



WESTERN RECORDER

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Tough times in the bluegrass

Economic downturn places strain on Ky. families, ministries

By **Dannah Prather**
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—"I've never had to do this before."

It's a statement Sandy Williams and other Kentucky Baptists serving in social ministries are hearing more often these days as America's economic downturn continues.

As director of church and community ministries for Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington, Williams has coordinated food, clothing and other assistance projects to people in need for 13 years. Since March, the number of people served at Elkhorn's weekly hot meal ministry has doubled, she explained.

"A lot of times the (prayer) requests will be about looking for jobs or housing," Williams said.

The situation is similar in northwestern Kentucky where Kathy Strange is director of community ministries for Green Valley Baptist Association.

"We're seeing a lot of new faces," Strange noted. Volunteers at the Answer Center in Henderson expect to meet about four new families among the "regulars" each week, she added, "but now we're seeing anywhere from 13 to 20."

And many of those new faces perhaps were middle-class working families not too long ago.

The evicted and displaced are joining the usual transient guests at Christian Shelter for the Homeless in London, according to Theresa Marinaro. She and her husband, Phillip, direct the ministry that is supported,



in part, by Kentucky Baptists.

"Landlords' costs are going up so they have to raise the rent maybe \$50 a month," Marinaro pointed out as an example. "For those living paycheck to paycheck ... there's really not much margin for error."

The shelter has been open less than a year but Marinaro said she has noticed a marked increase in calls for shelter and food in the last few months.

"We've been giving out two boxes (of food) a day where before we had been doing two or three boxes per month," she noted.

Marinaro praised local churches for keeping the shelter pantry

stocked. She said she hopes to expand the food ministry to help stabilize families before they are evicted or have their utilities disconnected.

Government reports confirm that times are tough throughout the commonwealth. The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services has served 27,000 more households this fiscal year compared to the same period last year. According to cabinet spokesperson Anya Weber, most of those requests were for food stamps.

"If the increased trend continues, we anticipate a total caseload growth of approximately 47,200" households for 2009, Weber added.

According to the Kentucky Edu-

cation and Workforce Development Cabinet, unemployment jumped from 5.4 percent in September 2007 to 7.1 percent a year later. The cabinet also reported recently that, "compared to September 2007, jobs in the (manufacturing) sector were down by 12,400 in September 2008."

As food stamps and other government assistance are depleted before the end of each month, the needy turn to private agencies, such as the dozens of social ministries supported by Kentucky Baptists, for help.

Currently, "donations are holding steady" at the Answer Center, Strange said, but November and De-

□ See State ministry centers ... Page 8

Obama elected, evangelical groups pledge continued social stand

By **Adelle Banks**
Religion News Service

Nashville (RNS)—Faced with a Barack Obama presidency and Democratic gains in Congress, evangelicals are planning their next steps in a transformed political landscape, with hopes for some common ground and plans to continue fighting for social issues that had mixed results at the ballot box.

"Where we agree, such as standing against genocide in Darfur and protecting basic human rights around the world, we're going to support" Obama, said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"On issues on which we disagree, we'll do our best to persuade him."

Wasting little time, conservative Christian groups already have drafted open letters to the president-elect stressing their opposition to abortion, and are taking steps to

reassure supporters that they will fight any attempt to give the new administration a blank check—especially on social issues.

"Barack Obama can clearly claim a mandate from the American people on the economy, maybe even our standing in the eyes of the rest of the world, but he cannot claim a mandate to impose or to advance a liberal social agenda," noted Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

Impact of values voting

While exit polls indicate Obama gained ground among Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Hispanic voters, he won only one in four evangelical votes, and less than half (43 percent) of weekly churchgoers.

Though conservative Christians will not have "the same type of relationship we had with the Bush administration," Perkins said the passage of amendments in three

states that banned same-sex marriage shows their values have staying power.

"This was, I think, more of a referendum on the Republican Party than conservative values," he explained. "We focused upon the marriage amendments in the three states. ... They passed in two states (California and Florida), which Barack Obama carried handily."

None of the state referenda on abortion—including one on parental consent in California and a "personhood" amendment in Colorado—passed on Election Day, but Land assured that conservative Christians will be undeterred by those losses at the polls.

"Pro-life Catholics and pro-life evangelicals aren't going anywhere," he said.

Charisma magazine publisher Steve Strang, who endorsed Republican presidential nominee John McCain in part because of his anti-

abortion stance, voiced concern about the political future because of Obama's win.

"The scary thing for those of us who believe the Bible and want conservative values is that the change may move the country too far to the left politically and morally," he wrote in his Strang Report.

"You and I may not influence the halls of Congress, but we do influence people in our families, our workplaces and our churches."

Land said younger evangelicals, who have indicated a broader interest in issues beyond abortion, will likely become the center of attention as new conservative political leaders begin the long preparations for the next presidential election.

"I do think ... in this long-term, extended beauty contest, they're going to be pushing for expansion of the agenda," he added. "But they're not going to accept a pro-choice candidate."

Former Ky. Baptist youth minister sentenced in child molestation case

Lexington (ABP)—A former Kentucky Baptist youth minister was sentenced Oct. 31 to 10 years in prison after confessing to sexually exploiting a 14-year-old girl he met while posing as a 17-year-old youth evangelist on the social-networking Web site MySpace.

Timothy Scott Richerson, 40, of Greensburg, admitted in July that he met the girl online and then followed up with computer and telephone messages during the summer of 2007. That September he drove to the victim's home in Madison County where he sexually exploited her.

The girl's mother became suspicious after several visits by Richerson. She found sexually explicit text messages on her daughter's phone and called authorities. The Kentucky State Police arrested Richerson in Greensburg Oct. 12, 2007, and a federal court indicted him in March, as part of Project Safe Childhood, a Justice Department initiative aimed at protecting children from online predators.

Richerson is a former volunteer youth minister at Freedom Baptist Church in Campbellsville. He had resigned his position with the church prior to his arrest.

The 40 year old had sexual contact with the girl short of intercourse, according to WKYT-TV in Lexington. However, he said he had planned to take her virginity on her 15th birthday.

Richerson's MySpace page, which he last accessed Oct. 11, 2007, is titled "Youth for Christ Ministries." It identifies him as a 17-year-old male.

Richerson, who is married with a teenage daughter, listed 216 "friends" on his profile, mostly teenage girls from around the Campbellsville area.

Baptists enhance missions learning options

By Tobin Perry
Crusader Magazine

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Missions learning is the foundation of missions sending. That is the conviction of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in helping churches create missions-learning opportunities for their members.

"People don't typically respond to what they don't know about," said Jim Burton, leader of NAMB's missions education team. "We believe the missions challenge is as compelling as ever."

Fresh off the celebration of 100 years of Royal Ambassadors, missions education is expanding at NAMB. One of the entity's nine major ministry assignments, missions education is exploring and developing new avenues for missions learning in Southern Baptist churches. Whether through online delivery of drop-in mission education or creation of state convention customized Kids4Christ Around the World, NAMB missions education is pushing back the boundaries of traditional missions learning.

The result? Southern Baptists have more options than ever to create diverse missions-learning environments.

"BackPack" and "SnackPack" lessons are used each Wednesday, for example, at the "God's Kids" mission club at First Baptist Church of Ceredo, W.Va.

"In the summer, we had a camp each Wednesday night. The BackPack lessons were just perfect—short and to the point," said Amy Robinson, children's ministry volunteer leader at the church. "The children couldn't wait to see what was in our BackPack each week."

BackPack Missions, 10- to 15-minute studies for children containing object lessons that teach both missions and the Bible, debuted in 2006.

In 2007, NAMB began producing SnackPack Missions, 15- to 20-minute children's lessons on missions that can be dropped into any learning environment.

"One size doesn't fit all when it comes to Southern Baptist churches," Burton noted. "Because of that, we're now producing resources that meet the diverse mission-learning needs. ... We want to see all of our churches make missions learning a



LEARNING FUN Royal Ambassadors from several states put their RA racers to the test at an RA Camp-o-ree at Tennessee's Camp Linden. RA groups are one of the many ways Southern Baptist churches can educate their students about missions. (NAMB photo by Jim Burton)

priority."

For most of the last century, missions learning for males in Southern Baptist churches has occurred through weekly or monthly ministries like Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and Baptist Men On Mission. NAMB inherited these ministries from the former Brotherhood Commission during the implementation of the Covenant for a New Century, a restructure of the Southern Baptist Convention in the mid-1990s.

Learning shift

In the past two decades, many Southern Baptist churches have moved away from midweek events on the church campus. Some have turned to nondenominational educational ministries that do not include missions learning. While traditional missions-learning ministries have gained a new vibrancy in recent years, NAMB has begun exploring other opportunities as well.

The diverse new line of resources coincides with a new vision for mission education at NAMB: "To develop Acts 1:8 Christians by establishing in every Southern Baptist church missions learning that equips Southern Baptists for mission action." To help every church have missions-learning opportunities, NAMB has created resources designed to fit into existing learning environments, such as small groups and Sunday school classes.

Recognizing yet another need in small churches and church plants, in August NAMB launched monthly customizable missions-learning lessons for children. These lessons, called Kids4Christ Around the World, contain a Bible study, mission study, games and other activities. State conventions also can choose whether to customize the material and include their own missions emphases.

Starting in January, NAMB will launch a weekly missions e-newsletter called BMEN Online to engage Baptist men in missions. Each edition will contain missions news, urgent mission needs, prayer requests and Bible studies.

"To our knowledge, a weekly men's missions resource has never been developed for Baptist men, much less delivered," Burton said. "We are excited about the resource and what it can mean for Baptist men."

Currently, the Southern Baptist Annual Church Profile notes that only about 50 percent of churches report being intentional about teaching missions.

"Between the traditional and new resources from NAMB and the outstanding resources from Woman's Missionary Union, ... we believe that the remaining 50 percent of Southern Baptist churches can find missions-learning helps that will work for them," Burton said.

Mo. Baptist messengers elect reform candidates

St. Louis (ABP)—Messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention annual meeting Oct. 27-29 once again elected officers sympathetic to a reform movement within the state convention. They also heard a report about the difficult work of an ad hoc "peace committee" formed to broker a truce between warring conservative factions.

For the second year in a row, MBC supporters elected officers identified with the Save Our Convention movement that a year ago pitted itself against another conservative group and won.

A motion from the convention floor sought unsuccessfully to bar first vice president Bruce McCoy and second vice president John Marshall—both elected on the SOC-endorsed ticket a year ago—from being

nominated for higher office.

It was their membership on the peace committee that threatened the nominations of McCoy, pastor of Canaan Baptist Church in St. Louis, and Marshall, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo.

In April, the MBC Executive Board formed the committee. In the last two years, SOC supporters and the Missouri Baptist Laymen's Association have been at odds over several issues, including the influence of the MBLA and its leader, layman Roger Moran, over the convention's work. Between 1997 and 2001 the MBLA, under Moran's leadership, effectively forced moderates out of the convention.

In what he called "background information" prior to the peace committee's opening-session report,

chair Jeff Purvis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Herculaneum-Peveley, Mo., told messengers that it was his opinion that nominating committee members to convention office could undermine the peace process.

McCoy, Marshall and Wesley Hammond, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paris, Mo., represent SOC on the committee. The Laymen's Association is represented by Purvis, Moran and retired pastor Jay Scribner.

The peace committee's official report to the convention suggested progress, but acknowledged that the committee had reached an impasse. Committee members said they would invite a Christian arbitration group to mediate their discussions—even though the committee, when beginning its work, had initially decided against such mediation.

Hispanic pastor hospitalized after kidnap, torture

San Diego (BP)—Southern Baptist pastor Manuel Jesus Tec is free after 11 days of torture at the hands of unknown kidnapers who abducted him in Tijuana, Mexico, Oct. 21. Tec currently is recuperating at a San Diego hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

Tec, 59, was released Oct. 31, following extensive negotiations, according to Johnny Tec, the pastor's son.

Tec was whipped with barbed wire whenever he started praying or talking to his captors about God, his son noted.

Tec said the family was instructed to meet one of the kidnapers under a Tijuana bridge around 3:30 a.m. on Oct. 31. Complying with the instructions, one of the pastor's sons arrived at the bridge and was told his father would be delivered in five minutes. After two hours passed and the kidnapers had not produced his father, the son returned home alone.

Johnny Tec said the kidnapers had loosely buried his father under gravel and sand and shot at him, according to what the pastor later told his family. Fortunately, none of the bullets struck the half-buried pastor and the kidnapers fled.

Tijuana police officers later found Tec and carried him to a local hospital. The family later arranged for Manuel to be transferred to an undisclosed hospital across the border in San Diego.

"It was heartbreaking when we finally first saw him in the hospital," Johnny Tec recalled, "because he was afraid of us."

"The kidnapers took advantage of the fact that he had not eaten and was hallucinating. They would tell him that my brother and I were going to continue beating him. We had to gain his trust back."

Also at one time during his capture, Tec had been told that his entire family—his wife, Maria, and all five children—had been killed by the kidnapers, Johnny Tec noted. "He thought we were all dead. One by one, we had to reintroduce the family to him so he would realize that we're all OK."

"Dad's making fast progress. As he gets better, he's remembering more about what they did to him. He's been through a lot of bad stuff," Johnny Tec said. "He's really excited to be back and thanks all the Southern Baptists for their prayers."

The 11-day ordeal began Oct. 21, when armed kidnapers abducted Tec as he was crossing the border from San Diego to Tijuana. His wife and son were with him but not taken or hurt.

Tec is pastor of a new Hispanic church plant in San Diego, Iglesia Familiar y Vida.

Henard seeks relevancy, urgency for Ky. Baptist churches

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Bill Henard is a busy man. The pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington wraps up his one-year term as Kentucky Baptist Convention president this week. Yet his plate remains quite full.

In June, Henard was elected Southern Baptist Convention first vice president. He also is an assistant professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Despite his demanding schedule, Henard remains focused on his top priority in ministry—"to be able to bring encouragement on evangelism to churches, associations and pastors."

Even though there is work to be done, Henard said he is encouraged by what he has seen from KBC churches in the area of evangelism.

"Churches are more intentional about training people to do evangelism," he pointed out, "and they are much more intentional about praying for people who are not believers."

Henard "has challenged Kentucky Baptists to keep the focus on evangelism," noted KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

Mackey also applauded Henard's ability to balance his KBC, SBC and Porter Memorial duties.

Henard "has carried out his responsibilities with effectiveness and compassion for what is best for the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Mackey noted.

So, what is best for the KBC?

Henard said it is for Kentucky Baptists to heed the theme of this week's annual meeting, "Sharing Christ with Urgency."

"There are probably 2.7 million non-believers in Kentucky," he estimated. "We have an urgency to get out there and tell them about Christ."

However, Henard explained that there are some tough questions

that must be answered first, such as, "Why do we have a denomination?" and, "Why do we even do church the way we do?"

He singled out George Barna's book, "Pagan Christianity," released earlier this year. It takes a look at church history and explores how churches of today differ compared to churches of the first century.

Barna's "book questions everything the church does," Henard noted.

The KBC president insisted that in answering those questions, "it then leads us to know what must be the priorities for the KBC ... (and) to understand the urgency. I think the KBC is legitimate, that the church is legitimate, but let's become relevant," Henard urged.

He also pointed to another recently released book, Thom Rainer's "Essential Church?" In it, Rainer attempts to discover why young adults are leaving the church in droves. The priority of evangelism is one of the main issues Rainer focuses on for churches to become relevant.

"If that works in the church" it should work in the KBC, Henard said, because "the denomination is a reflection of the local church."

"We need more churches"

One way for the denomination to become relevant and effectively reach the lost, Henard insisted, is to plant churches, an area he said the KBC has done well in thus far. But, he noted, there still is more to do, adding that four Kentucky counties remain nearly 90 percent unchurched.

"I think we need more churches, not to be on top of each other, but to get to some of the areas where we don't have churches," Henard said.

In addition to starting new congregations, Henard said he has been encouraged by the emergence of young leaders in the KBC. At 53, he called himself "more of the exception than I am the rule" as an elected KBC official.

"I'm almost a dinosaur, in a sense, of the guys who are out there leading now," he noted.

The previous two presidents—Darrin Gaddis and Paul Chitwood—were both in their 30s when elected. Henard also pointed to those who have served as vice presidents in recent years, including Chad Fugitt, Kevin Smith and Skip Alexander, all of whom are younger, up-and-coming leaders.

Henard said he sees that pattern as a good sign for the convention's future and represents the lack of a "good-ole-boy system."

"I've been in several other states where it was hard to break in to the denomination," he noted. "The KBC has been very open ... to say, 'If you'll come and be active and be involved, we'll get you connected.'"

Another encouraging sign Henard said he has witnessed over the past year is the enthusiasm of the next generation of Christian leaders attending Kentucky Baptist institutions.

"I see a passion among college students now that we missed a decade or more ago—a willingness to be dangerous with the gospel," he said.

But as many of those students segue into seminary and become young church leaders in the state, the challenge then becomes getting them involved in denominational life, Henard pointed out.

"Before, people were loyal to the KBC because it was the KBC," he noted. "In the younger generation—the millennial generation—there's not that same loyalty."

Ky. Baptists should celebrate unity

The solution to getting them involved may lie in shaking up the KBC annual meeting, he suggested. "The annual meeting has to be more about an engagement with God than it is about business."

While not entirely neglecting business, Henard suggested adjusting the tone of the oral reports giv-



ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

KBC President Bill Henard speaks at last year's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference prior to the annual meeting.

en by KBC agencies and institutions and Mission Board team leaders.

"Talk about, 'This is what God is doing,' rather than, 'Here's my report,'" Henard said. "That, I think, would stir the excitement."

He did note that this year's roster of speakers, including David Platt and Smith, is a step in the right direction. "Everything we do needs to engage at the level of being inspirational, not informational."

And as he hands over the gavel to the next KBC president Tuesday night, Henard said his successor will have the challenge of not only involving young leaders, but all Kentucky Baptist pastors and laypeople.

"I know our attendance at the convention has dropped, and I think part of that is just out of apathy," Henard said.

"Part of the challenge of my successor will be to help communicate that when we're not fighting that's actually a good thing," he added.

Henard urged Kentucky Baptists not to follow the same destructive path other state conventions have traveled and "begin to devour each other over insignificant things."

"If we're not at peace, then we're focusing on our conflicts," he explained. "If we're at peace and in unity—biblical unity—then we can focus on our purpose."

KBC's latest blog designed to encourage women in ministry

Louisville—Working to better equip women for ministry, the Kentucky Baptist Convention launched its latest blog, "Cross-Eyed Living," an online resource for women's ministry.

The blog can be accessed at www.CrossEyedLiving.com and is authored by a team of three women. Shelly Johns, KBC women's and senior adult ministry associate, is the lead contributor to the blog. Donna Coffey and Aundie Starks also offer their views on the site.

Johns said the blog is designed to be "a place where writers share experiences common to women at different seasons of life."

"As we are honest about our struggles and provide resources for Christ-centered success, I hope the blog will encourage leaders to keep their focus on Jesus in every area and role of their lives," she noted.

In her role at the KBC, Johns organizes training events for women and senior adults. She also helps churches implement women's ministries,

working closely with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and other Christian women in the state.

Coffey is a graduate of the Women's Ministry Institute at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Starks holds a Bachelor of Ministry degree in biblical counseling.

According to Johns, a variety of issues that affect women will be discussed on the blog, including "whole-hearted devotion to Christ, singleness, Christian leadership, relationships in general, health and beauty issues, the different roles women play, and other topics as God directs."

Johns said she hopes to "expand with guest writers periodically who will help keep the blog fresh and current to our readers."

Cross-Eyed Living is one of 11 KBC blog resources available to Kentucky Baptists at www.KyBaptist.org/Blogs.

Readers of all KBC blogs may choose to receive e-mail updates when new posts are added.

UK BCM students killed in accident

London—Two University of Kentucky students returning from a Baptist Campus Ministry retreat died and another was injured in a traffic accident on Interstate 75 Sunday afternoon.

According to a Kentucky State Police spokesman, Thomas May and Bradley Hall were fatally injured in the accident just south of Berea. Ben Cooley was injured and transported to the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

The students were traveling back to Lexington after a Baptist Campus Ministry retreat at Laurel Lake. May was driving a 2001 Ford Taurus when it struck the median and crossed a tractor trailer in oncoming traffic. The accident still is under investigation.

More than 100 students gathered at the UK BCM center Sunday evening as news of the tragedy spread.

"We are all saddened by the tragic loss of these fine young men and the injuries sustained by the third. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends and fellow Baptist Campus Ministry students," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey. "Difficult days are ahead for all of those connected to these students."

Georgetown College trustees extend contract of President William Crouch

Georgetown—Georgetown College's Board of Trustees has extended the contract of President William Crouch another four years, according to a Nov. 7 press release from the school. Crouch's previous contract was set to expire June 30, 2009.

"The Board of Trustees of Georgetown College is elated that Dr. Crouch has agreed to continue on this remarkable journey with us for another four years," said board chairman J. Guthrie True in announcing the extension.

Crouch became Georgetown College's 23rd president in 1991. During his tenure, he has focused on expanding the school's diversity through partnerships with African-American Baptist associations and the adoption of the alumni of Bishop College, a historically black school in Dallas

that closed in 1988.

"The extraordinary vision and leadership of Bill Crouch over the past 17 years has moved the college to a position of national recognition as an outstanding academic institution," True noted. "I have no doubt that his contributions over the next four years will set the stage for a transformation of the college that exceeds our wildest expectations."

Should he complete his current contract, Crouch would become the longest tenured president in Georgetown's history, which began in 1829.

Crouch is graduate of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He and his wife, Jan, have five children and two grandchildren.



William Crouch

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

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An open letter to President-elect Obama

By **Richard Land**

Nashville (BP)—Dear President-elect Obama,

First, congratulations on your successful campaign to become the 44th president of our beloved United States of America. This was a historic election in terms of the massive increase in voter participation as a percentage of the electorate.

I hope you know that there are tens of millions of Americans who did not vote for you who are still very, very pleased that an African-American has been elected president of the United States.

The fact that this could happen in a country with as tragic a racial past as America's says something noble and fine about the American experiment and the glorious "opportunity democracy" it has spawned. After much struggle, we as a nation have chosen together to live up to the promises of our founding document, the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

For those of us who came of age during the civil rights era and were inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it is very gratifying to watch our nation elect a person of color to the highest political office in the land, even someone for whom they may not have voted because of serious policy differences.

Mr. President-elect, the Bible exhorts us to pray for "kings and all who are in authority" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). We, therefore, covenant to pray for you, your family and your administration. We will pray that God will grant you godly wisdom in all your decision making. We pray with faith and confidence that "the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water; he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Proverbs 21:1).

On issues which involve moral

and ethical values, we will both pray for you and exhort you to apply biblical principles and values as you make policy decisions that will impact the families of America and the world. We also will pray that God will bless you with safety, health and all spiritual blessings.

On issues where we agree, such as standing against genocide in Darfur and protecting basic human rights around the world, we will support you.

On issues where we disagree with the approach your administration takes, we will do our best to persuade you to change your approach. When we are unsuccessful, we will stand by our convictions and will exercise our God-given responsibilities and constitutionally protected right to work for alternative solutions that are more in accord with our convictions.

Southern Baptists remain unalterably committed to the protection of unborn human life. The vast majority of Southern Baptists believe that a pre-born baby is a distinct human life, according to both science and the Bible (Psalms 51:5; Psalms 139-13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41). The euphemism of "choice" or "reproductive freedom" cannot disguise or justify killing a baby. Government has a proper role in protecting lives, including the lives of the unborn. Southern Baptists, by national resolutions, have opposed abortion on demand, and have called for public policies that severely restrict abortion and that promote alternatives such as adoption.

Mr. President-elect, you have said you want to unite us as a nation. An excellent place to work for such unity and consensus on the life issue would be for you to put your full and vigorous support behind the Democrats for Life House Caucus initiative known as the Pregnant Women Support Act or the 95-10 Initiative (because of its goal to reduce abortion by 95 percent over a 10-year period).

This bill, sponsored in the last Congress by Rep. Lincoln Davis (D-Tenn.) and Sen. Robert Casey (D-

FIRST PERSON

The importance of relationships

In his book, "Concentric Circles of Concern," the late Oscar Thompson said the word "relationships" is the most precious word in the English language. He added that perhaps the most welcomed words are, "I forgive you."

For Christians, our primary relationship is the one we have with God through Jesus Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new." Because we have a new relationship with God, we are new people, and we need to see people from the perspective of Jesus Christ.

For years, my goal was to have a conscious awareness of God. I have come to realize that this relationship goes beyond conscious awareness. It also involves dealing with any sin barriers that hinder or restrict the presence and work of the

Holy Spirit.

Misunderstanding can be one of the greatest barriers to good relationships. In most cases, people do not intend to hurt or offend someone by what they say or do, but it is easy for words and actions to be misunderstood. People are so different in the ways they think, process information, relate and make decisions. Reacting based on one's personal perception and not the other person's perspective often can lead to an overreaction. I

find that, for me, it often is helpful to wait a few days in order to gain a better perspective on a situation before reacting.

When misunderstandings do occur, the rift in relationships can be healed when one party is sincerely willing to seek forgiveness, reconciliation and love, and the other party is willing to respond likewise.

The way we maintain our re-

Penn.), would, among other things:

- Establish a toll-free number to direct women to places that will provide support during and following their pregnancies.

- Fund collection of accurate data on abortion.

- Provide child care to low-income and student parents.

- Provide parenting education in maternity group homes.

- Make the Adoption Tax Credits permanent.

- Ensure that pregnant women are not denied health care by insurance companies and that coverage is continued for newborns.

- Codify the regulation that extends coverage under the State Children's Health Insurance Program to low-income pregnant women and unborn children.

- Improve services for pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence.

- Provide services to parents receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally diagnosed conditions.

- Increase funding for the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program.

- Provide grants to institutions of higher education to fund services for pregnant and parenting students.

- Provide new mothers with free home visits by registered nurses.

All of these measures would help fulfill the pledge made in the 2008 Democratic Party platform that "strongly supports a woman's decision to have a child by ensuring access to and availability of programs for pre- and post-natal health care, parenting skills, income support, and caring adoption programs."

Mr. President-elect, America needs moral conviction, not moral neutrality. America's children need a model of leadership committed both to excellence and to virtue. May God help you, Mr. President-elect, and make you that leader. And may God bless America.

Yours in His service,

Richard Land

Richard Land is president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

relationships to one another in the church and in public is important. 2 Corinthians 5:19 says, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself... and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." In John 17, Jesus says our unity as believers will result in the world believing that God sent Him, and that God has loved them as He has loved Jesus.

Showing unity and love for one another also is crucial in our ministry of reconciliation in the world (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). I pray that we always will be considerate and respectful of others, gracious and caring in our relationships, slow to react emotionally, willing to see other perspectives, and always willing to exercise love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

In a day when extreme emotional reactions seem to be common, please join me in becoming ministers of reconciliation in home, church, convention and community to the glory of God.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Begin saving for retirement sooner rather than later

By **Don Spencer**

Here are the Top 10 reasons for not saving for retirement:

10. The government "bail-out" will wipe out all my retirement savings.

9. I'm expecting a call from Publisher's Clearing House.

8. I might not live that long.

7. My employer will take care of me.

6. My spouse can get a job in retirement.

5. I'll let my kids support me.

4. I'll turn my hobby into a second career.

3. I'm going to inherit a great deal of money.

2. Social Security will more than cover me.

1. I have plenty of time.

Unfortunately, too many people believe reasons 1 and 2 are true. Social Security will not provide adequate retirement—it was never meant to. At best, it will replace a little more than 30 percent of your annual earnings at age 65. For most folks, the remaining retirement income must be provided through pensions and savings.

There are two essential ingredients for providing adequate retirement: time and money. The more you have of one, the less you need of the other.

To illustrate, let's assume your goal is to accumulate \$250,000 by age 65, using an investment that averages 8 percent earnings each year. You can reach that goal starting at age 30 by investing \$108 per month. If you wait until you are 40, you'll have to save \$261 per month to reach that goal. At age 50, it will require an investment of \$718 per month.

When it comes to making your retirement years comfortable, don't wait. Savings, spending and investment decisions you make at earlier ages have direct bearing on how you live in your 60s and 70s. Make your retirement choices early and wisely.

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



Teaching delayed gratification leads to contentment in kids

Q: What are some practical ways I can help my children learn to wait for something they want?

For most of us, contentment doesn't come easily or naturally. However, like Paul, we can learn to be content. One of the ways we do that is by learning to wait. Teaching your children the following tricks to help them learn to wait when they want something can set them on the road to contentment—a sure sign of a Christ follower.

PARENTING

When your children want something, challenge them to:

- Wait until they have the money. One of the reasons many people today are unhappy is because they owe so much money. Make sure your children understand that borrowing money is easy; paying it back is much harder and can cause many problems and pressures. Don't let them get in the habit of borrowing money.

- Wait until the next gift day. Waiting builds the excitement and often helps children appreciate things even more.

- Wait until tomorrow. Waiting until tomorrow gives your children time to think and to ask themselves, "Is this really how I want to spend my money? Is this something I really want?" Sometimes they will change their minds, or the desire will go away. Sometimes they may even decide they can do without whatever it is they wanted.

- Wait—even when you don't have to. Self-control is a good thing and also is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Learning to control our desires and even to say no to ourselves is a great way to keep stuff from becoming too important. It gives us the chance to ask the question, "Do I really have to have this?"—David Garrard

Q: As parents, we are trying to teach our teenagers that there is a big difference between love and infatuation, but we are having trouble explaining it. Can you help?

Magnetism. Flame. Heat. Romance. Enchantment. Temporary insanity. These all are apt words to describe infatuation, or "falling in love." In "Love, Sex, and Lasting Relationships," Chip Ingram describes 12 tests to distinguish between love and infatuation. They are listed below, each with a brief description:

Test of time. Love grows with time while infatuation diminishes.

Test of knowledge. Love grows out of increased understanding of all known characteristics of the other person.

Test of focus. Real love is other-person-centered rather than self-centered.

Test of singularity. True love is focused only on one person, not several.

Test of security. Genuine love requires and fosters a sense of security and trust.

Test of work. An individual in love works for the benefit of the other, not oneself.

Test of problem solving. Persons in love face problems squarely rather than disregarding or trying to ignore them.

Test of distance. Real love recognizes the importance of distance rather than requiring an enmeshed closeness all the time.

Test of physical attraction. Physical attraction is a relatively small part of genuine love, but it is the central focus of infatuation.

Test of affection. Affection tends to be expressed later with real love, rather than sooner with infatuation.

Test of stability. Love tends to endure while infatuation is fleeting and unpredictable.

Test of delayed gratification. True love is willing to be patient while infatuated couples feel an urge to get married quickly.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

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



Untitled

Writing an editorial for a Baptist weekly at a time such as this in American history is a bit like a doctor attempting to prescribe medication for an unknown illness. Does the doctor go with aspirin or a placebo?

Americans have voted and have set the national "tone" for at least the next four years. The pent-up emotion accumulated over the past two years will be partially relieved simply because the election is finally over. Hopefully, some of the "venom" which has generously been delivered during this period will gradually lose its potency, though it will have left marks.

I recall reading a story of Kentucky poet-laureate Jesse Stewart titled, "The Copperhead." It told of a boy who ran into a copperhead snake in the weeds just outside his house. He got a hoe to try to decapitate it but struck the snake nearer the tail and had to hold it there while he called for help from the house. Meanwhile, the snake kept swinging around striking at the hoe, spewing and dripping venom in that spot. Next spring, when green things began to sprout, he noticed that in the spot where the incident occurred nothing grew. It was a mountain poet's way of speaking a biblical truth.

Regretfully, even when the emotions of the election diminish, significant challenges already are in play, some of which may be addressed helpfully in political discourse and legislative action. But political action cannot fully address the illness of spirit which may be at the heart of our national dilemma. "All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned each one to his (or her) own way." Could we not be reaping the harvest of our own indulgences?

Whether history is about to repeat itself through a humbling like the Great Depression can only be speculated. Today's global inter-connectedness broadens the scope of any comparisons, but the number of poor is increasing, and more are hungry; opportunities for honest work are diminishing; an explosion of mortgage defaults are but a sampling. Granted, we have not yet heard about suicides on Wall Street, or of once-wealthy stock brokers standing in food lines. But honest people know that down deep there is an unease that something may be going on unlike anything younger generations have experienced.

While President Roosevelt's words during the Great Depression—"We have nothing to fear but fear itself"—and his notable "fireside chats" may offer encouragement even for today, the possibility of that extended, painful period in American history looms again. I am old enough to have lasting memories of some of its effects. We were among the more fortunate. My father,

a rural mail carrier—under the federal government—held his job throughout. His father and mother operated a small grocery store and helped with food when needed.

Born in 1932, I remember the ragged-looking men who came to our house on U.S. 60 in Frankfort. Mother would prepare and let me take plates of food for them to eat on our front porch. Mostly they were men who had hitchhiked from other places, hungry and looking for work. That would have been at least eight years after the depression was said to have begun. Volumes of books and archival information exist for the serious reader of that long-term event.

After a political competition—an "us versus them" experience—perhaps some positive effects will emerge in these more desperate times when we must, however reluctantly, pull together for the good of the whole. History suggests that such times may "cleanse body and soul" of profligate spending, insensitivity to our neighbor's needs, and our overall moral decline. We are, after all, a proud nation.

Many were impressed a few years ago with Tom Brokaw's best-selling book, "The Greatest Generation." It is a tribute to an American generation and their response to World War II, represented by a select group of individuals whom Brokaw culled from many of that era. That special generation came out of the Great Depression.

From another Book we read about a people known as Israel who had grown indulgent, unconcerned about the poor and widows, their religious establishment corrupted, and the people far from the God of their fathers. One of the preachers of the day called for renewal and warned them of their profligate ways. The preacher was unsuccessful in bringing about a change. But in a few years, Israel was overcome by an alien nation and taken into a captivity which would last many years more than the Great Depression. Many suffered, some would never return. Finally freed, they were a new people, a remnant who returned chastened and purified—at least for a while.

There are some lessons to be learned from history, both secular and religious. I have purposefully called this editorial "Untitled" so that those who have interest enough to search for the intention might come up with your own title. Here's a hint: "A believer has hope even in the worst of times."

Bill Marshall is a retired missionary, pastor and former executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He and his wife, Alice, are co-directors of the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College

GUEST EDITORIAL



Bill Marshall

Young people & the '08 election

By Richard Ross

Fort Worth, Texas (BP)—It's been fascinating to see a presidential candidate capture the loyalty of young people. Beyond just emotions, students so believed in their candidate that they knocked on doors and worked the phone banks.

While these students may have struggled to articulate what specific "hope and change" should be implemented, this did not lessen their zeal. They had been captured—not by a party or platform—but by a person. First Hillary Clinton and then John McCain lost close state races because a new leader, Barack Obama, had captured a young generation.

Believers grounded in Scripture know America stands in danger of judgment over its years-long moral decline. Perhaps a gaping hole in the side of a Pentagon or the stock market in free fall represent God's final wake-up calls before He truly bares his strong arm.

The political process is important but it does not represent hope for

averting judgment. What we need is true revival among God's people that spills out of the church and into the culture.

COMMENTARY

And it may well be the young who will be the first spark in that revival. Sixteen-year-old Nicolas Zinzendorf lit the flame for the prayer revival of 1720. George Whitfield and John and Charles Wesley were collegians when Christ called them to lead in the Great Awakening. Collegians at Hampton-Sydney in Virginia lit the flame for the Second Great Awakening. Welsh middle-schooler Florrie Evans was the spark for the Global Awakening of 1904.

Students today have shown they can embrace a leader. But what if they lifted their sights from a political figure to the very Son of God? What might happen if multitudes of Christian students were to fully embrace the supremacy of Christ and His majesty and reign today?

Christian students today do love Jesus. For some, however, their love for Him primarily stems from the

benefits He brings to them. They almost see Jesus as a little friend who can ride in their shirt pocket, always available to poof their problems away.

And where did they get this idea? Just listen to adults sharing prayer requests at church. It often is an organ recital—adults reciting which organs they want Jesus to make better. Virtually no one lifts his voice in prayer to declare the majesty and grandeur of the King of Kings. Senior pastors and youth leaders only refer to Jesus during His time on earth or perhaps His second coming. Almost no one is preaching or teaching about the glory and majesty of God's Son as He sits enthroned in heaven.

But what if parents and leaders began to do that very thing? What if they awakened the young to the only One in the universe who embodies real hope for change? A young generation rising up to embrace the person of Christ offers our best hope for the reviving of the church and the transformation of the nation.

Richard Ross is professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas

2008 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

SPRING REPORT KBC MISSION BOARD:

Bell (Region 8): 2010 Unexpired Term - Wayne Walters (Pineville)
Bell (Region 8): 2008 Unexpired Term - Gary Brooks (Pineville)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2008 Unexpired Term - Douglas Simpson (Versailles)
Graves County (Region 1): 2010 Unexpired Term - Jimmy E. Brown (Water Valley)
Little Bethel (Region 2): 2008 Unexpired Term - Tom McKim (Fredonia)
Logan Todd (Region 3): 2008 Unexpired Term - Larry J. Baker (Russellville)
Muhlenberg (Region 2): 2009 Unexpired Term - Terry Chaney (Graham)
Shelby (Region 4): 2009 Unexpired Term - Susie Stivers (Shelbyville)
Wayne County (Region 7): 2009 Unexpired Term - Tommy Floyd (Monticello)
West Kentucky (Region 1): 2010 Unexpired Term - Jason Sipes (Hickman)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)
 2008 Unexpired Term (1): Rusty Ellison (Louisville)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)
 2008 Unexpired Term (1): Dean Warren (Bowling Green)

Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)
 2010 Unexpired Term (1): Lester Watson (Cadiz)

FALL REPORT KBC MISSION BOARD:

At Large (Region 2): 2011 Term - Larry Purcell (Hopkinsville)
At Large (Region 3): 2011 Term - Paul Chitwood (Mt. Washington)
At Large (Region 7): 2011 Term - Darren Gaddis (Corbin)
Blood River (Region 1): 2011 Term - Darvin Stom (Benton)
Boones Creek (Region 6): 2010 Unexpired Term - Gary Willoughby (Mt. Sterling)
Bracken (Region 5): 2011 Term - Lewis Cook (Maysville)
Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1): 2010 Unexpired Term - Chris Turpin (Princeton)
Christian County (Region 2): 2011 Term - Brandt Lyon (Oak Grove)
Daviess/McLean (Region 2): 2011 Term - Kenny Stone (Owensboro)
Daviess/McLean (Region 2): 2011 Term - Paula Jacondino (Owensboro)
East Lynn (Region 7): 2011 Term - Rual Neagle (Greensburg)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2011 Term - Wayne Lipscomb (Georgetown)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2011 Term - Alan Dodson (Lexington)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2011 Term - Doug Simpson (Versailles)
Enterprise (Region 8): 2011 Term - John David Thomas (Stambaugh)
Freedom (Region 7): 2011 Term - Mark Shelton (Burkesville)
Gasper River (Region 3): 2011 Term - Greg Wallace (Morgantown)
Green Valley (Region 2): 2011 Term - Doug Hamblin (Henderson)
Greenup (Region 8): 2011 Term - Todd Richardson (Ashland)
Henry County (Region 5): 2011 Term - Jo Brewer (Eminence)
Irvine (Region 8): 2011 Term - Brent Gilbert (McKee)
Knox (Region 8): 2011 Term - Joshua Smith (Bimble)
Laurel River (Region 8): 2011 Term - Dennis Hammons (London)
Liberty (Region 7): 2011 Term - Randy Shaw (Glasgow)
Lincoln County (Region 7): 2011 Term - Derik Durham (Hustonville)
Lincoln County (Region 7): 2010 Unexpired Term - Jerry Bailey (Stanford)
Little Bethel (Region 2): 2011 Term - Tom McKim (Fredonia)
Logan Todd (Region 3): 2011 Term - Larry Baker (Russellville)
Logan Todd (Region 3): 2009 Unexpired Term - Buddy Crabtree (Russellville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2009 Unexpired Term - Tim Harris (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2011 Term - Ed Stucky (Shepherdsville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2011 Term - Leon Boyd (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2011 Term - Charles Barnes (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2011 Term - Eddie Maynard (Brooks)
Long Run (Region 4): 2011 Term - Chuck Henderson (Louisville)
Mercer (Region 6): 2011 Term - Ralph Neal (Harrodsburg)
Muhlenberg (Region 2): 2009 Unexpired Term - Chad Clark (Graham)
Muhlenberg (Region 2): 2011 Term - Kevin Burden (Greenville)
Nelson (Region 3): 2010 Unexpired Term - Doug Williams (Shepherdsville)
Nelson (Region 3): 2011 Term - John Tappan (Mt. Washington)
Northern Ky (Region 5): 2011 Term - Steve Turner (Florence)
Northern Ky (Region 5): 2011 Term - Will Langford (Independence)
Northern Ky (Region 5): 2011 Term - Allan Daigle (Dayton)
Ohio County (Region 2): 2011 Term - Eddie Harpole (Olaton)
Ohio Valley (Region 1): 2009 Unexpired Term - Jeff McMains (Clay)

Pike (Region 8): 2009 Unexpired Term - Paul Badgett (Pikeville)
Pike (Region 8): 2011 Term - Bob Finch (Pikeville)
Pulaski (Region 7): 2011 Term - Ron Shaw (Somerset)
Red River (Region 8): 2009 Unexpired Term - Tom May (Frenchburg)
Russell County (Region 7): 2009 Unexpired Term - Joe Allen (Russell Springs)
Severns Valley (Region 3): 2011 Term - Rodney Troutman (Buffalo)
Shelby (Region 4): 2011 Term - Jim Hill (Shelbyville)
South District (Region 6): 2011 Term - Sky Tudor (Lancaster)
S Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7): 2011 Term - Larry Hill (Williamsburg)
Tates Creek (Region 6): 2011 Term - Ronnie "Butch" Pennington (Richmond)
Tates Creek (Region 6): 2009 Unexpired Term - Dennis Hisle (Berea)
Taylor County (Region 7): 2011 Term - Bill Henderson (Campbellsville)
Three Forks (Region 8): 2011 Term - Byron Brashear (Hazard)
Upper Cumberland (Region 8): 2011 Term - Ed Flanagan (Baxter)
Warren (Region 3): 2011 Term - Harold Jenkins (Alvaton)
West Union (Region 1): 2011 Term - Kenneth Brown (Paducah)
West Union (Region 1): 2011 Term - Don Pippin (Kevil)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Campbellsville University (Trustees)
 2012 Terms (11): Barry G. Bertram (Campbellsville); Jerry Blankenship (Louisville); Pat Burkhart (Ft. Mitchell); James E. "Buzz" Cason (Nashville, TN); Teresa Cassell (Campbellsville); Johnnie Clark (Louisville); John T "Jay" Conner (Brentwood, TN); Fuller Harding (Campbellsville); James Jones (Campbellsville); Forest F. Shely (Campbellsville); Tommy Valentine (Danville)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)
 2012 Terms (8): Bill Boldt (Ewing); Roy Graves (Kingsport, TN); French Harmon (Somerset); Kathy LeFevers (Stoney Fork); Larry Purcell (Hopkinsville); Keith Sands (Irvine); Jerry Tooley (Owensboro); Jay Walker (Middlesboro)

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)
 2011 Unexpired Term: Keenan Braden (Louisville); 2012 Term: Rusty Ellison (Louisville)

Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)
 2011 Terms (5): Charles Barnes (Louisville); Kendall Collins (Owenton); Brad King (Harrodsburg); Doug Strader (Louisville); Douglas Wesley (Danville)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)
 2012 Terms (4): Arnold E. Caddell (Erlanger); James C. Hales, Sr. (Alexandria); Jan Shockley (Louisville); Dean Warren (Bowling Green)

Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)
 2012 Terms (6): Kenneth Bolin (Manchester); Michael Braden (Whitesville); Herb Case (Bowling Green); Ned Davis (Cadiz); Mike Jones (Marion); Herschel Morgan (Philpot)

Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)
 2010 Unexpired Term: Marketi D. Perry (Danville); 2012 Terms (6): Jeffrey B. Ginn (Florence); Barbara Hardy (Louisville); William Hurley (Lexington); Julia Meredith (Louisville); Alice J. Pepper (Elizabethtown); Janice F. Porter (Campton)

University of the Cumberlands (Trustees)
 2012 Terms (7): Don Estep (Corbin); Paul Estes (Williamsburg); Bill Henard (Lexington); Oscar Hornsby (Somerset); Dallas Petrey (Greensboro, GA); Donnie Rains (Williamsburg); Tom Raper (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

Western Recorder (Directors)
 2012 Terms (3): Skip Alexander (Campbellsville); Bill Edmonds (Jeffersontown); June Rice (Hager Hill)

Preacher of 2009 Annual Sermon: Al Mohler (Louisville)
Alternate: Chuck Lawless (Louisville)

Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Adam Greenway (Chairperson), Ken Felty (Vice-Chairperson), Carolyn Anderson, Ken Brown, Randy Coleman, Allen Harrod, Chris Holmes, Tom James, Will Langford, Ronnie Mayes, Kevin Milburn, Richard Oldham, Donnie Patrick, Jeff Pennington, David Prince, Millie Rose, Mike Rust, Nick Sandefur, Marty Shadoan, Garnetta Smith, Jammie Vance, Nathan Whisnant, Doug Williams, and Hershal York
Ex Officio Members: Executive Director Bill Mackey and Convention President Bill Henard

2008 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

- ♦ **Committee on Arrangements**
 2011 Terms - Don Dilday (Lexington) and Linda Polley (Elizabethtown)
- ♦ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws**
 2011 Terms - Adam Greenway (Taylorsville), Lee James (Paducah), and Don Mathis (Bowling Green).
- ♦ **Committee on Credentials**
 2009 Unexpired Term - Rodney Skipworth (Russellville);
 2011 Terms - Ken Gowin (Russell), Mike Hamrick (Lawrenceburg), and Jerrell White (Fredonia)
- ♦ **Committee on Nominations**
 2010 Terms unless noted otherwise:

- Region 1:** Rick Hatley (Mayfield)
- Region 2:** Kevin Burden (Greenville) and Gary Taylor (Hanson)
- Region 3:** Kenny Chyle (Rockfield)
- Region 4:** Bill Cook (Louisville) and Chuck Henderson (Louisville)
- Region 5:** Greg Nimmo (Williamstown)
- Region 6:** Kay Atchison (Winchester) and Damon Jones (Lexington)
- Region 7:** Chad Fugitt (Monticello) and Shelby Reynolds (Eubanks)
- Region 8:** Joed Rice (Rush)
- ♦ **Committee on Order of Business**
 2009 Unexpired Term - Les Hollon (Louisville); 2011 Terms - Terry Leap (Lexington) and Roger Taylor (Morgantown)

- ♦ **Committee on Public Affairs**
 2011 Terms - Kevin Milburn (Union), Russell Moore (Louisville), and Paul Strahan (Owensboro)
- ♦ **Committee on Resolutions**
 2010 Terms - Paul Badgett (Pikeville) and Art Beasley (Winchester)

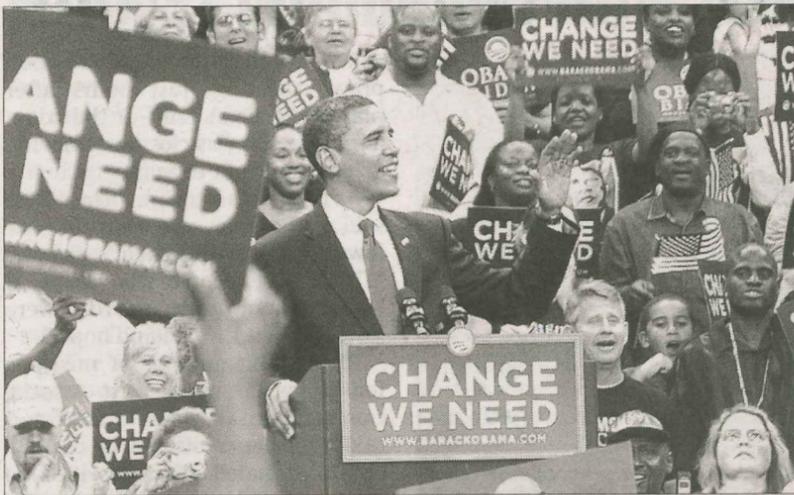
Persons to Report - 2009

- ♦ **Cooperative Program:** James Jones (Campbellsville); Alternate - Darren Gaddis (Corbin)
- ♦ **International Mission Board:** Paul Chitwood (Mt. Washington); Alternate - Dan Summerlin (Paducah)

- ♦ **North American Mission Board:**
 Jason Pettus (Bowling Green); Alternate - Harrell Riley (Princeton)
- ♦ **Obituaries:** Chuck Stewart (Ashland); Alternate - J. K. Pierce (Lexington)

Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: John Mark Toby (Chairperson), Rick Reeder (Vice Chairperson), Harold Cathey, George "Buddy" Crabtree, David Daugherty, Wesley Noss, Rose Rexroat, Steve Rutherford and Kevin Smith
Ex Officio Members: Executive Director Bill Mackey and Convention President Bill Henard



CHANGES Barack Obama rallies supporters in Jacksonville, Fla., on the eve of his election as the 44th president of the United States. Obama received more votes from religious voters than the previous two Democratic presidential nominees. (BP photo by Joni Hannigan/Florida Baptist Witness)

Experts: Obama win may be sign of religious-voter shift

By Bob Allen & Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—Barack Obama's election as president could signal waning influence by the Christian Right in American politics, according to several experts—but his improvements over previous Democratic nominees' appeal to religious voters also could simply be a variation on an old pattern.

Panels of religious and polling experts, in two separate Nov. 5 conference calls, noted that Obama had improved on both John Kerry's and Al Gore's performances in most categories of religious voters.

"The religion gaps are alive and well, and in 2008, favoring the Democrats," said John Green, a religion and politics expert with the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Green noted that Obama improved slightly but significantly on John Kerry's performance in every major religious category. The 2004 Democratic nominee lost white evangelicals by huge margins—and Catholics by a narrower margin—to President Bush.

But Obama did better among evangelicals and won a majority of Catholics. He also scored significant increases in support from Jews, Protestants in general and those not affiliated with any religion.

Among white voters who identified themselves to exit pollsters as evangelical or "born-again" Christians, 26 percent voted for Obama and 73 percent voted for McCain. That's a five-point improvement over Kerry's performance among white evangelicals.

A separate panel of moderate-to-progressive religious leaders, assembled by the advocacy group Faith in Public Life, said the trends indicate many religious voters are moving away from traditional religious-conservative political leanings.

David Gushee, professor of Christian ethics at Mercer University in Atlanta, said the election revealed a "fracture" between the Christian Right and the general public. Whether that fracture is permanent, he said, depends a great deal on whether the Religious Right positions itself as "flat-out opposition" to Democrat control or tries to build coalitions aimed at achieving goals for the common good.

Richard Cizik, vice president of the National Association of Evangelicals, said the Religious Right has treated politics as a "zero-sum game," where in order for them to win, someone else had to lose.

But Cizik indicated "a spiritual renaissance" is underway, in which evangelicals are learning to achieve goals through cooperation instead of control. "We have learned as evangelicals how to collaborate with those with whom we disagree," he noted.

Gushee said the Religious Right is losing ground particularly among younger evangelicals, who want to expand the "values voter" agenda beyond the traditional issues of religious conservatives—abortion and gay rights—to include broader concerns like poverty, human rights and climate change.

"I think there is perhaps a shift in the religious landscape and political landscape that may be a long-term shift," he acknowledged.

Gushee said he believes that abortion "remains a primary obstacle" for many evangelicals who otherwise would have voted for Obama but just "couldn't get over the hump" on the issue. He explained it is too early to predict whether an "abortion-reduction strategy" as an alternative to attempting to overturn *Roe v. Wade* will win over conservative evangelicals.

Robert Jones, president of Public Religion Research, called the five-point gain by Democrats a "very important shift" for a group that traditionally votes Republican indicating a "religious rebalancing" and "diversification of the evangelical vote."

But the Pew Forum's Green was more cautious in analyzing the results, saying it could be the beginning of a trend—or simply a return to normalcy.

"Some of this may be returning evangelicals to the previous level of support (for Democrats) before George Bush," Green said, noting Bush's appeal to evangelicals as someone who spoke their language well and identified with their religious experience.

Whatever the case, he noted, the so-called "God gap" between the parties in appeal to the most religious of voters persists, despite Obama's gains among them.

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Kentucky Baptist churches deal with impending layoffs

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Cadiz—The Western Kentucky town of Cadiz still is in shock after learning its largest employer will soon shut its doors. But the impact begins sinking in this month as a series of layoffs gets underway.

In early September, automotive seat manufacturer Johnson Controls said it would gradually phase out its work force by next summer, eliminating 559 employees in a town of 2,500.

"When something like that closes in a community our size, it's a huge potential impact," noted Kevin Roberts, pastor of Cadiz Baptist Church. "The talk's been going around for awhile, but when reality sets in, it's tough."

"I was shocked, to say the least," said Paul Cannon, pastor of Canton Baptist Church, located eight miles west of Cadiz. "I thought Johnson Controls was doing wonderful and had no problems. It took everyone by surprise, even the workers."

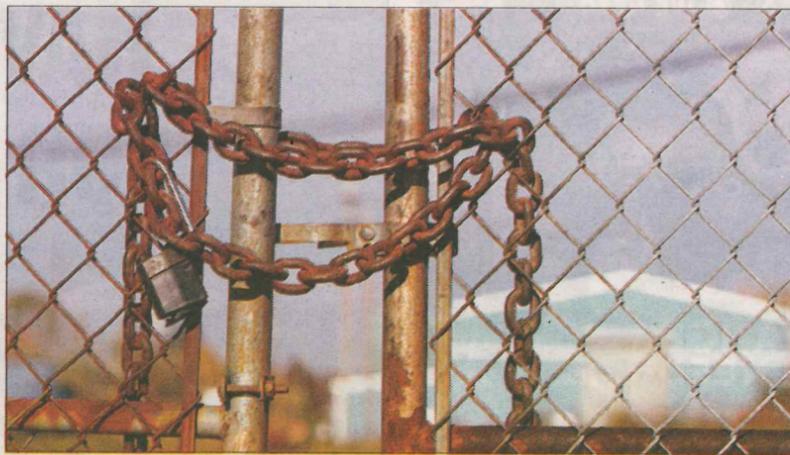
While plans are still being formulated, Kentucky Baptist churches hope to help relieve some of the pressure by offering food, clothing and other assistance.

Several KBC congregations have donated funds to Helping Hands of Trigg County, a community-based outreach that supplies the needy with food and other forms of assistance. In addition, most Baptist churches maintain benevolence programs.

From a spiritual perspective, their most valuable contribution is prayer.

Intercession prevented several members of Liberty Point Baptist Church from losing their jobs after another Cadiz plant nearly folded, Pastor Monty Flanigan noted.

Benson International, which manufactured flatbeds, dump trailers and other truck bodies, announced last June that it would close, costing more than 100 employees their jobs.



Although one engineer from Liberty Point was temporarily laid off, he and others were rehired after Wabash National Corp. purchased the plant for \$5 million in late July. Another member who had remained on the job received a salary increase when Wabash took over.

"We began to ask God to allow a company to buy them out, let them stay and let them make more money than they had," he added. "And all that came true. Their faith was tested; it went all the way to the last minute. But God answered our prayers and even more so."

Since only a few families at Cadiz Baptist will be affected, there will not be a dramatic impact on the church, but Roberts is concerned for the welfare of the community.

"There's a need and that need is going to be increasing," Roberts indicated. "The economic situation isn't great for a lot of people."

Though Liberty Point averages more than 200 on a Sunday, nobody from the church works at Johnson Controls. Still, Flanigan recognizes that people in the community are concerned about the future.

"In light of everything going on in the economy, it's been a big fear for a lot of people," he said. "Christians are doing everything they can to trust the Lord, but with everything going on ... it's been tough."

All Christians should recognize

these situations are an opportunity to help the less fortunate, said the co-chairperson of Helping Hands, an all-volunteer effort.

"People who have money are going to have to help us," noted Ronella Stagner, who helped start the agency in 1997. "If we don't get help, I don't know what's going to happen."

"I'd say we haven't begun to see the impact of (Johnson Controls) yet. It's coming and I dread it. It's going to be bad. Outside of the school system, that's our biggest employer."

Two Kentucky Baptists who endured similar fears in 1998 when a large employer left Campbellsville say KBC churches in Cadiz can play a significant role in rallying that community.

James Jones, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, was then pastor at Campbellsville Baptist. He re-

called how the church hosted a noon prayer meeting, just hours after plant officials at Fruit of the Loom announced it was closing, throwing 3,200 people out of work.

"Prayer was very important," he said of the many meetings that followed Fruit of the Loom's closure. "There were people who felt God had let them down and they were lost. They felt they had no hope."

Bob Clark, director of missions for Taylor County Baptist Association, said in addition to food and other assistance offered by churches, KBC-affiliated Campbellsville University offered retraining classes.

"The community came together," Clark said. "There was a coming together and a transition that eventually provided more employment than Fruit of the Loom."

Among the new employers who gradually moved in were book and music distributor Amazon.com and companies involved in air filters, travel trailers and data collection.

While there may be some painful times ahead for Cadiz, Jones said churches can help people see that God wasn't surprised by what happened and won't leave them stranded.

"The main thing is offering encouragement and letting people know God hasn't forgotten them," he said. "Let them know there is light at the end of the tunnel and that Baptists are going to stand with them."

"In light of everything going on in the economy, it's been a big fear for a lot of people. Christians are doing everything they can to trust the Lord, but with everything going on ... it's been tough."

Monty Flanigan, pastor of Liberty Point Baptist Church in Cadiz

State ministry centers feel strain of economy

Continued from page 1

center are the times of greatest need according to social ministries coordinators, and some are wondering if they will be able to meet those needs.

"Demand has increased 30 to 40 percent and donations are down that much if not more," said Mike Bargo, a volunteer and former board member of CARE Ministry, an effort initiated more than 10 years ago by Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria.

As a member-agency of a Cincinnati-area food bank, CARE purchases food at deep discounts to keep its shelves stocked. However, the food bank "has been severely impacted by the economy," Bargo noted. "We are spending a lot of our own resources just to buy food."

That means other needs CARE helped clients meet previously, such as eyeglasses and prescriptions, may not be available.

More than 230 new families have been served so far this year at CARE, Bargo said. The total number of "first timers" for all of 2007 was 276.

People from as far away as Grant County and Hamilton County, Ohio, come to CARE for food, clothing, household goods and other assistance.

Bargo noted that when gas hovered around \$4 per gallon, the value of donations some cli-

ents received was less than the cost of fuel to get them to the center.

Thanksgiving and Christmas projects may not be funded fully without a big boost from individuals and churches, he added.

"We're still looking at another 600 families to come through" by Dec. 31, Bargo said. "Corporations are backing down on what they can give. (Donors) don't have enough discretionary money to give anything extra. ... The whole chain has broken."

Thankfully, there are gifts that Kentucky Baptists provide that do not require boxes or bags.

Sharing the gospel with people sailing choppy financial waters—perhaps for the first time—is not always easy, Strange acknowledged, but keeping Christ front and center is crucial.

"What concerns me the most is the hopelessness some of them feel about the idea that things will get better," she said.

But people do respond.

"We actually see decisions made here," Strange noted, adding that each family receives a Bible at the Answer Center. Volunteers also pray for each client during the week.

Williams said other important gifts volunteers provide are a listening ear and a prayerful heart. "One thing we can offer is that we can listen to them."

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Family's Thanksgiving tradition becomes family business

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Like most Americans, the Stotz family will sit down to a Thanksgiving meal in a couple of weeks. And everyone at the table knows to save some room for a little fun between the turkey and pumpkin pie.

For the 31st straight year, the Stotzes will grab pen and paper to play The Thanksgiving Game. This year, however, other families around the country will be joining them.

Patriarch Louie Stotz is celebrating the national release of The Thanksgiving Game, a "board game without the board" he invented in 1977 while waiting for family members to arrive for dinner at his Lexington home.

Stotz and son-in-law Tim Lester formed The Thanksgiving Game, Inc. in late 2006 and began working on a prototype.

The game works like this: Each player writes on a card those things for which he or she is thankful. Players then guess who wrote down what. Points are awarded for each correct guess.

"It's always the highlight of the Thanksgiving gathering," Lester said.

Today, the game is available nationwide at Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores and at select Kroger stores in Kentucky, Central Tennessee, Southern Indiana and Southern Illinois.

The game is available on the Web

at Amazon.com and through STL Distribution, which also distributes the game to Christian retailers.

Included in the game—which sells for \$19.99—is a set of entry cards to write down what each player is thankful for, guessing sheets and guessing sheet covers—all to get families "ThanksGiving, ThanksGuessing and ThanksSharing."

According to a written history of the game, bad weather played a part in the game's creation. Stotz's wife's parents were late arriving for Thanksgiving dinner and "I could sense the restlessness," said the longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

The family was "hungry and ready to eat—but you just don't start Thanksgiving until your mother-in-law arrives," he said. "So I passed out small pieces of paper and pencils and declared, 'We're going to play a game.'"

"That was the beginning of The Thanksgiving Game."

Fifteen years later, Stotz and his family set out to produce the game for distribution. Several variations were developed, but the project never got off the ground.

In 2006, Lester, a member of Versailles Baptist Church where his wife, Maria, serves as music minister, encouraged his father-in-law to give the idea one more shot. Stotz agreed and hired Lester as director of marketing.

After months of work on the

game's design, artwork, copyrights and patents, the first several models of The Thanksgiving Game were delivered. Stotz and Lester have been on the road ever since promoting their product.

Stotz said he is "completely convinced that this is not our game, but God's." Confirmation of that came during a mission trip last spring, he recalled.

Agreeing to travel to Texas with a college missions team from Calvary Baptist, Stotz instead found his mind focused on all of the work he needed to do for his new business venture. The team was serving at Mission Arlington, a large ministry center in the heart of Arlington, Texas, that Stotz had visited before.

During orientation, a ministry worker told the story of how God had provided extra turkeys to feed 17,000 people at Thanksgiving. Stotz said he then realized why he was there.

He met with Mission Arlington founder Tillie Burgin the next day and told her God wanted him to donate a portion of The Thanksgiving Game proceeds to the ministry.

Stotz has since returned to Arlington, making the company's first donation.

Lester pointed out that the purpose of The Thanksgiving Game is not for the company to make money, but to bring families together.

"Most families, I don't care how normal ... you have some times



ThanksGIVING, ThanksGUESSING, and ThanksSHARING!

where you may only see those folks once or twice a year," he explained. "But to really get into learning things about their lives, ... this provides a format to do that in a fun way that may not happen if you didn't play this game."

And the Stotz family has realized the game's many blessings over the last 30 years. Stotz said his wife, Jo-Ellen, has saved every card that has ever been written on.

"We laugh and cry and remember how God has blessed us through the years," Stotz noted.

He hopes other families will experience the same blessings.

"All of these games, once used, will add up to over 5 million expressions of gratitude," he said. "That's a lot of thanksgiving."

"The signs are abundant that God has a purpose for (The Thanksgiving Game), and that He will use it for His glory."

GAME TIME The Thanksgiving Game box features a photo of its inventor Louie Stotz (third from right), his wife, Jo-Ellen (second from right), and their family playing the game in 1992 during the family's initial attempt to market the game. Director of Marketing Tim Lester is second from the left.

fourteen 40

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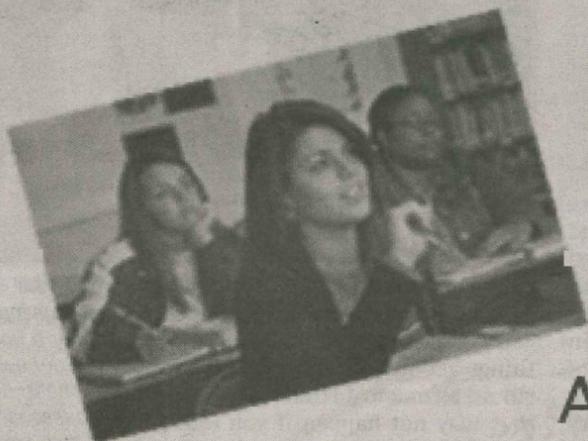
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Chap Clark

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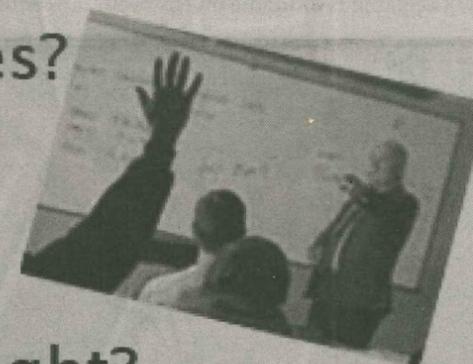
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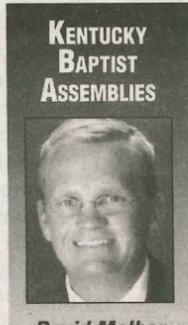
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A distraction-free day

Camps offer opportunities to escape life's daily demands

Today was a whole lot of fun. Several key factors contributed to this day. Most significantly, the Melbers had uninterrupted family time. For our family, with five kids ranging from 6 to 14, most weekends seem chocked full of activities that translate into continual running and very little downtime. This morning concluded the fall soccer season for three of our kids. The afternoon and evening consisted of enjoying the peaceful setting at Cedarmore, one of our favorite places on earth.



David Melber

the evening with a bonfire next to the lake where we roasted hot dogs and made S'mores. Jonas, our son from Ethiopia, has become an expert at not burning the marshmallows—an ability he acquired since being exposed to family bonfires. To hear him laugh as he prepares to eat a golden brown marshmallow is quite entertaining. Watching the kids run and laugh while throwing rocks in the lake, seeing all sorts of wildlife and enjoying our surroundings was a treasure.

As we were driving home, I thought to myself that families who endure the continual pressure of the American life absolutely would have enjoyed the afternoon we were blessed to share. To retreat to a place where the phone does not ring and most normal daily distractions are removed is needed now more than ever, in my opinion.

Perhaps you or members of your church would enjoy such a day? Consider the activities that fill our lives. Maybe a retreat at Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek is exactly what you need to enjoy friends and family and refresh your mind.

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

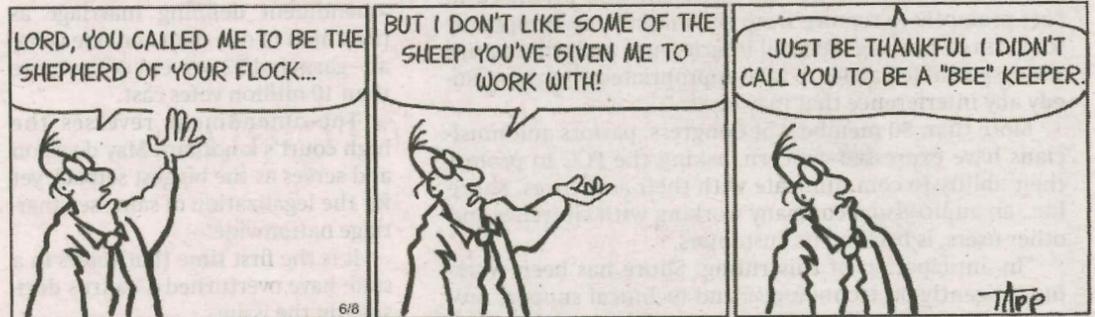
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

- 1 Rascal
- 4 Le Cote ____ (W. Africa region)
- 7 Son of Enoch (Genesis 4:18)
- 11 Woman was made from ____ (2 words)
- 13 Her name means "life"
- 14 Spy (colloq.)
- 15 ____ de soie (rich, silken material)
- 16 Fall flower, for short
- 17 "A flattering mouth worketh ____" (Proverbs 26:28)
- 18 Of considerable size, as a drink
- 19 "And Israel dwelt in all the cities of the ____" (Numbers 21:25)
- 21 Used to be
- 23 WWII red-letter day (abbr.)
- 24 "A virtuous ____ is a crown to her husband" (Proverbs 12:4)
- 27 "And Saul smote the Amalekites from ____ until ... Shur" (1 Samuel 15:7)
- 32 "And Israel ... spread his tent beyond the tower of ____" (Genesis 35:21)
- 33 "Therefore God ... hath anointed thee with the ____ of gladness" (Psalm 45:7)
- 34 One conquered by Persia
- 35 Stringed instrument resembling a lyre, in the Bible
- 37 Aussie tennis great
- 38 And (Fr.)
- 39 ____ Harbor, NY
- 40 "Lest ... when I have preached to others, I ... should be a ____" (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- 45 ____ the Terrible, Russian czar

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49					50			51			
52					53			54			
55					56					57	

- 49 Ancient Hebrew dry measure
- 50 Broadcast
- 51 Mount ____, in the land of Moab (Deuteronomy 32)
- 52 Bill of fare
- 53 Louis XV, par exemple
- 54 First name in murder mysteries (and Perry's creator)
- 55 ____ bellum South (period following Civil War)
- 56 Gov't. drug prevention org.
- 57 Affirmative
- 22 Article
- 24 NBA great Unseld
- 25 Harem room
- 26 Son of (Scot., prefix)
- 27 Used physical force
- 28 "How long will ye ____ mischief against a man?" (Psalm 62:3)
- 29 O.T. book (abbr.)
- 30 Summer drink
- 31 Pronoun
- 33 "For which cause we faint not; ... though our ____ man perish" (2 Corinthians 4:16)
- 36 Feminine nickname
- 37 Calif. city
- 39 Mideast country
- 40 Unconscious condition
- 41 "So be it"
- 42 Faxed
- 43 Factual and actual
- 44 Vowel quartet
- 46 "Every thing that he had made ... was ____ good" (Genesis 1:31)
- 47 Skilled; competent
- 48 Greek form of father of Shem, and his namesakes
- Down
- 1 Like Queeg or Bligh (abbr.)
- 2 ____ code
- 3 Popular soap
- 4 "Luke, the beloved physician, and ____, greet you" (Colossians 4:14)
- 5 Mature female cell
- 6 Dismissal
- 7 Son of Bani (1 Chronicles 9:4)
- 8 Defeat utterly
- 9 "When he speaketh ____, he speaketh of his own" (2 words, John 8:44)
- 10 Cubs' "cribs"?
- 12 Fortress
- 20 N.T. book (abbr.)

Last week's solution

1	A	L	L		C	O	A	L		B	A	J	A
2	W	O	E		O	N	C	E		O	N	A	M
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6	27	E	V	E	N		28	B	A	N	C		35
7		B	E	N	E	A	R	T	H	R	O	N	E
8		36	T	R	Y		37	M	A	N	O		39
9			40	S	A	Y	S		41	E	N	T	E
10	42	T	E	M	A	N		45	C	O	C	K	
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FCC approves 'white space' technology, pastors worried

Washington (RNS)—The Federal Communications Commission has decided to grant Google, Motorola, Dell and Microsoft permission to develop "white space" devices that pastors worry will interfere with their wireless microphones.

The "white space" devices would use the same radio frequency that wireless microphones use, which means that pastors who use the devices could have their sermons interrupted. Companies like Google and Microsoft want to use the frequencies to send broadband Internet to remote areas of the country.

In a statement issued last week, the FCC promised to "act promptly to remove from the market any equipment found to be causing harmful interference and will require the responsible parties to take appropriate actions to remedy any interference that may occur."

More than 50 members of Congress, pastors and musicians have expressed concern, asking the FCC to protect their ability to communicate with their audiences. Shure Inc., an audio-visual company working with churches and other users, is backing its customers.

"In anticipation of this ruling, Shure has been working diligently on technologies and technical support programs that will enable wireless microphone operators to be successful in more complicated interference environments," said Shure president and CEO Sandy LaMantia.

The FCC must test and certify all of the new devices to ensure they meet certain requirements, but Shure officials still are concerned that the safeguards that will help protect wireless microphones use "unproven technology."

"I want to emphasize we are cautious. We are waiting and anticipating a written rule," noted Bob Powers of National Religious Broadcasters. "A lot of broadcasters were let down and disappointed because there are so many unknown variables in this."

In defending the agency's decision, FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said opening "white space" would create "WiFi on steroids."

Martin also added that the move will improve wireless broadband connectivity and bring about a new array of Internet-based products and services for consumers.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Voters approve Calif. marriage amendment

Pro-family advocates also celebrate wins in Ariz., Ark., & Fla.

Sacramento, Calif. (BP)—California voters last week overruled the state Supreme Court's ruling legalizing gay marriage, and in the process handed the nationwide pro-family movement one of its most significant victories.

Proposition 8—a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman—garnered 52 percent of the more than 10 million votes cast.

The amendment reverses the high court's landmark May decision and serves as the biggest setback yet for the legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide.

It is the first time that voters in a state have overturned a court's decision on the issue.

"If traditional marriage can win in California, it can win in any of the 50 states when it's put to a vote of the people," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The victory was one of four gay rights ballot initiatives where conservatives were victorious. Florida adopted a marriage amendment—getting 62 percent of the vote, surpassing the necessary 60-percent supermajority—while Arizona passed its own marriage amendment two years after citizens defeated a similar amendment.

Meanwhile, a ballot initiative in Arkansas prohibiting adoptions by cohabitating heterosexual and ho-

mosexual couples was adopted by voters.

The only loss of the night for conservatives pertaining to gay rights came in Connecticut, where voters by a margin of 59-41 percent rejected a once-every-two-decades question asking whether a constitutional convention should be held. Conservatives had hoped to use the convention to legalize direct initiative in the state and then to gather enough signatures to place a marriage amendment on the ballot.

Golden State is the big prize

The win in California easily was the highlight for social conservatives—and a shock to many political observers. The Yes for 8 campaign trailed in the final three pre-election public polls and even trailed in Election Day exit polling. With the amendment's passage, it is uncertain what will happen to the thousands of same-sex marriage licenses already issued.

"Given the Full Faith and Credit Clause found in our (United States) Constitution, if it hadn't passed, we would have seen a floodgate opened in terms of same-sex marriage. Now, we've closed that gate," said Ken Blackwell, former Ohio secretary of state and current senior fellow at the Family Research Council, during a conference call with reporters. "We now don't have the threat of the rapid expansion of same-sex marriage throughout the country."

Prop 8 supporters had to overcome at least three major obstacles in recent months, the latest of which was an influx of cash to the opposition. Over the final month of

the campaign, Prop 8 opponents—boosted by money from big-name Hollywood stars, homosexual interests groups and the California Teachers Association—raised \$19 million, significantly more than the \$10.3 million brought in by ProtectMarriage.com, the lead organization supporting Prop 8.

Conservatives feared that California—a trend-setter in social issues as the nation's most populous state—also would lead the way in legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom famously told a cheering crowd after the high court issued its decision, "As California goes, so goes the nation." In hindsight, conservatives hope he was right.

Meanwhile, Florida's marriage amendment passed despite being outspent by an estimated margin of 3-to-1. The victory ended a three-plus-year effort that began with the collecting of signatures to place it on the ballot.

The victory in Arizona means that every state that has placed a marriage amendment on the ballot eventually has passed it.

The fact that marriage amendments passed in California and Florida—two states carried by Democrat Barack Obama—is noteworthy, Blackwell explained.

"I think it's important that ... folks understand that we don't put these issues on the ballot because they are wedge issues or issues to be used as political tools," he said. "We really put them on the ballot because we think it's important to get public policy that respects the desires of the body politic."

Oneida's four-fold ministry, part 1

Academics is one of the primary ways Oneida Baptist Institute serves students

Most Kentucky Baptists know a little about Oneida and her ministry objectives. While we seek to help young people in a variety of ways, there are four primary areas in which we believe we offer the most help to our young people. This and the next three articles are dedicated to explaining why we believe these four learning experiences are important.

The first area where Oneida has been able to help young people is **academics**. Normally about 40 percent of our students enroll with very low or failing grades. We do not provide a ministry for the learning disabled child, but we have been quite successful helping the student who is capable of making good grades but, for a variety of reasons, is simply not making academic progress.

During the interview process we normally ask the student if he knows why he is making such poor grades. When we first started asking that question I expected students to say they did not understand what was being taught, or that there were too many distractions. While we do hear that from time to time, by far the most common answer is either, "I'm just lazy," or, "I just don't care." We could spend a lot of time trying to find the root cause for being lazy, but there is no need. Much more important is the fact that the child apparently has the ability but needs to be more focused and encouraged to put forth more effort.

We believe our smaller class sizes—10 to 12 students in most classes—are key to helping struggling students. In a smaller class the teacher can give each student more individual attention and

there are fewer distractions. There is less fear about asking questions, and being in an environment where classmates do not laugh at incorrect answers also is helpful.

We have discovered that when a student gets more personal attention, she has a greater desire to succeed. Required nightly study hall also is helpful. Every student who is not on the honor roll knows that each evening, Monday through Thursday, there is a required study hall. There is no arguing, no TV, no excuses—just be there. We can't make them study, but most students quickly realize that since they have to be there anyway, they may as well do homework.

We have discovered that some students work hard to make the honor roll in order to get out of study hall. I would much rather they make the honor roll to please their parents, but if it works, don't fight it. Some students have learned that once they become honor-roll students and are no longer required to attend study hall, their grades begin to go back down. So, it is not uncommon for a student to come to study hall even though he really doesn't have to, just so he can remain on the honor roll.

We also have a tutoring lab to help students who have fallen two, three or four years behind their peers. One of the biggest reasons they fell behind was because they were not able to process things in a larger class as quickly as most other students. In our tutoring lab there is normally a 1-to-1 or 2-to-1 student/teacher ratio. Progress is much slower, but struggling students are able to get the personal attention they need.

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



W.F. Underwood

'God just brought it all together'

Dean thankful for God's plan to bring him to Clear Creek

At some point, we all have struggled with God's plan for our lives. For a lot of our students, that struggle comes before they get here. Once they arrive, they really begin to understand the specific ways God has been working. Second-year student Derek Dean is a good example of how God works to bring that understanding to light.

"I really didn't know what was going on when God began to deal with me about His call on my life," Derek said. "I was literally driving down the road one day and God told me to stop and start writing. I ... ended up writing for over two hours. When I was finished I had written three sermons."

"We had just called a new pastor at my church, Middleburg Baptist in Casey County. He is Chris Dalton who ... is a current student at Clear Creek," Derek noted. "I showed the sermons God had given me to my pastor and he asked me if I was called to preach. I told him that I didn't really know, but God just told me to write the sermons. ... The next Saturday, I was asked to speak at a youth rally and three kids came forward for salvation. It was just amazing."

"I think God just brought it all together," Derek said. "If Chris Dalton was not our pastor and was not at Clear Creek at the time, I might not be here right now. I know it was all brought together by God for me to be here."

Now that he understands more fully how God was working to bring him here, Derek said he is thankful for the way God worked in his life.

"Since I came here, I have met some tremendous people," he noted. "The faculty and staff are great. I have ... developed friendships that will last a lifetime. I also met my wife, Ashley, here. It's just amazing what God has done in my life these past two years. It seems like everything has fallen into place now. It's just a God thing."

What would Derek say to someone who is struggling with understanding God's plan for his or her life and possibly attending Clear Creek? "Pray," Derek suggested. "If you seek God's will, He will reveal to you what you are supposed to do. He will open the doors that will lead you where you need to go."

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.cbbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@cbbcc.edu



Donnie Fox

Lottie Moon site features missions offering at work

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Living in a hut in West Africa might cost only \$12 a month. But the monthly rent for an apartment in Moscow can run about \$2,000.

Dollar examples of how the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions provides for Southern Baptist missionaries around the world are featured at the new "Lottie Moon @ Work" Web site, found at www.imb.org/lottieatwork.

The site includes 19 stories geared toward adults, students and children and also grouped by world region—from the Australian outback to the coffee plantations of Venezuela, from the glaciers of Iceland to the jungle rivers of the Amazon Basin.

With the Lottie Moon national offering goal set at \$170 million, the Lottie Moon @ Work site can help churches support missions through promoting the Christmastime offering, as well as using the examples to teach about missions.

"We have been looking for several years for ways to help Southern Baptists know more about how their Lottie Moon dollars are used," said Clyde Meador, Southern Baptist International Mission Board executive vice president. "We also want them to realize what a strategic part they play in sharing the gospel around the world when they give to the offering."

Many of the dollar examples on the Web site range from \$1 to \$100. Though gifts to the offering cannot be designated to individual missionaries, teams or projects, the site's examples can help encourage congregations to increase their giving goals based on the needs of missionaries.

Downloadable videos, photos and bulletin inserts accompany each story.

WorldCrafts gives hope to Afghan families

By Stephanie Blackmon
National Woman's Missionary Union

Afghanistan—Amid the arid lands of Afghanistan, where hills and snow-capped mountains surround deserts and poppy fields, a cloud of war hovers over the terrain and all who inhabit it. But there are those who, with the help of WorldCrafts, have found deliverance.

WorldCrafts, a fair-trade, non-profit ministry of national Woman's Missionary Union, is helping to give Afghan families an expectation of a life beyond their impoverished conditions through a partnership with an artisan group comprised of women who sew and create jewelry and mosaics.

The artisan group of approximately 10 to 12 women will sell their hand-made products through WorldCrafts, and use the proceeds to pay for health care and education for themselves and their families.

"I am very happy that we will soon start a literacy class here," said Natalia*, an artisan from Afghanistan. Forced to drop out of school at age 10 due to illness, Natalia is illiterate.

She currently lives with her mother, sister, two brothers and her brothers' wives and children.

Her father died when she was 11, and she and her sisters were forbidden to marry before her brothers. Natalia, now 28, is deemed too old to marry. But she discovers freedom in her ability to work.

"It is very good for me to have my own money," she said. "I can provide everything for myself without asking my brother. Now I can even help my brother, and I put my nephew in school."

At the age of 15, Asha* also understands the constraints of financial oppression. The ninth grader resides in her paternal grandfather's home with her mother, father, three sisters, three uncles and her uncles' wives. Between her health problems and her mother's, Asha and her family often have wondered if they would have enough money for medical treatments and school for Asha and two of her sisters.

However, the young girl, who dreams of becoming a geologist,

finds some solace in her job as an artisan with WorldCrafts. "My father is currently unemployed. I use the money I earn to go to school and to help my father provide for the family," she noted.

"I want to finish the 12th grade and go on for a master's (and) doctorate" degree, said Anya*, a 32-year-old artisan. Despite hardships, like her husband being injured in an accident, she continues her work.

"I have children going to school, and my husband is unemployed," she explained. "The job is a big help for me."

Anya also expressed that she wants her three children to be educated as well. Perhaps, through her job as an artisan, she can see her dreams for herself and her family come to fruition.

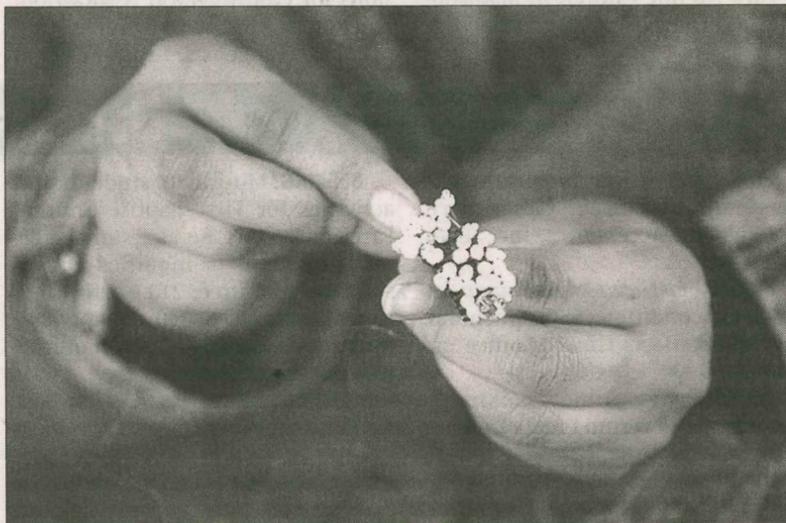
For each of these women and oth-

ers, working for WorldCrafts has not only given them a glimpse of life outside of continuous war and poverty, but also an opportunity to achieve it.

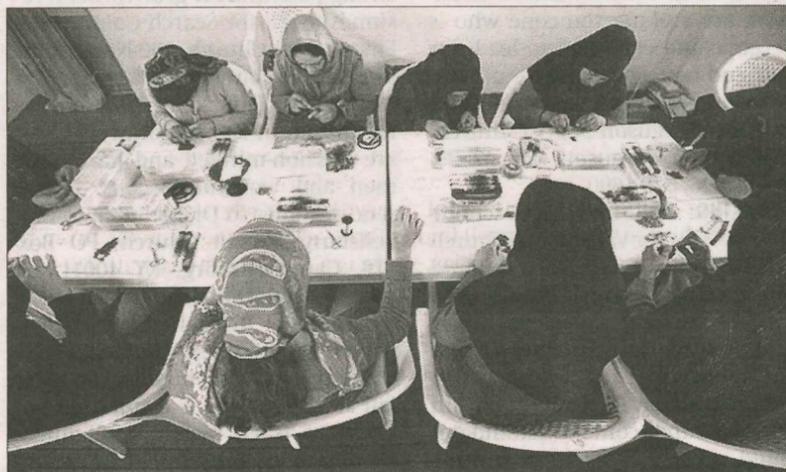
As the group's leader expressed, "We all are very happy with this job. It helps us to forget our family problems for the hours that we are working together, laughing and talking. When we are together, we talk and learn what is going on in the world."

"Being together makes us brave and gives us courage to fight for our rights. When we see that our children are happy that we have money to put them in school and buy clothes for them, it makes us happy. Thanks be to God for giving us this job. Thanks to the people who try to provide work for us."

*Names have been changed for security purposes



MAKING HOPE ■ Above: An Afghan woman puts together a piece of beaded jewelry. She along with nearly a dozen other Afghan women work as artisans in their war-torn homeland through WorldCrafts, a fair-trade, nonprofit ministry of national Woman's Missionary Union. ■ Below: A group of Afghan women create jewelry together. The artisans sell their goods through WorldCrafts and use the money to pay for basic needs for their families. (WMU photos)



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"I have children going to school, and my husband is unemployed. The job is a big help for me."

Anya*, a 32-year-old artisan who makes and sells products through WorldCrafts, a ministry of national Woman's Missionary Union

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

REVIVE PrayerWalk ministry of Grand Rivers. Youth minister Wade White has been instrumental in helping hundreds of churches in Kentucky and surrounding states organize monthly prayerwalks of their schools. Pray that these schools will experience peace and the presence of God that leads to an increased awareness of His power. Pray that more schools will open their doors to the prayerwalks and for a bolder witness by Christian teachers and administrators.

MSC missionary Linda Saylor of Floyd County. Linda serves in the area of evangelism, placing Bibles in the hands of the lost, witnessing through food and clothing distribution and special evangelistic events. Pray that God will guide her and use her to make an eternal difference in the lives of the lost. Pray that He will send additional volunteers to sow the gospel and harvest souls for Him in Appalachia.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Oak Grove Church will hold revival services Nov. 16-19 with **Sherrel Nave** as evangelist. **Larry King** is pastor.

Locust Grove Church recently ordained Minister of Children and Youth **Robert Papajeski** to the gospel ministry. **John Hagan** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Tidal Wave Church recently called **Brian Reeder** as pastor. He previously was associate pastor at Twentieth Street Church in Corbin where he was ordained to the gospel ministry Oct. 18.

Twentieth Street Church recently called **Earl Tye** as pastor.

■ **DANVILLE**—Willow Grove Church recently called **Chris Bleivins** as pastor.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Suthards Church will hold revival services Nov. 16-19, 7 p.m., with **Doug Anderson**, pastor of Park Avenue Church in Madisonville, as evangelist. **George Brooks** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church will hold revival services Nov. 16, 10:45 a.m.; Nov. 17-19, 7 p.m., with **Don Mathis** as evangelist. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Tunnel Hill Church recently called **Nathan Whisnant** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Airline Church in Henderson.

■ **FULTON**—Liberty Church will hold revival services Nov. 16-19 with **Kevin Keeling** as evangelist. **Jim Keeling** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church recently called **Rick Stevens** as pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—**Cecil Morgan** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

■ **KUTTAWA**—Macedonia Church will hold revival services Nov. 16, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Nov. 17-19, 6:30 p.m., with **Rick Reeder**, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association, and **Ronnie Sivells**, KBC church strategist, as evangelists. **Bryan Grigg** is



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

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

December

8-9 KBC Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville.

January 2009

15-17 Shepherding the Shepherd, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington.

22 Pastor/Staff Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.

22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Hope Community Church, Lawrenceburg.

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

pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Old Salem Church recently called **Craig Morgan** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Calvary Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary and homecoming services Nov. 16 with KBC Executive Director **Bill Mackey** as guest speaker. **Rodney Wallace** is pastor.

Sugar Creek Church recently called **Jerry Holeman** as pastor.

■ **ROCKHOLDS**—First Church recently

called **Kenneth Warfield** as pastor.

■ **WHEATLEY**—Dallasburg Church will hold revival services Nov. 16-18, 7 p.m., with **Kevin Smith**, pastor of Watson Memorial Church in Louisville, as evangelist. **Matt Dye** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Sam Smith** recently resigned as pastor of Jellico Creek Church.

Pleasant Hill recently called **Janus Jones** as pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR SALE: Nice Spinet piano in excellent condition: \$500 (includes bench). Contact church office at (859) 238-7004.

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

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister to work with grades 7-12. Westside Baptist Church, Murray, Ky. For more information or to submit a resumé, contact the church at (270) 753-8240; or visit wbcmurray.org.

SEEKING: Part-time music director for church in central Pulaski County. We are seeking someone who is energetic and equipped to lead our choir and be responsible for all musical arrangements for services. Send resumé to Ferguson Baptist Church, PO Box 247, Ferguson, KY 42533. Phone: (606) 679-1690.

SEEKING: Full-time high school/college pastor for Valley View Church in Louisville. Candidates should have a verifiable track record (8-10 years) of successful student ministry experience (ministry growth and spiritual development) with a group of approximately 60 students within a larger church context. Candidates should possess skills in communicating God's Word in practical ways, a vision for building a team of volunteers, and an understanding of current student cultures. We seek candidates prepared for a long-term commitment. In addition, we prefer candidates to have formal youth ministry training, past focused concentration on high school ministry, experience with college students and experience in a church of approximately 700. Administrative and budget-conscious skill sets are a plus. More details are available upon request. Candidates should send a cover letter, resumé and message sample, along with a current photograph, to the following address or e-mail: Valley View Church, 8911 Third Street Road, Louisville, KY 40272, Attn: High School Position; studentpastorsearch@valleyviewchurch.org.

SEEKING: Minister of students and activities for First Baptist Church, Farmington, Mo. Send resumé, recommendations or inquiries to: Personnel Committee, 210 North A St., Farmington, MO 63640; or e-mail wcmiller-fbc@sbcglobal.net. Inquiries will be kept in confidence.

SEEKING: Senior pastor. First Baptist Church, Morganfield, Ky., is looking to call a pastor who is community-minded for a church having an existing community outreach presence. FBC is located in a small, western Kentucky town and has an average attendance of 200-250. We have two Sunday morning services, one contemporary and one blended. This is an awesome church that has a strong potential for growth. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan St., Morganfield, KY 42437.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for rural church in Henry County, Ky. We are mission-minded and have both men and women deacons. Please send resumé to Diane Suter, Campbellsburg Baptist Church, PO Box 128, Campbellsburg, KY 40011; or e-mail to sdwillhite@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Teacher. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College announces an opening on the faculty for the 2009 fall semester. This is a full-time position to teach history and ministry courses. Academic credentials to teach courses in history are required. Candidates with a terminal degree are strongly preferred. Candidates are required to have a minimum of five years full-time experience in Southern Baptist-related ministry. Publishing record and/or college level teaching experience would be helpful. Rank and salary to be determined by experience and educational background. Send credentials, including a statement of faith and educational philosophy, to: Academic Dean, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. E-mail may be sent to: mhester@ccbcc.edu. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention with a mission "... to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service."

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Providence First Baptist Church. Send resumé and, if possible, a photo, DVD or cassette, and references, to Mr. Ray Gobin, 214 Benjamin Terrace, Providence, KY 42450. Phone: (270) 667-2307.

SEEKING: Part-time student minister (grades 7-12), central Pulaski County. Great congregation standing on God's Word with strong emphasis on youth. Seeking someone who is energetic and equipped to teach and reach youth for Christ. Send resumé to Ferguson Baptist Church, PO Box 247, Ferguson, KY 42533. Phone: (606) 679-1690.

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: 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; put "DOM search" as the subject.

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. For general information: www.parkwoodbaptist.com.

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

SEEKING: Pastor for Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, a rural (175 worship average), conservative Southern Baptist congregation near Williamstown, Ky. Requires some seminary training and pastoral experience. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, c/o Steve Paynter, 270 Gumlick Road, Falmouth, KY 41040.

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, Attn: search committee.

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: 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.

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 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; or fax to (423) 869-8777.

Leading by example

Playing to glorify Christ is top priority for Murray State University QB Jeff Ehrhardt

By Bill Sorrell
Baptist Press

Murray (BP)—After an embarrassing experience in soccer, Jeff Ehrhardt was one and done.

Playing for the first time in the fourth grade, he watched as the goalie picked up a ball and began to drop-kick it.

"I ran in front of it to block it like you block a field goal or a punt," Ehrhardt recalled. "It went inside the goal and I thought I had scored. I got yelled at by the coach and then I was benched. I was the worst kid on the team. I quit that year."

Soccer's loss was football's gain. Now the quarterback at Murray State University, Ehrhardt's goal since seventh grade was to play college football.

"I'm glad it worked out," said Ehrhardt, who led the Ohio Valley Conference last season in passing yards (2,587), completions (236), touchdown passes (21) and passing yards per game (233.4). He also set the school single-game record for completions with 38.

Ehrhardt was named OVC Freshman of the Year, voted second-team All-OVC and rated the No. 2 freshman quarterback in the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision.

But the 2008 season did not begin as well. In the season opener, he tore a ligament in his right shoulder and missed three games.

Ehrhardt said he found solace in Job. Job 1:21 is his favorite verse: "Naked I came from my mother's

womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

"God is going to give you blessings but he can take things away," Ehrhardt noted. "At the end of the day, you still can say God is holy and God is sovereign."

The quarterback's injury was another way for God to keep him in check "where football didn't become too big a priority," he said. "It was a good time for the Lord to keep reminding me what the important things are in my life."

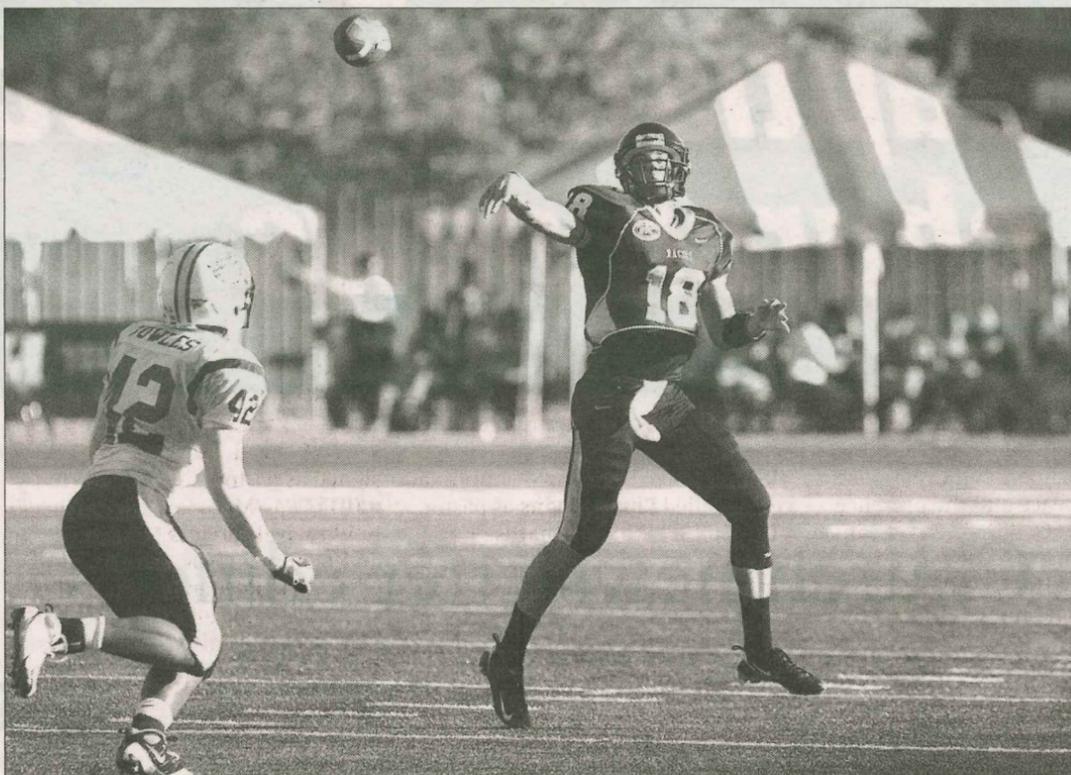
Playing in a way that glorifies Christ is what is important, he insisted.

"I believe a Christian should be the hardest worker on the team," Ehrhardt explained. "We are not playing for man's approval or the coach's approval. We want to honor the coaches, but I am seeking to play for Christ in every rep I take, in every snap I take and every throw I make. If I gave a great effort, if I was a great witness on the field, then it was a great Saturday."

Murray State head coach Matt Griffin called Ehrhardt "a character guy" who leads by example.

"I couldn't say enough good things about him," Griffin said. "He aspires for greatness. The saying, 'Shoot for the moon, if you miss, you'll land on a star' describes his drive."

"He has a great personality and is fun to be around," the coach add-



ed. "I have two sons. I hope they turn out half as well. Then I would have done a good job with them."

Though his teammates recognize him as someone outspoken about his faith, Ehrhardt was not always so bold. He was a junior in high school before he "sold out" to Christ, he recalled.

"It was a tough period for me," Ehrhardt said. "I had a rough spot with my mother and dad. I went through a lot of growing pains spiritually. I came out of that and Christ grabbed hold of my heart."

"I can't fathom God's love and

grace. The fact he would send His own son for all the sins I commit day in and day out because He loves me is pretty unbelievable."

Expectations at Murray State are high for Ehrhardt, who passed for 4,591 yards and 43 touchdowns during his high school career.

"I need to make plays to put us in a position to win," he said. "I don't care if we throw 50 times a game or run 50 times a game as long as we win. I have been entrusted with a huge responsibility. Christ is there watching me. I hope he is pleased by my actions."

AIRING IT OUT Murray State quarterback Jeff Ehrhardt says he plays football to honor the Lord. (Photo by Fred Mullane/Murray State University)

New Orleans resident shares gospel through clean neighborhoods

By Marilyn Stewart
Baptist Press

New Orleans (BP)—He'll be knee-deep in weeds at the Interstate 10 underpass at Franklin Avenue in New Orleans, or laying sod at a neighborhood home. But one thing is certain: Robert Claverie, 64, will not be in one place for long.

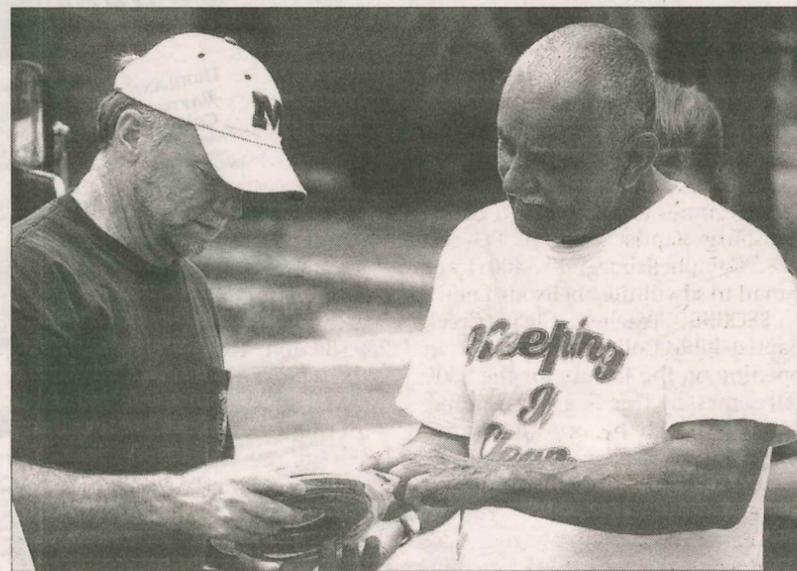
Claverie, who is retired, feeds the homeless at 7 a.m. and directs teams of volunteers in neighborhood clean-up the rest of the day, all financed from personal funds. One of the first to return to his flood-ravaged neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina, Claverie tapped into his insurance money to feed relief workers and begin the clean-up process.

Staff employees of MissionLab, a ministry of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary that links church mission teams to ministries in New Orleans, spotted him clearing debris from a neighborhood street three months after the storm.

"They asked me if I wanted help," Claverie recalled. "I said, 'Sure, if you're in it for the long run. But it's hard work and there's a lot to do.'"

MissionLab connects church groups of all ages to mentors like Claverie for hands-on experience with ministries such as an AIDS health care home, child care and neighborhood recovery programs.

Since partnering with MissionLab, Claverie has supervised more than 3,000 volunteers from places



KEEPING IT CLEAN Robert Claverie, 64, one of the first to return to his flood-ravaged New Orleans neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina, talks with a missions volunteer who has come to the city for ministry through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's MissionLab. (BP photo by Marilyn Stewart)

as far away as Hawaii, Canada and Puerto Rico in cleaning up the Gently community.

"I wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for Jesus," Claverie acknowledged. "Christians should lead the way."

Long known for his charitable work, Claverie said he avoids the limelight. He even sidestepped an opportunity to be interviewed with President Bush.

"A lot of people come out when

the cameras are rolling," Claverie noted. "But it's not about me. I don't want man's awards. I don't want a plaque on the wall. I'm willing to wait for God's rewards."

Youth from Parkway Baptist Church in Tupelo, Miss., worked with Claverie cutting grass, pulling weeds and picking up trash beside a busy city intersection. Ashley Hays, 15, said she wondered, at first, how their work could communicate the gospel.

"But while we worked, people drove by, honked and waved," Hays recalled. "People would come and say, 'Thank you so much for cleaning up my neighborhood.'"

Homeowner Kwane Agansi-Bona watched as the students laid sod at his home on a quiet street just behind the New Orleans Seminary campus. Disabled after coming from New York City to do relief work in the city, Agansi-Bona and his wife decided to stay and renovate the flooded home.

"I've read about Jesus' goodness, and these kids are expressing what Jesus was about," he said. "They may have me going to church now."

Katey Witt, youth minister at Parkway Baptist, said the hard work helped the group bond. She added that the students were impressed with Claverie's dedication and energy.

"The students think it's really neat to see somebody do this just because he loves his community and loves Jesus," Witt said. "They realized you don't have to have a lot to make a difference for others."

Claverie pointed out that many of the volunteers he has worked with have come from several Southern states, but he is especially moved by those who come from states affected by disaster.

"Mississippi was hit hard by Katrina, but they came here anyway," he said.

"A lot of people come out when the cameras are rolling. But it's not about me. I don't want man's awards. I don't want a plaque on the wall. I'm willing to wait for God's rewards."

New Orleans resident Robert Claverie

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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

www.WesternRecorder.org

WESTERN RECORDER
Gilead Baptist Church Edition
December 18, 2007

DECEMBER'S CALENDAR

- Dec 18 Sunshiner's Christmas Gathering, 5:00P
- Dec 19 2007 Bible Drill Recognition
- Dec 20 '04 CAROLING WE WILD
- Dec 21 Christmas Eve Church for Helping Hand, 11:00A
- Dec 22 Fellowship 9:30A, Combined Worship, 11:00A
- Dec 23 No Sunday School and No Evening Service
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:00P
- Dec 25 No Wednesday Evening Service
- Dec 27 Youth 3-Day Student Celebration in Pigeon Forge, TN

BUDGET INFO.

2007 ANNUAL BUDGET
Weekly Budget 1209 Offering
Year to Date Budget Offering to Date:

On Dec 25 We Will Not Be Moved
On Dec 26 We Will Have A Well @ 9
On Dec 27 A Combined Word
On Dec 28 There Will Not Be A Well
On Dec 29 On

WESTERN RECORDER
First Baptist Church Edition
December 18, 2007

First Baptist Church

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS YOU CELEBRATE THE GREATEST GIFT EVER GIVEN, JESUS!

On Sunday, December 23rd, there will be no 8:30 A.M. worship service. We will only have one A.M. worship service on this Sunday at 10:45 A.M. Discipleship Training will be at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 23rd. Christmas Lord's Supper Service at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 23rd. Adult choir will present "Jesus, No Other Name" on Sunday, December 23rd at the 10:45 A.M. worship service.

WESTERN RECORDER
Highland Baptist Church Edition
December 18, 2007

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
A thinking, feeling and healing community of faith

Christmas Eve Services

Our Advent Season continues with worship services this Sunday, December 23, followed by two Christmas Eve Services. On Monday, Christmas Eve, the 5:00 p.m. Family Service and the 7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service will have special music led by soloists, Sanctuary Choir and a String Ensemble. Please invite family and friends to join you. Children will be provided for the 7:00 Service.

An Advent Word of Thanks

My heart is full of gratitude for all of the musicians who have enriched our worship service - Bruce Maples and the members of Highland's Orchestra, the Sanctuary Choir, our youngest musicians - the Children's Choir, the Children's Chorus, and our workday musicianship. - Kathy Collier

HBC Welcomes

Amendment Creates Interim Director of Young Adult Ministries

After considerable consultation and input, a recommendation by Ministry Planning Team Chair, Mary Burke Price, was passed, creating a position as Interim Director of Young Adult Ministries. The position is currently vacant and the position will be filled by Kevin Eason.