company were there to welcome her with balloons, signs and footprints cut from poster board leading to the front door.

"Kim still continues to pray with us. I talk to her all the time," Barranco said. "It really is a great ministry."

And a growing one—Footprints is on the verge of securing 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and could be expanding into Atlanta and even Orlando, Fla.

"I also hope to have a Footprints house one day for families to stay in while their babies are in the NICU," Wilson said. "I know the Lord has great things in store for this ministry. There is such a huge need."

**BABY STEPS** Kim Wilson (right), founder of Footprints, a ministry focused on families with infants in neonatal intensive care, encourages Kadra Parkman at her son Raley's bedside. Parkman, a fellow Footprints participant, said she believes God prepared her for her baby's long hospital stay through her involvement in the new ministry based in Montgomery, Ala. (Photo by Chris Mills)

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## GEORGETOWN COLLEGE

invites graduates and friends for

# Lunch and a College Update



Tuesday, November 11

11:45 a.m.

(Following the Morning Session)

Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church

3534 Tates Creek Road

Lexington, KY 40517

R.S.V.P. appreciated by November 7

502-863-8041

or e-mail

Kathleen\_Johnson@georgetowncollege.edu



## GEORGETOWN

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## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**The Lighthouse Ministry in Mayfield.** Supported by churches and private donations, the ministry is a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence, or women who are homeless or pregnant. Director Traci Lawrence, a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, desires to expose hurting people to God by providing food, clothing, transportation, counseling, housing assistance and life-skills development. Pray that God will provide the needed materials and volunteers to complete the new shelter. Pray that hurting women and children will see the love of God through the facilities, words, teachings, values and deeds of the volunteers.

### Hispanic missionaries Job and Marcela Juarez of Central Kentucky.

The Juarezes work with five different associations and serve as Hispanic strategists in Lebanon, Danville, Louisville and Bloomfield. They work with Hispanic pastors in the area of church planting and ministry development. Pray that God will open greater doors of partnership with existing churches that have a heart for Hispanic ministry. Pray that God will raise up additional Hispanic church planters and pastors to help in the work.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Donaldson Creek Church recently called **Wayne Glass** as pastor.  
 ■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will host the Campbellsville University Orchestra for its fall concert Nov. 6, 8:30 p.m., under the direction of Conductor **J. Robert Gaddis**, dean of Campbellsville's School of Music, and Associate Conductor **Wansoo Cho**. The event is free. For more information, call (270) 789-5237.

Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy will present an address from **Doug Bandow** titled "Analysis of the 2008 Election Cycle and Future Implications" Nov. 6, 5 p.m., in the Little Auditorium of the school's Student Union Building. Bandow is vice president of policy for Citizen Outreach, a grassroots political organization.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold revival services Nov. 2-5 with **Gerald Murphy**, director of missions for Severns Valley Association, as evangelist. **Erdie Carter** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Calvary Church recently called **Donald Alexander** as pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will hold revival services Nov. 2, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Nov. 3-5, 6:30 p.m., with **Don Mathis** as evangelist. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT OLIVET**—Mount Olivet

### Spotlight on ...

#### Marion



Emmanuel Church will host a Trunk-a-Treat event Oct. 31 with candy, chili and hot dogs. The church also will host a pre-election prayer gathering Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m., to pray for the country's leaders and for God's direction during the Nov. 4 election. **Robert Ison** is pastor.

Church recently called **Jonathan Lewis** as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Park Avenue Church recently called **Bill Coffman** as pastor and ordained him to the gospel ministry Oct. 26.

■ **PINSONFORK**—McVeigh Church recently ordained Pastor **James Justice** to the gospel ministry.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberlands will host its Campus Discovery Day Nov. 8 for prospective students and their parents. For reservations or more information, call (606) 539-4241, toll free at (800) 343-1609, or visit [www.ucumberlands.edu](http://www.ucumberlands.edu).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

31-11/2 International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

### November

1 101 Workshop, First Baptist Church, Somerset.  
 8 Girls in Action Missions Event, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green.  
 10 J.H. Spencer Historical Society Inaugural Meeting, Heritage Baptist Church, Lexington.

10 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministers Association Fall Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

10 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, First Baptist Church, Brandenburg.

10 KBC Mission Board, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

11 KBC Annual Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

14-16 All-State Junior High Choir, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.

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

## KBC disaster relief teams clear debris from 80 Louisville homes

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers have completed work on 80 Louisville homes, in coordination with the Metro United Way's Wind Warrior effort to help residents affected by winds from Hurricane Ike last month.

According to Mary Sullivan, director of volunteer development for Metro United Way, more than 30 Kentucky Baptist volunteers from across the state "helped clear debris from the homes of the elderly, disabled and homebound."

The volunteers began working on

Oct. 20 and finished the effort Oct. 24, Sullivan noted.

Coy Webb, KBC's disaster relief associate, said the 30 volunteers who worked on the project came from Ashland, Bowling Green, Cadiz, California, Campbellsville, Elizabethtown, Greenup, Livermore, Louisville, Monticello, Paducah, Radcliffe, Somerset, Shepherdsville, Taylorsville and Wittenville.

To learn more about Kentucky Baptist disaster relief efforts and how to participate, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/DR](http://www.KyBaptist.org/DR).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Straightway Quartet, a traditional Southern Gospel male quartet, wants to share in your worship experiences. Contact Dylan Mays, (502) 275-1794.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for FBC, Grayson, Ky. Send resumé to Roger Whitehead, 1114 Griffith Ave., Grayson, KY 41143.

**SEEKING:** Music minister able to lead, plan and organize worship ministries (worship configured around pastor's sermon). Skilled in leading orchestra, choir and musical productions. Music currently is blended to contemporary. Experience with media ministries and graphics a plus. Send resumé to [ltate@centralbaptistwayx.org](mailto:ltate@centralbaptistwayx.org). Attn: search committee.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor who believes in the inerrancy of the Bible and has proven skills in preaching, teaching, visitation, counseling, visioning, soul-winning, discipleship and administration. We are a conservative and progressive church with a bright future for ministry and growth in a rapidly growing community just outside of Charlotte, N.C. We have six ministers and numerous outreach programs and specialized ministries, including a large deaf ministry. We are a missions-minded church, supportive of our local association, the Baptist state convention, and the SBC. Send resumé to Donna Jennings, chairperson, Pastor Search Committee, Parkwood Baptist Church, 1069 Central Drive, Concord, NC 28027; or [donnaPastorSearch@carolina.rr.com](mailto:donnaPastorSearch@carolina.rr.com). For general information: [www.parkwoodbaptist.com](http://www.parkwoodbaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Mayfield, Ky. Degree from a Southern Baptist seminary. Salary package: \$80,000 plus. Please send resumé and non-returnable video or DVD to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music director to direct music for Sunday services, attend staff meeting on Sunday afternoon, and conduct choir practice on Sunday afternoon. Music education preferred—we'll give you experience. Salary, schedule and extras are negotiable. Contact Wickland Baptist Church at (502) 348-7661.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions. Polk County Baptist Association is praying for a God-called, mission-minded man to come alongside and continue to unite our churches in mission efforts as a DOM. Recommendations and resumé can be prayerfully submitted up to Nov. 14 to the DOM Search Committee, c/o PCBA, PO Box 289, Benton, TN 37307; or e-mail to [polkbaptist@bellsouth.net](mailto:polkbaptist@bellsouth.net); put "DOM search" as the subject.

**SEEKING:** Experienced income tax preparers for Lexington office. FT/PT, seasonal employment. Closed Sundays. (859) 489-1040.

**SEEKING:** Minister of education. Virginia church seeks experienced candidate with passion for evangelism, discipleship and missions. Must possess good administrative and relational skills. For more information about church, visit [www.mthermonchurch.org](http://www.mthermonchurch.org). Send resumé to: Mount Hermon Baptist Church, 4385 Franklin Turnpike, Danville, VA 24540; or [david@david.satterfield.com](mailto:david@david.satterfield.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for South Jefferson Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. Blended style worship. Send resumé to [katmb@insightbb.com](mailto:katmb@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister for First Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky. Please send resumé to Youth Search Committee, c/o Bro. Tom Hughes, 300 West Main St., Princeton, KY 42445.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, Ky. Please forward resumé and, if possible, DVD, CD or tape, to Pastor Search Team, Petrey Memorial Baptist Church, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701. [www.petreymemorial.org](http://www.petreymemorial.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for northern Kentucky Baptist church in Ten Mile Association. Conservative, support SBC and mission giving. Mail resumé to Brian Richards, 10735 Hwy 127N, Glencoe, KY 41046; or e-mail to [holbertju@fuse.net](mailto:holbertju@fuse.net).

**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:** 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:** 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 resumé to FLC Search Committee, Marion Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Marion, KY 42064; or search committee@marionbaptistchurch.com. Deadline is Oct. 31.

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

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

**TICKETS:** Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni luncheon. Tuesday, Nov. 11, 12:00 noon, Sal's Chop Shop (Malone's Banquets), one mile south of Immanuel Baptist Church on Tates Creek Drive in the Landsdowne Shopping Center. Cost: \$20.41/person (includes tax, tip and beverage). Please contact Keith Sands, (606) 723-2416, or [k.s.sands@juno.com](mailto:k.s.sands@juno.com).

## Book says Southern Baptist women stronger than confession suggests

By Bob Allen  
Associated Baptist Press

Corvallis, Ore. (ABP)—While professing to believe the Bible teaches them to submit to their husbands, Southern Baptist women tend to function as equal partners when it comes to most decision making in the home, according to a new book by an author familiar with Southern Baptist women.

That is due in large part, author Susan Shaw said, to the fact that Southern Baptist girls are taught from a young age to believe they have direct access to God—without any need for an intermediary like a husband or a minister.

Shaw, director of women's studies at Oregon State University, wrote "God Speaks to Us, Too: Southern Baptist Women on Church, Home & Society" from the perspective of both an insider and outsider. She grew up Southern Baptist but now attends a United Church of Christ congregation.

She weaves her own experience with more than 150 interviews of current and former Southern Baptist women from various traditions and backgrounds.

"For years I had been intrigued by the contradictions in Southern Baptist women's lives," Shaw noted. "They professed to be submissive, but they ran their families and churches. They were Southern women with all of that cultural baggage, and yet they were strong leaders, some even challenging cultural and denominational norms by being ordained and becoming pastors. So I wanted to explore those contradictions and complexities."

She concluded that while the Southern Baptist Convention's official positions might seem to make women subordinate, Southern Baptist women are, in fact, a rebellious bunch. The level of rebellion varies from ordained women—who defy the decades-old Southern Baptist tradition that girls can aspire to be missionaries but only boys can be called to preach—to stay-at-home moms who view their husbands as head of the home, yet exert significant influence on the direction of their families and churches.

Shaw said Southern Baptist women are a diverse lot, but one thing they share across the spectrum is belief in the Baptist distinctive often termed "soul competency" or "priesthood of the believer." Because of that belief, Shaw wrote in the book, whether or not a woman views herself as a complete equal to her husband or is assigned to a helper role, she answers only to God in matters of faith.

"The doctrine of the priesthood of the believer has significantly and essentially shaped the identity of Southern Baptist women," Shaw explained. "Each woman I interviewed, without reservation, claims that God speaks to her, and, for many women, that

belief has empowered them to challenge gender norms in Southern Baptist life."

Shaw said a lot of people would be surprised to learn that Southern Baptist women are stronger and more independent than their popular image might suggest. They know they have power, but they exercise it in different ways—some through traditional ways and some in a more feminist fashion.

"The bottom line, though, is if they feel like God is telling them something, then that's the way they're going to go," she pointed out. "God speaks to us, too—that's what they kept telling me."

In the book, Shaw profiles her mother as a typical Southern Baptist woman of her generation. She would say her husband is head of the house, but he would never make a family decision without discussing it with her first.

Shaw turns to her mother's Bible study group, nicknamed "the Clique," as an important focus group representing the older generation of Baptist women.

While they accept the language of male headship, they do not view themselves as powerless in the home. "Man is the head," one member of the Clique commented, "but woman is the neck that turns him."

They are not afraid to disagree with their pastor and to tell him so. They may believe that only males should be pastors and deacons, but it is common knowledge that without women, the average Baptist church could not function.

Shaw noted women who espouse submission still view themselves as equal to men in God's eyes. They see submission based on role, not value, and as a choice they make, not a requirement imposed on them. And they do not see male authority as all-encompassing.

"It's a recognition that at some point in a marriage relationship wives and husbands are going to disagree, and at that point, they believe, the wife's role is to give in to the husband's authority," she said. "But on the whole, what they really practice is a partnership."

Shaw grew up attending a Southern Baptist church in Rome, Ga. She earned master's and doctoral degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was ordained as a minister and taught eight years at California Baptist University. She left the Southern Baptist Convention about 13 years ago, following significant controversy between moderates and conservatives over issues such as women's ordination and the proper role of pastors.

Conservatives ultimately won, and by 2000 had changed the confessional document of the nation's largest Protestant faith group to discourage women pastors and teach that each wife should "submit herself graciously" to her husband's "servant leadership."

## Graham's grandsons reflect on memories of 'Daddy Bill'

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Lynchburg, Va. (RNS)—Aram and Basyle ("Boz") Tchividjian, two of evangelist Billy Graham's 19 grandsons, have compiled a book of anecdotes about how their grandfather's ministry touched the lives of average people across the globe.

In an interview, the two authors of "Invitation: Billy Graham and the Lives God Touched" talked about how their famous grandfather, who turns 90 on Nov. 7, and his late wife, Ruth, affected their own lives.

Boz, 40, is an assistant professor of law at Liberty University School of Law in Lynchburg, Va., and Aram, 33, runs Loudmouth Creative, a West Palm Beach, Fla.-based Web site design and programming company. Their mother, Gigi, is Graham's eldest daughter.

**What would you say is your favorite memory of how Billy Graham has touched you as a grandfather?**

**Aram:** I remember going to visit him when he was down (in Florida) vacationing. His assistant had actually put him in the Ritz-Carlton. He was there for one day. He looked around and it was like, "This is way too nice. We need to leave."

Here he is, he's Billy Graham, this world-famous guy. A lot of people tend to think, "Hey, I'm entitled to the nicest stuff." He's just so totally the opposite of that.

**Boz:** He invited me to go to the Republican National Convention with him in 1988 in New Orleans and I went down with a friend. We got to his room and Daddy Bill opened the door. He was in his pajamas. He invited us in. I could see he had been sitting on his bed and his Bible was open. He could probably be with the president (or) the vice president, and he chose to be with his Heavenly Father.

**Your grandfather was obviously on the road a lot during his decades of ministry—how much time did you get to spend with him?**

**Aram:** Almost every summer I can think of growing up, we spent in Montreat, N.C., for about six weeks. Maybe he was only there part of the summer.

**Boz:** We probably saw them less than a lot of grandchildren see their grandparents but, on the flip side, the fact that I was able to be almost 40 years old when my grandmother died is a blessing I know that not a lot of other people have.

**Did you get to do typical things one might do with a grandfather or**



Aram and Basyle Tchividjian

**was his schedule too busy for that?**

**Aram:** I remember going on walks down the mountain, picking blackberries, those kinds of things. Just generally sitting around as a kid and him telling stories or just talking with him on our porch in Florida, going out to eat at Morrison's Cafeteria or Red Lobster.

**Boz:** We did things that were normal, everyday things—go out to dinner, spend time in the backyard when he would come to South Florida, ride on the Intracoastal (Waterway) in a sailboat.

**Recently, your grandfather was briefly hospitalized after tripping over one of his dogs. How is he doing?**

**Aram:** I asked my mom. She said he was doing fine. He was in good spirits. He said he was very sore but he hadn't broken any bones. She said the nurse that tried to catch him sustained worse injuries than he did because I think she broke her finger.

**You dedicated the book to your grandparents calling them "Daddy Bill" and "Tai Tai." Where did your grandmother's nickname come from?**

**Boz:** It means "old woman" in Chinese. Why we were calling our grandmother "old woman"? I'm not sure.

**What do you recall most about them as a couple?**

**Boz:** My grandmother was a huge character. Without her, there would not have been a him. There were times I saw them disagree with each other, times I saw them hugging on each other. There was a quiet love between the two of them. They would hold hands for a long time.

I remember the last time I saw my grandmother, just about a month before she died. She was just real crumpled up, lying in bed. I'll never forget the last vision I have of them—him leaning over and giving her a big kiss on the cheek.

He told me after she died, "We had this thing every day at 4 o'clock. Wherever I was in the world I would call her." He said, "I still find myself at 4 o'clock ... reaching for the phone."

## 'Love Dare' tops NYT bestseller list

New York (BP)—The "Love Dare" book—which plays a central role in the movie "Fireproof"—hit No. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list for paperback advice books Oct. 10.

Written by Stephen and Alex Kendrick—the brothers who also wrote the film's screenplay—the book is in its seventh printing by B&H Publishing Group, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources. It encourages the reader to take a 40-day journey to strengthen his or her marriage.

"To see 'Fireproof' is to want the book," said John Thompson, mar-

keting vice president for B&H Publishing. "At the same time, for readers, this powerful little book stands alone in opening new understanding—and new relationships."

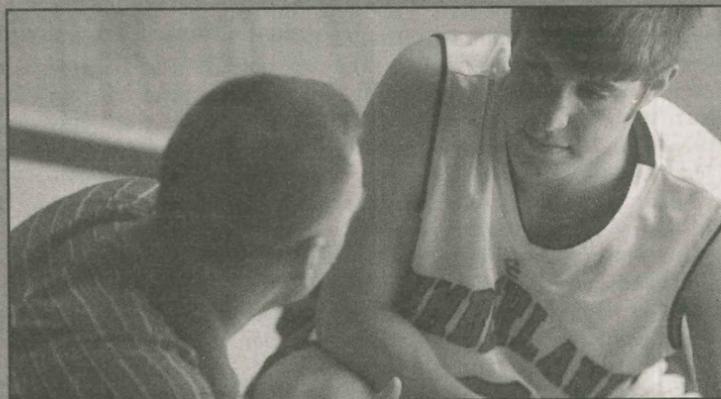
The movie, which tells the story of how a firefighting captain, played by Kirk Cameron, works to save his failing marriage, passed the \$20 million mark last week in total gross and has finished in the Top 5 on a per-theater average in its first three weekends. It remains the top fan-rated film at Fandango.com, a ticket-buying Web site.

10  
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Aram &  
Basyle  
Tchividjian

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