



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## 2008 KBC ANNUAL MEETING

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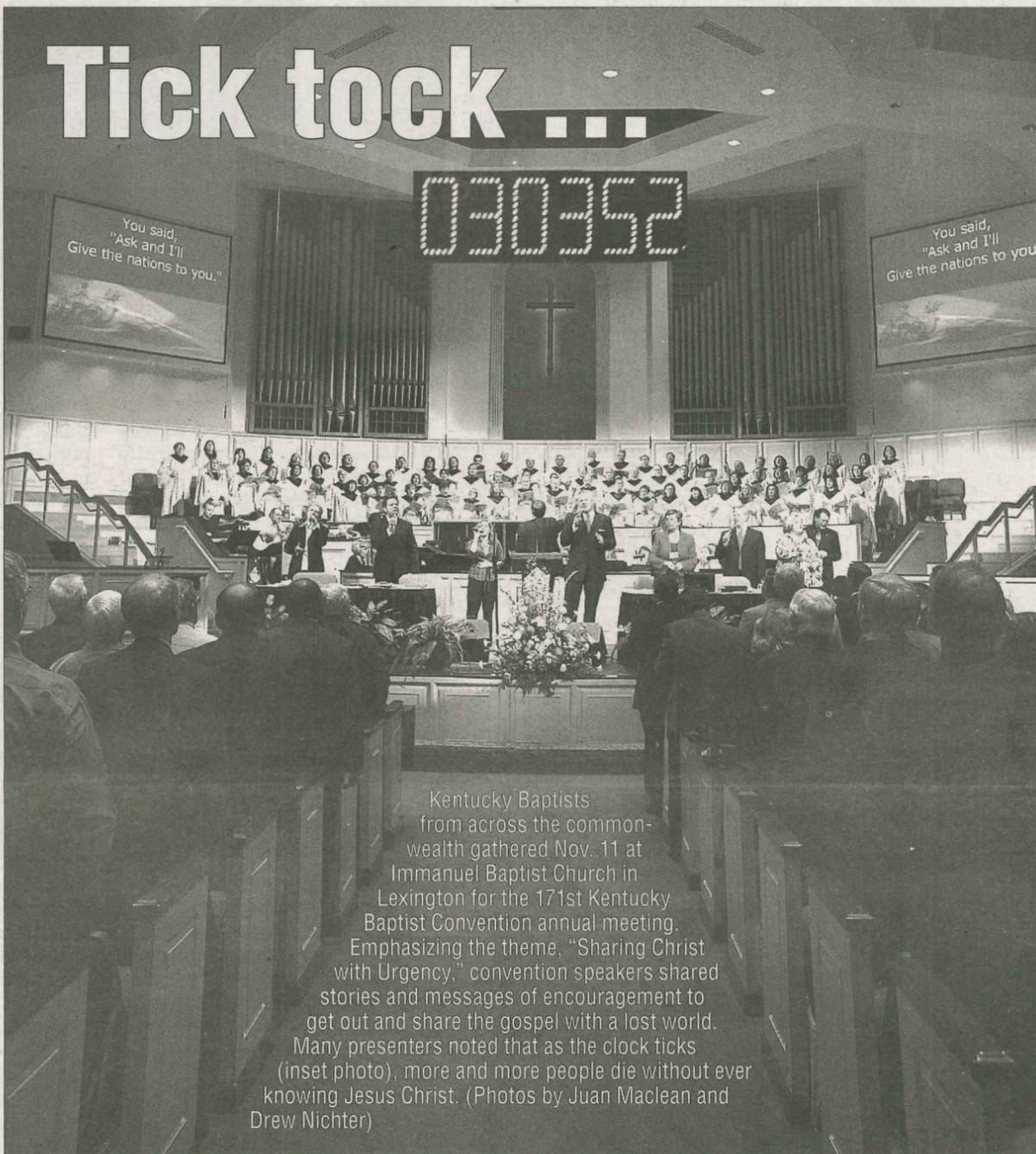


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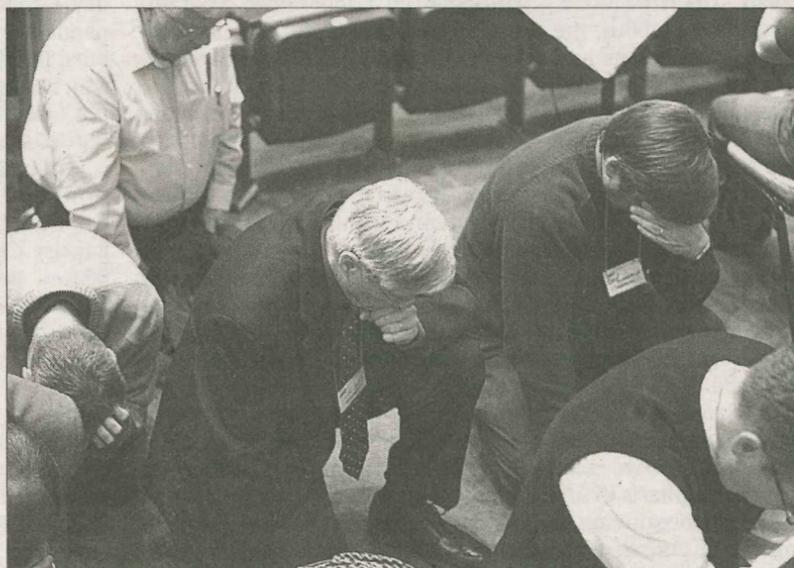
Blankets and Bibles highlight annual Cross Over evangelistic outreach in Lexington and surrounding areas. *Page 11.*



## Tick tock ...

Kentucky Baptists from across the commonwealth gathered Nov. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington for the 171st Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. Emphasizing the theme, "Sharing Christ with Urgency," convention speakers shared stories and messages of encouragement to get out and share the gospel with a lost world. Many presenters noted that as the clock ticks (inset photo), more and more people die without ever knowing Jesus Christ. (Photos by Juan Maclean and Drew Nichter)

## Urgency and uncontested business highlight KBC annual meeting



**PRAYER FOR URGENCY** Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers kneel in prayer at the altar during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. Dozens of Kentucky Baptists hit their knees in prayer following a challenge by David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., to recognize the urgency that is needed to reach the world for Christ. "We don't have time to soothe ourselves, not with the urgency of the mission before us," he said. "I believe it starts with being a people who fall on our faces and say, 'Lord Jesus, you are worthy of my trust.'" (KBC photo by Juan Maclean)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 19.

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—In what may be a developing pattern, Kentucky Baptists' annual business meeting passed rather quietly for a second consecutive year.

The 171st Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, held Nov. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, may be remembered more for its message and length than business.

Often resembling a revival service, KBC messengers were presented with numerous sermons and times of worship emphasizing the event's theme, "Sharing Christ with Urgency." Kentucky Baptists also hit their knees in prayer, most notably following the message delivered by David Platt in the evening session (see related article on page 3).

The 2008 annual meeting also was held in just one day. According to KBC Assistant Executive Director Steve Thompson, this year was the first time "in modern history" that the convention's annual busi-

ness meeting was conducted in a single day.

Messengers to last year's meeting approved a proposal from the Committee on Order of Business to conduct all convention business on one day with the option of a second day for workshops or other events.

With little business to address, the number of registered messengers dipped once again, from 942 last year to 804 this year. It was the lowest attendance for a KBC annual meeting since 1968.

All five convention officers, including President John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, were elected by acclamation and five resolutions, including one opposing abortion, were adopted without debate. Only one item of miscellaneous business was introduced from the floor, but later was dismissed.

Messengers also approved a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$24,480,000 for the 2009-10 fiscal year, an increase of 2 percent from the current goal.

## Looking for Pastors' Conference coverage?

Check out next week's Western Recorder for a complete wrap-up of all the speakers and business from last week's 2008 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

# Toby, slate of convention officers elected by acclamation

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers elected all five state convention officers by acclamation during last week's KBC annual meeting in Lexington.

John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, was elected KBC president. It marked the second consecutive year that a Kentucky Baptist president was elected without opposition.

Other officers include Skip Alexander, first vice president; Lee James, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, secretary; and Mike Melloan, assistant secretary.

Toby, who served as KBC first vice president in 2005-06 and president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, recently completed a term as chairman of the KBC's Committee on Committees and is a Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel with the Kentucky Army National Guard.

Former KBC president Charles Barnes nominated Toby for the post.

Barnes, a layman from Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, cited Toby's extensive work with numerous KBC committees, saying he "knows what is required to work cooperatively with all Kentucky Baptists."

Toby "has a passion for the lost (and) he has a passion for missions," Barnes noted. Toby "will help us to go forward in all phases of Kingdom work in Kentucky."



**KBC OFFICERS** State convention officers elected last week by acclamation are (from left) John Mark Toby, president; Skip Alexander, first vice president; Mike Melloan, assistant secretary; Wilma Simmons, secretary. Lee James, second vice president, is not pictured. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

In a post-election interview, Toby said his goals for the year are to work with KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and the Mission Board staff in developing short-term and long-term goals related to missions and evangelism.

Toby also addressed the issue of baptisms in KBC churches, which have dipped to a 12-year low despite the Kentucky Baptists Connect goal to significantly increase baptisms. "The key is to get a heart for lost people," he insisted.

"Each of our churches really need to keep the main thing the main

thing," Toby added, "and that's keeping Jesus at the forefront of what we're about and telling people about the Good News of the gospel and the power it has to change lives."

He called his election by acclamation "a humbling experience," adding that it is a sign of unity in the convention.

"We're all in agreement to move forward by faith into the future, and to accomplish the things that God wants us to do," he said.

In other elections, Campbellsville Baptist Church Pastor Skip Alexander was nominated as first vice pres-

ident by James Jones, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

In an entertaining nomination speech, Jones pointed out Alexander's strengths in evangelism, Cooperative Program support and leadership.

Jones then roared his approval of Alexander, saying "I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically nominate Dr. Skip Alexander. Let's 'skip' to great heights with Skip! Amen!"

Lee James, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah, was nominated as second vice president by Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Mathis said James' leadership as a pastor is characterized by "consistency, faithfulness (and) integrity."

Noting a friendship the two men have forged over 43 years, Mathis called James "one of those quiet men who consistently has loved Jesus, preached the Word of God (and) won people to Jesus."

### Longtime secretaries re-elected

Messengers also re-elected Wilma Simmons as secretary and Mike Melloan as assistant secretary.

Simmons, a member of Big Springs Baptist Church in Vine Grove, has served as KBC secretary since 1991. Melloan, assistant secretary since 2003, is a member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro.

## Mackey urges messengers to focus on 3 Ky. mission fields

Lexington—The Commonwealth of Kentucky has three distinct mission fields that must be reached with the gospel, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey told state convention messengers last week.

During his KBC Mission Board staff report, Mackey identified Kentucky's growing Hispanic population, its college campuses and the eastern part of the state as areas where Kentucky Baptists need to focus on sharing the gospel.

"I want to challenge you today to make a concerted effort to focus on evangelism and reaching people," he urged messengers.

Mackey noted the influx of Hispanics in the state as a growing mission field. He commended the Hispanic Bible Institute, which is supported by the Cooperative Program and has graduated 74 Hispanic leaders.

The work of the Baptist Campus Ministry at Kentucky colleges and universities brings more than 5,000 students together in worship and Bible study weekly, Mackey pointed out. More than 1,700 of them have participated in short-term mission trips, and 350 have surrendered to the call of full-time ministry.

Despite all of the work God already has done, Eastern Kentucky remains largely unreached, Mackey said. Forty-one Kentucky counties are 70 percent unreached, most of those in the eastern part of the state, he added.

"The resources are in the harvest," Mackey said. "Hispanics can reach Hispanics better than Anglos. College students can reach college students better than my generation. So, we need to overcome the barriers and support them, so that they can be empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to reach their generation and their ethnic groups with the gospel."

He cited Isaiah's response to Jesus' call in Isaiah 6: "Here am I, send me."

"May that be the response of Kentucky Baptists as we move into the future that God has created for us together," Mackey said.

Following the report, outgoing KBC president Bill Henard presented Mackey and his wife, Kay, with gifts in recognition for his 10 years of service as KBC executive director. "What an incredible experience it is to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by serving Kentucky Baptists," he said.

## Compton presents new 'CP Missions Challenge'

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Seeking to raise awareness of and contributions through the Cooperative Program, the Kentucky Baptist Convention is preparing to launch a three-year Cooperative Program emphasis called the "CP Missions Challenge."

Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, announced the emphasis at last week's KBC annual meeting in Lexington.

The CP Missions Challenge is "designed to educate, inform and inspire Kentucky Baptists about the program's impact on missions and ministries," he said.

"Over the years, many of us have lost sight of the tremendous impact the Cooperative Program is making across our state, nation and world," Compton noted. "My passion is to cast a vision among Kentucky Baptists that any size church can make Acts 1:8 a reality through their participation in the Cooperative Program."

Compton said the emphasis will officially begin in January of 2009, but plans already are underway. After the KBC's administrative committee approved the emphasis in August, Compton began organizing a steering committee of church leaders to help carry out the challenge and enlist the participation of other Kentucky Baptist churches.

The committee will be responsible for organizing rallies across the state to promote the campaign. The rallies will be held March 3 through April 2 in 11 locations: Ashland, Bowling Green, Corbin, Elizabeth-

town, Hopkinsville, Independence, Lexington, Louisville, Owensboro, Paducah and Pikeville.

Following the rallies, all KBC churches will be asked to increase their CP giving over three years. Compton said the challenge will be given to churches on Cooperative Program Sunday, April 26, 2009.

"This type of undertaking will require much sacrifice, but we hope to see commitments from many of our churches," he noted. "Kentucky Baptists have always given sacrificially to support missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program, and we believe it is still the most efficient way to fund these endeavors."

The current CP budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year is \$24 million. Compton said he hopes the CP Missions Challenge will enable Kentucky Baptists to increase future budgets and "funnel more resources into missions and ministry."

"We also want the challenge to help our churches maintain stewardship and missions as priority during a time when the economy is not thriving," he added.

### Committee members named

Steering committee members to date include:

Skip Alexander, Campbellsville Baptist Church; Paul Badgett, First Baptist Church, Pikeville; Charles Barnes, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville; Pat Burkhart, Fort Mitchell Baptist Church; Cathy Chinn, Living Faith Baptist Church, Hartford; Shirley Cox, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon; Jeff Crabtree, Warren Baptist Association; Robert Ehr, First Baptist Church,

Lawrenceburg; Ray England, Second Baptist Church, Greenville; Bill Fort, First Baptist Church, Richmond; Darren Gaddis, Central Baptist Church, Corbin; Bill Henard, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington; Steven Hussung, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green; Thomas James, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green; James Jones, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Campbellsville; Scott Kerr, Valley Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown; Scott Kilgore, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green; Will Langford, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence; Doug Miller, Hardinsburg Baptist Church; Herschel Morgan, Bethabara Baptist Church, Philpot; Gerald Murphy, Severns Valley Baptist Association; Floyd Paris, Unity Baptist Church, Ashland; Donnie Patrick, Crestwood Baptist Church; Larry Purcell, Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville; Pat Reaves, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville; Michael Rice, Fairview Baptist Church, Ashland; Nick Sandefur, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville; Darlene Schadler, Grace Baptist Church, Independence; Tom Shelton, Ohio County Baptist Association; Tom David Shelton, First Baptist Church, Owensboro; Paul Strahan, First Baptist Church, Owensboro; Dan Summerlin, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; John Mark Toby, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset; Jerry Toolley, Daviess-McLean Baptist Association; Terry Wilder, First Twelve Mile Baptist Church, California; Beth Wyatt, Corinth Baptist Church, London; and Hershael York, Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort.

## Platt: Key to urgency is passion for Jesus

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—Sharing stories of his experiences with underground church leaders in Asia, David Platt told Kentucky Baptists the only way to be “urgent in the mission of Christ” is to develop “deep zeal” for His glory.

Platt, the 30-year-old pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., addressed messengers during last week’s Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Platt said that, over time, Christians have reduced Jesus “to a poor, puny savior who is just begging for us to accept Him.”

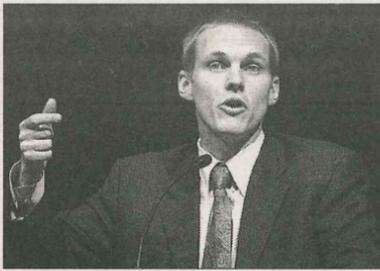
Jesus Christ “is infinitely worthy of all glory in the universe, and He doesn’t need you or me at all,” Platt said. “We need Him; we desperately need Him.”

Reading from Luke 9:57 where Jesus explains to three disciples what it means to follow Him, Platt noted three characteristics that are necessary for us “to understand the mission that He has called us to.”

Jesus is worthy of all of our trust, He is worthy of all of our plans and dreams, and He is worthy of all of our affections, the pastor said.

“What is Jesus saying here?” Platt asked. “He’s saying there is, in following Jesus, a responsibility, an obligation and a mission that supercedes all other responsibilities, obligations and missions.”

Several years ago while Platt was



David Platt

servicing as dean of chapel and assistant professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, he and a group traveled to an Asian nation where it is illegal to be a Christian. Many Christ followers meet secretly in underground churches at homes in villages late at night under the threat of prison or death.

It was during this trip he said he met some house church leaders who asked Platt to lead them in an in-depth Bible study. He led the group for several days, eight to 12 hours each day, studying both the Old and New Testaments.

“They’re not playing around with (the Bible) when they gather together. They love the Word and they risk their lives to study it,” Platt declared.

While he was teaching them, members of the two house churches had received threats from both the government and a dangerous local cult. Yet they continued to study the Word and fell on their faces, weeping and praising God for still being

with them, Platt recalled.

Platt insisted that American Christians could stand to become more like those believers who risk everything to follow Christ, without facilities and resources.

“There’s a people of God that doesn’t believe you need all the stuff, that the power of God ... is enough to grow His church—and they are right,” Platt declared.

In highlighting the disparity in our calling and what we usually pursue, Platt cited a Baptist state newspaper that published two articles side by side. One story touted the opening of a \$23-million church building; the other was about Baptist relief efforts which raised a mere \$5,000 for Sudanese refugees.

“This is not an indictment of church buildings, ... it is an indictment of us,” he said. “We have prioritized our comfort over the needs of the world and we need to repent.”

“When was the last time we as a people were on our faces weeping because we love Christ and want Christ?” Platt asked.

Noting that more than 4.5 billion people in the world are “on a road that leads to an eternal hell,” he stressed, “We don’t have time to play games in church. We don’t have time to soothe ourselves, not with the urgency of the mission before us.”

“I believe it starts with being a people who fall on our faces and say, ‘Lord Jesus, You are worthy of my trust.’”

## Henard: Changes have to be made to keep KBC relevant

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Lexington—In the president’s address at last week’s annual meeting, Bill Henard warned that members and leaders of the Kentucky Baptist Convention must make significant operational changes if they hope to be in business 20 years from now.

“A denomination that does not change is bound for death,” said Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. “We must remember to be a denomination that exists to serve the churches, not that the churches exist to serve the denomination.”

Other challenges the outgoing president outlined include eliminating denominational bureaucracies that do not fulfill the Great Commission, making God a priority in meetings and setting evangelism as a priority.

At times, the convention has embraced a “pork barrel mentality” in which members insist certain things be done because they’ve always been done or because they want something, Henard noted.



Bill Henard

Although operations must be streamlined, he declined to name any specifics, saying such decisions await future leaders.

As for making God a priority in annual meetings, the outgoing president said the gatherings no longer are the only opportunities pastors and members have for training. They are just as likely to attend a particular seminar that addresses their areas of interest as attend a convention, Henard noted.

“Sometimes our meetings are just plain boring,” he commented, a remark that brought a delayed scattering of “amens” from the audience.

While future leaders will have to determine what to eliminate, Henard said that worship of God through music, prayer and testimonies must take priority. Inspiration must take precedence over information, he added.

Putting evangelism at the top of churches’ priority lists will be an effective way to attract more young adults, Henard suggested. Earlier in his talk, he noted that author Thom Rainer reported 70 percent of people ages 18 to 22 who were raised in church drop out. Many young adults look at churches and say they are not relevant, but they are likely to return when they see congregations showing more concern for the world around them, Henard said.

Posing the question: “Why the KBC?” the pastor named several reasons:

■ The evidence that great things are happening.

Two reports he cited were from a recent revival in Campbellsville, where hundreds were saved, including 160 Campbellsville University students; and KBC’s summer youth camps, where 160 young people made professions of faith.

■ The convention’s support of three colleges and universities that equip students to spread the gospel. “We need to do more to fund the ministries of the KBC,” Henard urged. “We need to draw our colleges closer to us and love on them. Let them know we are here to support them.”

■ The convention partners with people to share the gospel.

Among initiatives Henard mentioned were High Impact churches, Kentucky Changers and disaster relief.

In an interview after his address, Henard expressed optimism about Kentucky Baptists countering the nationwide trend of fading denominational influence.

“I am extremely hopeful,” he said. “Knowing where people are and the desire that they have to see the Kentucky Baptist Convention not just succeed in numbers, but to actually make an impact.”

Henard said when Kentucky Baptists become Great Commission Christians who understand the importance of evangelism, they will see the increase in baptisms envisioned by the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis.

Baptists must rekindle the fire to share the message and equip people in creative ways to spread the gospel, Henard noted, insisting that is much more difficult than it was 10 years ago.

“We’ve got to always be on our toes, engaging our culture, understanding it and loving it,” Henard said. “By doing so and getting the word out, I think our baptisms will come back.”

## Baptists’ disobedience wastes gospel, Smith says

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—At the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, Kevin Smith brought a sermon on the urgency of sharing the gospel with the world—but as he spoke to messengers and guests gathered in Lexington, he said a bolder lesson was being prepared by his wife, Patricia, in Texas.

The pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville said his father-in-law had died a few days earlier and that his wife was bearing “extra weight on her because her father didn’t accept Christ.”

Smith’s wife was working on a message: Anyone who rejects the gospel will be separated from God for eternity. “When was the last time you went to a funeral and heard about hell,” Smith asked.

The usual platitudes of a loved one “being in a better place” would not be expressed by Patricia Smith, he predicted. “She directly wants to stand up and say ... ‘I know my father is not in a better place.’”

A former KBC first vice president, Smith used the story of Onan in Genesis 38 to discuss how believers squander the powerful message of Christ—something Mrs. Smith was determined not to do at her father’s funeral.

In Onan’s day, when a man died, his brother was expected to marry his widow then father children on behalf of the deceased man. When Onan’s brother, Er, died, their father instructed Onan to fulfill that responsibility. Instead, he failed to consummate the marriage to his sister-in-law, Tamar.

According to Scripture, Onan “spilled his seed,” disobeying his father and disrespecting his brother, Smith explained.

The context of the lesson may seem “weird” to 21st century Christians, Smith noted, but the truth is universal: Onan, like many believers, was “going through the motions” and failed to produce fruit.

For Onan, fruit was his brother’s heirs. For Christians, fruit is newly baptized believers disciplined to share Christ with others.

The reason Southern Baptists continue to report fewer people baptized is because they are “spilling seed” by being selfish and disobedient, Smith insisted.

Too often church leaders are preoccupied with receiving credit for good ideas and hard work. “There are elements of selfishness that will not allow us to cooperate and work with one another,” Smith said.

An assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Smith noted, “We sweat for doctrine, and we should. Likewise we should sweat and struggle to be unified.”

Just as Onan refused to consummate a relationship with Tamar, Christian leaders who willfully water down the gospel to make it more palatable for the world are dishonest and disobedient, Smith said.

“If we do not proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are, in a metaphorical sense, pulling back and

wasting seed,” he explained.

“If you don’t preach the Lord Jesus Christ ... you deserve for your church to die,” he stated.

Referencing the start of President-elect Barack Obama’s administration in January, Smith said a believer too intimidated by the majority to profess the sanctity of human life and traditional marriage is “pulling back and wasting the seed.” Likewise, if Christians hear racial slurs against the new president or anyone “and don’t call it sin ... you’re pulling back,” he said.

The spiritual seed that brings forth spiritual fruit is the Bible, Smith said. “If you will commit yourself to the Word of God, if you will preach the Word of God and share the Word of God (with other people) they’re going to be changed,” Smith predicted.

A review of the Gospels provides believers the best example of selflessness and obedience: Christ Himself.

“The Gospels are about a steady procession to Jerusalem and the cross,” Smith said. “It’s not easy but it’s steady.” Despite the pain in front of Him, Jesus never desired to go back, Smith added.

“You and I are here today because the Lord Jesus Christ did not pull back,” Smith said. “Men and women will be saved in Kentucky tomorrow because the Lord Jesus Christ did not pull back. ... My question is, are we going to be involved in the harvest or are we just going through the motions?”



Kevin Smith

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**DREW NICHTER**  
News Director

**THOMAS C. TOWNSEND**  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

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

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## Convention or revival?

Was it a convention or a revival? I have attended dozens of state conventions in my lifetime, always enjoying the fellowship with other pastors and church leaders. Just being with fellow Baptists throughout our state reminds me that my church is part of something much bigger than just what we see each Sunday. But this one day of reports, preaching, worship and sharing vision was much more than I've experienced in the past.

The theme, "Sharing Christ with Urgency," actually was experienced

by all of us who attended, especially during the last session with David Platt. His message was anointed, to say the least. To see people on their knees and faces all over the worship center at Immanuel, and to sense the very presence and the power of the Holy Spirit moving among us was a great blessing and encouragement in my life.

After the worship I did not want to leave. That Spirit spilled out of me on Wednesday as I veered off of what I had prepared to teach at prayer service, but began to share my experience with the Lord at our state convention. My guess is that many other



## The Great Depression

By Tom Ehrich

**New York (RNS)**—Our worsening recession will be long and deep. Many lives will be scarred through homes lost, jobs lost, careers derailed, college delayed, small businesses shuttered, large employers driven to bankruptcy, and dreams abandoned.

This will be a human drama unlike anything most of us have known. Some stark new behavior will be required, and much of it will be healthy.

Parents will need to say "No" to their children—and thus reinstate the proper order of authority in the family and douse the demon of entitlement.

Families will need to spend more time at home and less time in restaurants, malls and cinemas—and thus reclaim the main reason people got married and had children in the first place.

People will need to live within their means—and thus reconnect with the true abundance of God-given harvest, as opposed to the delusional largess of an ever-expanding credit line.

People will need to do without—painful after so many years of having everything, but in the end a refreshing walk with the basics, as op-

posed to a frenzied dance of more, more, more.

People will need to stop competing by way of extravagance—and start collaborating by way of dreams, capabilities and shared ventures. We won't dig our way out of this mess by finding more credit or waging war on some imagined enemy, but by joining hands in fresh and imaginative enterprises grounded in noble purpose.

The heroes of this moment will be those who can promote goodness, as opposed to appetite and self-indulgence.

I hope the greed and irresponsibility of those financial and corporate leaders who led us into this mess will give way to wisdom and perspective. I hope that a new generation of bright and ambitious students will look beyond the narrow dream of making it on Wall Street and turn instead to the engineering, organizational development, technology, infrastructure management and teaching that truly create value in society.

I am telling church leaders that it is time to let go of old anxieties, especially self-centered fussing and stale traditions, and to focus instead on being lean, efficient and self-sacrificial enterprises that are dedicat-

pastors did the same thing.

Could it be that a wave of God's Spirit has begun in Kentucky that will impact every church with the urgency to share Christ with passion like never before? I pray the answer is yes. I am glad that I serve a church that is a part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Mike James  
Pastor, Glen's Creek Baptist Church  
Versailles

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

ed to serving others. Too many congregations are strangling on yesterday's bickering and priorities.

There are so are many families and businesses with arguments that don't end and business models that don't work. We all need fresh starts.

In fact, when we stand back from our recent history, I think we will see why we ran up \$2.3 trillion in personal debts: We were trying to escape ourselves and the difficult decisions that we needed to make in order to have peace and meaning in our lives.

We have tried to live without God. We have tried not to see our skills, blessings—indeed, our very existence—as God-given assets entrusted to our care, but rather as economic engines for amassing worldly wealth. In our worldview, we weren't engaged in a dynamic transaction with a living and high-expectation God. We were living as we chose, and if we turned to God at all, it was only as a last resort.

We weren't leveraging God's gifts for God's benefit or sharing them with the less fortunate. We were behaving as if God hadn't given us anything.

That is the "great depression," or what I'd call the "great delusion," with which we now must deal.

Tom Ehrich is a writer, church consultant and founder of the Church Wellness Project

## Heart-felt appreciation

My wife, Kay, and I would like to express our heart-felt appreciation to Bill Henard, 2007-08 KBC president; the administrative committee; the KBC Mission Board; and the convention for honoring my 10th anniversary of service as Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director.

It was a very special time for us in many ways, but one aspect was especially memorable. The administrative committee made it possible for our daughters and grandchildren to be present and to join us on the platform briefly during the recognition.

My daughters jokingly asked me to limit my comments to "Thank you and God bless you" so they could get the five grandchildren off the platform as soon as possible.

Our oldest daughter Anonda has two boys, Will, 6, and Zach, 4. Zach did not want to go before the large crowd, but Will did not want to leave

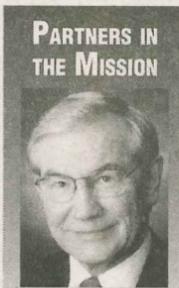
the platform.

Our youngest daughter Beth has three children, Lilly, 7, Mack, 4, and Nate, 2. Nate saw the video screens and kept pointing to the image of his Granddad.

The recognition started Monday during the Mission Board meeting when Henard presented us with a special love gift from the board members. More than any monetary gift, we will treasure their expression of love as long as we live.

On Tuesday, during the first session of the annual meeting, Henard presented us with a beautiful clock, along with letters of appreciation from Southern Baptist Convention leaders and local government officials.

Kay and I consider it an incredible privilege to serve our Lord by serving Kentucky Baptists. We know that the Lord works through the outstanding KBC staff and leaders of KBC entities. We are grateful for so many church leaders and other vol-



Bill Mackey

## STEWARDSHIP

## What Ky. Baptists can do in difficult economic times

By Doug Strader

For several months, we have experienced an economic downturn in our country. Some economists have said that we are facing the most severe recession in decades. Banks and lending

institutions are foreclosing on a record number of homes and businesses. Even the banking industry has turned to the federal government to help bail them out of their financial crunch. Now the automobile industry is seeking financial help, while some are wondering if one of the "big three" (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler) will cease to operate.

At the same time, our nation continues to languish in record deficit spending. On top of all that we are learning this is a global problem, not just a problem for the United States. What does all of this mean to the average Kentucky Baptist?

I do not profess to know all the ramifications from such a down economic time; nor do I profess to know all the problems that this economic downturn causes for Kentucky Baptists. But I do believe that we can implement some strategies in our individual situations that will be beneficial to us.

■ We need to be praying for our leaders on the local, state, national and international levels that they will be led by the Holy Spirit as they make critical decisions, especially related to the economic situation.

■ We need to continue to be faithful to our Lord by giving our tithes and offerings regularly.

■ We need to continue to make wise decisions related to money management, realizing that we are trusting in the Lord of the universe who owns all things. Our hope is not in the stock market, CDs or anything else—except our Heavenly Father.

■ We need to look at our lifestyles as it relates to buying and spending and make adjustments to be more in line with the lifestyle that is most Christ-like.

■ We need to pay off any credit card and/or consumer debt and seek to live within our means instead of over-spending. For some this will be a difficult decision to make, but in the long term, it will be the most profitable one.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



## Living the single life gets even tougher around the holidays

**Q: It just dawned on me that Thanksgiving is here and before we know it we'll have Christmas and New Year's. How does a single person get through these family-oriented holidays with any self-esteem?**

In a 21st-century American society where roughly half of adults are unmarried, you certainly are not alone.

### SINGLES

Here are some suggestions:

- Some statewide events are targeted specifically at single adults, sometimes mixing all ages and stages of singleness. For example, Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington hosts an area-wide Single Adult Thanksgiving Celebration each year on the Monday before Thanksgiving. A dinner is served and a nationally-known entertainer is featured.

- Churches often hold concerts and drama programs during this season that are not geared toward families. Call a friend and go as buddies.

- There likely are nearby churches that have single-adult activities. Be willing to get outside your comfort zone, drive a little ways, go to a church outside your denomination and have a great time meeting new people. Most churches that have single adult ministries do not see their events as "for our group only," but understand that a successful ministry cooperates with other churches in the area.

- Some churches have Web sites for their single adult groups through MySpace or Facebook. The Internet must be used with caution, but you often can find communities there and it is an easy place to begin.

- The Apostle Paul said to young Timothy, "Let no one despise your youth." He might say today, "Let no one despise your singleness." If a church truly is exhibiting biblical hospitality, you might find that just as there is no "Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but we are all one in Christ Jesus," you might be fortunate to find a church where "there is neither married nor unmarried, intact family nor single-parent family, never married nor always married, but we are all one in Christ Jesus."—James Stillwell

**Q: What are some of the pitfalls to avoid in marriage?**

There are some danger zones to watch out for in marriage. Numerous books and articles present extensive research and methods for avoiding these problems.

### MARRIAGE

Some marriage danger zones include:

- Placing a child in a spousal role.
- Getting needs for intimacy (nurture, tenderness, companionship, sex) met outside of marriage.
- Untreated addiction.
- Enabling addictive, irresponsible or destructive behaviors.
- Over-commitment outside of marriage (work, church, volunteering, extended family, children's activities).
- Secrets.
- Judgment and criticism.
- Silence (pouting, punishing or vengeful).
- Uncontrolled anger or rage.
- Parenting your spouse.
- Neglect.

Some of these behaviors begin innocently but evolve into destructive cycles that wreak havoc in a marriage and in family life. Some lead to adultery and divorce. Sometimes we are able to see danger zones more clearly in the marriages of family members or friends, but struggle to see them in our own marriages.

It is important to recognize danger and protect the marriage from a lethal injection of these behaviors. Consider the list above and evaluate your marriage to see if there is any hint of a danger zone. Do not ignore it. Seek godly counsel, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you, rely on Christ's strength and grace, and act on all the resources God makes available to you and your spouse.—Valerie Vincent

Family Forum writers are:

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

**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.

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

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



## Hopeful questions from day at convention

While I have attended many state convention meetings and reported to congregations about such meetings, I have never written about my experiences. I use the word "experience" here because what I will share is different than a report. While a report tells what happened at the convention, an experience reflects on what is felt, sensed and heard while in attendance.

As usual, in preparation for my daily journaling or weekly messages, I found myself looking at our convention meeting against the backdrop of what is happening in our nation and world. It is difficult to read and listen to the whirlwind of what Kentucky Baptists have been doing this year without thinking about what our world has been experiencing, specifically, with the presidential election and a worldwide financial crisis.

Being a history major in college, it is not surprising that I am overwhelmed by the historical nature of these recent events. Therefore, let me offer some hopeful questions from my day at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting against the backdrop of these historical moments.

No matter how you voted, this year's presidential election made an incredible statement about racial issues. Remember, it was Iowa that gave Senator Barack Obama his first victory in the Democratic primary. Iowa's population is 91 percent Anglo, 2 percent African-American. According to ABC News, only 11 percent of the voting public considered race to be an issue. Our nation is more inclusive than ever, which leads to an obvious question: As Kentucky Baptists, are we more inclusive?

The answer: Yes. Evidence: Campbellsville University has record enrollment, including 230 students from 34 different countries. Evidence: We have a new missions partnership with the people of Tanzania.

This election also was impacted by the involvement of first-time, young voters, and newer, creative communication. This led to greater participation and ultimately, a stronger democracy. Today our nation is more engaged leading to another question: As Kentucky Baptists, are we actively engaged in our world?

## How will your children remember you?

By Tim Ellsworth

**Jackson, Tenn. (BP)**—An unusual obituary ran in a California newspaper in August. It was an obit for 79-year-old Delores Aguilar in the

Times-Herald of Vallejo, Calif., written by her daughter Virginia Brown. "Delores had no hobbies, made no contribution to society and rarely shared a kind word or deed in her life," Brown wrote about her mother. "I speak for the majority of her family when I say her presence will not be missed by many, very few tears will be shed and there will be no lamenting over her passing."

A columnist from another local paper, John Bogert of the Torrance (Calif.) Daily Breeze, went searching to determine if the obit was legitimate or a hoax. Sadly, he verified its authenticity and even spoke to Brown about why she wrote what she did.

"I wanted to do the right thing, the honest thing," Brown told Bogert. "When she died, a co-worker gave me a copy of an obituary she wrote for her father as a kind of writing guide. What struck me was how my mother was none of the things I was reading. She was never there for us, she was never good and she left no legacy."

The other day I picked up a copy of the book "A Nickel's Worth of Skim Milk," by Bob Hastings. Hast-

ings was a Baptist minister and served for several years as editor of the Illinois Baptist newspaper. The book is the story of him as a boy, growing up in Southern Illinois.

My childhood experiences differed considerably from Hastings'. He was a child of the Great Depression. I was a child of the '80s.

Still, there's something warm about reading the stories of others as they were growing up—especially if the memories they are sharing are fond ones. While reading his book, I delighted to experience the accounts Hastings told of his boyhood. His parents made life happy for him, despite the tough economic circumstances.

Some of his stories made me smile. He recalled how at Christmas every year, his father would kill a chicken. His mom would dress it and dry it, and then they wrapped the bird up securely and packaged it in a box. His dad then took the chicken to the post office and mailed it to Hastings' sister in St. Louis.

"We sent what we could, and I always sensed that the package was tied by cords of love," Hastings wrote.

Reading Hastings' childhood stories made me appreciate the fact that over the next few years, I'll be largely responsible for the memories my own children will be mak-

The answer: Yes. Evidence: Baptist Campus Ministry contacted almost 50,000 students this past year. A unique school like Oneida Baptist Institute is helping students in grades 6-12 and Sunrise Children Services is providing homes for more than 400 children.

This election also will be remembered by the unforgettable efforts of a heroic soldier and political servant in our nation's history. Let's be honest, in a climate where only 9 percent of Americans believe the country is headed in the right direction, and where the economic crisis casts increased doubt on the current administration, Senator John McCain received 47 percent of American voters' support. Today our nation is more grateful for its heroes, which leads to yet another obvious question: As Kentucky Baptists, do we live in gratitude to the heroes of our past?

The answer: Yes. Evidence: We exceeded all previous records in Cooperative Program giving and in all three of our designated missions offerings, named for heroes of our past.

Finally, this financial crisis has equally stirred our sense of history and panic about the Great Depression. With daily news of financial failure, fear is running rampant and blame is offered in daily doses.

Management guru, Patrick Lencioni, has the clarifying word on this blame game. He recently blogged, "The real culprit here, in my opinion, has nothing to do with economics or regulations or finance. It is about the desire of leaders to avoid interpersonal discomfort." In other words, the real culprit is avoidance. He believes that too few people have the courage and clarity to stand up at the right time and say what needs to be said. Today our nation is choosing to avoid the truth, which leads to the final, obvious question: As Kentucky Baptists, are we facing the truth?

The answer: Yes. Evidence: We faced the overwhelming truth that 2.7 million Kentuckians presently are without Christ, and we hopefully are haunted by the question, "Will we choose to stand up now and say what needs to be said?"

Dan Francis is interim pastor at Harrodsburg Baptist Church

ing. Those memories will accompany them throughout their lives.

Will the thoughts they conjure up 50 years from now be recollections that make them smile? I'm fairly confident their memories will never be as bitter as Brown's are of her mother. But am I doing all I can to brighten their days and fill their lives with joy?

Too often I find myself tempted to shortchange my children to pursue my own selfish interests. Rather than playing with my son, it's easier for me to plop down and watch a ballgame. Rather than reading a Winnie the Pooh book to my daughter for the 52nd time, it's easier for me to piddle around on the computer—doing stuff that I'd like to think is important.

As sad as Delores Aguilar's obituary is, and as extreme of an example as it is, it's a potent reminder nonetheless for those of us who are parents. What will our children say about us when we're gone?

May my children never be tempted to say about me what Brown said about her mother at the obituary's end: "There will be no service, no prayers and no closure for the family she spent a lifetime tearing apart. We cannot come together in the end to see to it that her grandchildren and great-grandchildren can say their goodbyes. So I say here for all of us, Good Bye, Mom."

Tim Ellsworth is director of news and media relations at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Dan Francis



✱

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**CP HONORS** Awards of appreciation in recognition of Cooperative Program giving wait to be handed out to Kentucky Baptist churches at last week's KBC annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. (KBC photo by Juan Maclean)

## Cooperative Program leaders recognized at annual meeting

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Kentucky Baptists honored two individuals and several churches for outstanding leadership and support of the Cooperative Program during a special celebration at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Lexington.

Anna White and James Jones each received the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award for their support of the Cooperative Program.

A lifelong missions educator, White has served in a variety of positions with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. She served in local churches as WMU director for nearly 40 years and as Girls in Action director for nearly 15 years. White also served Elkhorn Baptist Association for three terms as WMU director and for two terms as Baptist Women director.

In addition to her involvement with Kentucky WMU, White also has served for 14 years on the board of trustees for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Elkhorn Association named the Anna White Missionary Residence building and established a college scholarship in White's honor.

"Anna White represents the impact that missions education can have on the Cooperative Program," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "She has invested a lifetime of service through her commitment to WMU and to supporting ministries and missions funded by Cooperative Program dollars."

Throughout his 54-year ministry career, Jones has served in churches in Alabama, Indiana and Kentucky. Currently serving as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville, he also is a KBC Mission Board member and serves on the KBC's Committee for Public Affairs.

Over the years, Jones has served in various leadership positions for several Kentucky Baptist associations, the KBC and the Southern Baptist Convention. He also was KBC president in 1988-89.

He holds degrees from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and currently serves as special assistant for church relations at Campbellsville

University.

"James Jones has invested in the Cooperative Program through his words and by his actions," Compton noted. "As a pastor, he has led others to pray for and give through the Cooperative Program. As a leader in Kentucky Baptist Convention life, he has encouraged others to be strong supporters of our Cooperative Program ministries and mission causes."

The selection committee for the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award each year is comprised of the current and immediate past three KBC presidents, as well as a Kentucky WMU representative.

Churches celebrating significant milestones in Cooperative Program giving also were recognized.

Six churches were honored as top givers to the Cooperative Program. Three were recognized for total dollars given in 2007: Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, which gave \$436,102.05; Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, \$349,131.24; and First Baptist Church of Owensboro, \$273,402.31.

Three were recognized as the top per capita givers, including: Paducah Korean Baptist Church, whose 10 members gave a total of \$4,247.99, or \$424.80 per member; Riverview Baptist Church in Catlettsburg, whose six members gave \$1,796.11, or \$299.35 per member; and Journey Church in Union, whose 39 members gave \$9,680.00, or \$248.21 per member.

Churches reaching significant cumulative giving milestones in the 2007-08 budget year also were recognized.

Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton and First Baptist Church of Shelbyville both were honored for giving \$3 million through the Cooperative Program.

Four churches were honored for giving \$2 million, including Burlington Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Greenville, First Baptist Church of Pikeville, and LaGrange Baptist Church.

Four churches were honored for giving \$1 million, including Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg, and Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Gift of a lifetime

Debunking the myths about charitable bequest donors

Among the myths we constantly have to demythologize is that most charitable bequest donors are wealthy people acting out of a desire to reduce or eliminate estate taxes. Statistics indicate that 97 percent of charitable bequests and a significant percentage of charitable bequest dollars are realized from estates of lower-and-middle-income people who were motivated to make their "gift of a lifetime" by factors not driven in any way by estate-tax planning considerations. Instead their primary motivations involved charitable intent toward the organization(s) to which the bequests were directed.

Another myth we demythologize is the myth that the typical bequest donor is seeking recognition and will notify a charitable beneficiary in advance to assure he or she is recognized.

The truth is a relatively small percentage of people who make a charitable bequest contact the organization in advance. There is nothing wrong with notifying the charity in advance and, in fact, all charitable organizations would appreciate it, whether or not any for-

mal, public recognition is desired. The point is, most people do not do that.

For us Christians, making the "gift of a lifetime" through a charitable bequest in a will, a revocable living trust and/or a beneficiary designation may be the most important act of stewardship we shall ever perform. The size of the gift is not the issue; it's the size of the sacrifice. It's not the amount, but the proportion that matters in God's sight, and our motivation should be to honor the Lord, to express gratitude to Him and to advance His Kingdom through the mission of one or more of the Christian causes nearest and dearest to our hearts—including our churches.

To the extent that we at the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can assist you in making sure your "gift of a lifetime" is properly documented and administered, please give us that privilege. Call KBF Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine or me toll free.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

- 1 Father, by another name
- 5 Possesses
- 9 "Why make ye this \_\_\_\_, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- 12 Idol worshiped
- 13 "How beautiful are the \_\_\_\_ of them that preach the gospel" (Romans 10:15)
- 14 Receptacle
- 15 Summers on the Seine
- 16 "Lest he \_\_\_\_ my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces" (Psalm 7:2)
- 17 Shakespearean sonnet, perhaps
- 18 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the \_\_\_\_ of grace" (Hebrews 4:16)
- 20 "The spirit truly is \_\_\_\_, but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38)
- 22 School subj.
- 24 "Therefore if thine \_\_\_\_ hunger, feed him" (Romans 12:20)
- 26 Stern, nautically speaking
- 28 Tennis call
- 30 \_\_\_\_ of the Chaldees
- 31 Simon \_\_\_\_-Jona
- 32 Preposition
- 33 Sibling, for short
- 35 "\_\_\_\_ will not forsake thee" (Deuteronomy 4:31)
- 36 "Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 10:21)
- 38 Big \_\_\_\_
- 39 "For his \_\_\_\_ endureth but a moment" (Psalm 30:5)
- 41 Biblical exclamation
- 43 The witch of \_\_\_\_ (visited by Saul)
- 45 Prophet of God who convicted David of his sin

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57								58			59			

- 50 Organization similar to 4-H (abbr.)
- 51 Hardy cabbage
- 53 Vigorous
- 54 Brand name to "dye" for
- 55 "Feed me ... for I am faint: therefore was his name called \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 25:30)
- 56 Feminine name
- 57 \_\_\_\_ a girl!
- 58 Like most gossips
- 59 Sea mammal

- 23 "The \_\_\_\_ of the Lord shone round about them" (Luke 2:9)
- 25 Part of a century (abbr.)
- 26 Twelve-step group (abbr.)
- 27 "For he that is dead is \_\_\_\_ from sin" (Romans 6:7)
- 29 Sound of hesitation
- 31 "They are faithful and beloved, partakers of the \_\_\_\_" (1 Timothy 6:2)
- 32 Iron (abbr.)
- 33 "\_\_\_\_ habla Espanol"
- 34 Preposition
- 35 Laughing syllable
- 37 "The sacrifices of God are a \_\_\_\_ spirit" (Psalm 51:17)
- 38 Sheep's comment
- 40 Irritating insects
- 42 "Thou hast been ... a strong tower from the \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 61:3)
- 44 Famed watchmaker
- 46 "\_\_\_\_ same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven" (Acts 1:11)
- 47 Tortoise's tormentor
- 48 Egyptian dancing girl
- 49 Actress Patricia
- 50 Day of the wk.
- 52 \_\_\_\_ Alamos

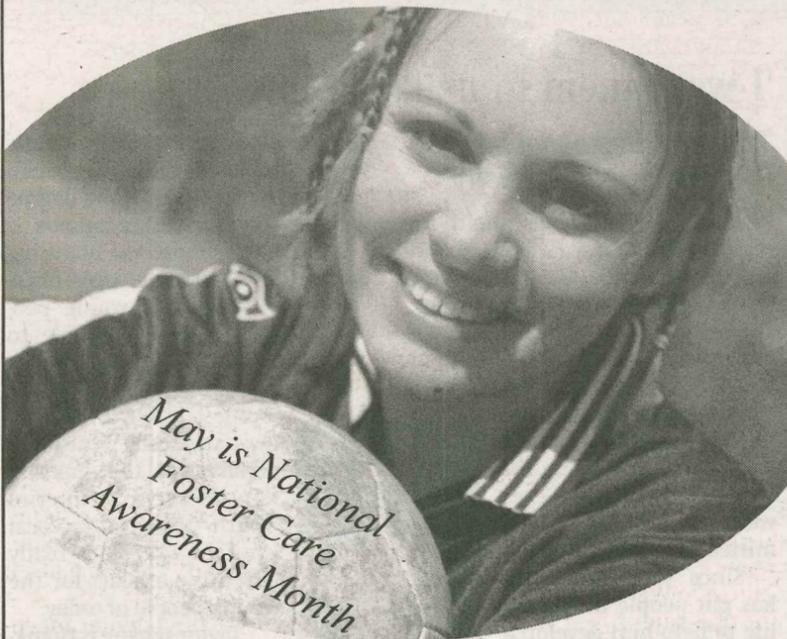
Down

- 1 Aid in wrongdoing
- 2 Noted hot springs locale
- 3 TV's "Beverly Hillbillies" actor
- 4 Besides
- 5 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem ... how \_\_\_\_ would I have gathered thy children" (Matthew 23:37)
- 6 Tiny
- 7 Not too far away
- 8 "Arise, and go into the \_\_\_\_ which is called Straight" (Acts 9:11)
- 9 Dwelling
- 10 Greek form of Thomas
- 11 Bill of currency
- 19 Take-home pay
- 21 Article

Last week's solution

1	C	A	D		4	D	O	R		7	I	R	A	D			
11	A	R	I	B		13	E	V	E		14	M	O	L	E		
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## Mohler elected to preach 2009 KBC sermon

Lexington—Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was elected to preach the 2009 convention sermon at next year's KBC annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Messengers approved Chuck Lawless, dean of Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, as the alternate to preach the annual sermon.

Southern Seminary will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2009.

## AGENCY REPORTS

**Campbellsville University.** Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University, told Kentucky Baptists that the college was a "proud participant" in the recent Rick Gage Go Tell Taylor County/Campbellsville Crusade. An estimated 600 people made spiritual decisions, including about 150 Campbellsville students who made first-time professions of faith in Christ. This year, U.S. News & World Report ranked the school 22nd among the best baccalaureate colleges in the South. Campbellsville continues to improve its facilities, Carter noted. The new gymnasium is nearing completion and work will begin soon on the new College of Education building.

**Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.** Donnie Fox, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, mentioned several "returns" Kentucky Baptists are receiving on their investments in the Pineville school. Last year, students presented the gospel 5,000 times and held 2,000 Bible classes with 864 people making professions of faith in Christ. Clear Creek now offers a complete bachelor's degree online that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Fox said he hopes particularly that bivocational pastors find the new initiative helpful. A current building project is underway to convert single-student housing to three-bedroom apartments for families.

**Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.** God continues to reach students through Kentucky Baptist camps and retreats according to Kentucky Baptist Assemblies President David Melber. Through Crossings Camps at both Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, God is using Kentucky Baptists to reach students with the gospel through Cooperative Program giving, prayer and faith, Melber noted. With missions offerings taken at the camps each summer, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies has sent more than 20,000 students to a camp in Moldova. The offerings also go to sponsor nearly 150 orphans in Kitwe, Zambia. Mel-

ber pointed out that the number of people who have accepted Christ in the last 10 years through Assemblies ministries would fill the Immanuel Baptist Church sanctuary six times over.

**Kentucky Baptist Foundation.** A great opportunity exists to influence the world with the gospel during a transfer of wealth that already has begun, Barry Allen, president and CEO of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, told messengers at last week's KBC annual meeting. This \$41 trillion in wealth consists of a variety of assets, noted Allen, whose Power Point presentation reviewed services the foundation offers. Among them are no-cost estate planning, setting up endowments to fund scholarships, education funds, and gift annuities that provide resources for future generations.

**Oneida Baptist Institute.** Two Chinese students are among those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior this year at Oneida Baptist Institute, according to President W.F. "Bud" Underwood, reflecting the convention's theme, "Sharing Christ with Urgency." During a dramatic sketch from four Oneida students, they reminded messengers that students attend chapel daily and church twice on Sunday and must complete a Bible class to graduate. The OBI choir also performed three songs prior to Underwood's report.

**University of the Cumberland.** Rick Fleenor, assistant to University of the Cumberland's President Jim Taylor, reported that the school is enjoying record enrollment and that with the addition of the doctorate of education degree, Cumberland is the first KBC-affiliated school to offer students a doctoral program. Cumberland was ranked No. 24 among baccalaureate colleges in the South by U.S. News and World Report, and was listed on the John Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges. Fleenor said a \$20-million science building and a \$5.5-million residence hall also

are under construction. In missions, Cumberland hosted Kentucky Changers last summer and continues to share Christ and meet physical needs through its Mountain Outreach ministry.

**Western Recorder.** Tom Townsend, marketing and business manager for the Western Recorder, described the newspaper as a partner with Kentucky Baptists in presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ. Approximately 30,000 homes and churches receive the publication each week. Recorder staff received five awards from Baptist Communicators Association this year. A committee comprised of members of the entity's board of directors continues the search for a new editor following the departure of Trennis Henderson last March.

**Woman's Missionary Union.** Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, thanked Kentucky Baptists for giving more money than ever to state missions last year through the Eliza Broadus Offering—more than \$1.1 million. Funds received beyond the budget were used for evangelistic efforts across the state, she noted. Reporting that gifts are down slightly for this year's offering compared to last year, Bolton said that some of the nation's worst economic news coincided with the state missions emphasis in September, and reminded messengers that gifts for this year's EBO can be made until Aug. 31, 2009. In addition, Kentucky WMU's Baptist Nursing Fellowship will be featured in the January edition of "Missions Mosaic" magazine. Kentucky WMU also will host leaders from across the country at the national WMU annual meeting in Louisville June 2009. Bolton encouraged pastors to "be an encourager to your WMU," noting that churches with WMU organizations give sometimes up to twice as much support to the Cooperative Program and international, North American and state missions than congregations without WMU.

## Oneida's four-fold ministry, part 2

### Oneida's student work program gives students real workplace experience

During the past several decades, America's attitude toward work has changed. At one time it was considered commendable for a teenager to have an after-school job, even if for only a few hours a week. Many of America's young people would be better off today if they had some after-school and weekend responsibilities.

Work ethic never has outlived its usefulness at Oneida. Admittedly, there was a time when we simply had no other choice. If our students had not helped raise our food and clean our buildings, our school would not have survived. At times our farm was not able to raise enough beef and pork to meet our school's dietary needs. We either had to purchase additional meat or we simply did without.

One of my fondest memories of Oneida was eating fried chicken every Sunday. We did not have much meat during the week, but we knew we always were going to have the best fried chicken in the world on Sundays.

When new students arrive at OBI, they often are a little uneasy about some things. Attending chapel every school day and worship twice on Sundays can be intimidating to a student who has rarely or never attended worship. Having no access to malls or cinemas nor being able to ride around the block with buddies is a much different environment than home.

Then there is the student work program. Working to earn part of their room and board can be very difficult for students to understand.

Oneida always has held to the philosophy that students should be accountable for themselves,

including cleaning up after themselves. We soon will begin our 110th year. In all that time, OBI has never employed a custodian. We have 15 major buildings, but our students clean every one with adult supervision. We confess that a middle-school or high-school student may not always be as efficient as an adult. But we can deal with a little dust and a few missed cobwebs if our students are learning the importance of accountability.

I am sure it will not come as a surprise to anyone that when students know they have to clean up their messes, they make fewer and smaller ones. But learning a good work ethic is more than simply cleaning up your messes. Students are taught the importance of getting to work on time. Being late is not acceptable here and will not be acceptable in most workplaces. Students learn to do the jobs they are asked to do, never mind that it may be a job they don't want to do.

In the real world, we often have to work with people who make our work environment uncomfortable and unpleasant. Learning to adjust to those situations helps make one successful.

Finally, we teach our students that they must follow the instructions of the person in charge. It may be a person you do not care for and one who may not always be fair, but someone has to be in charge. We are not suggesting that a student should have to submit to being abused or mistreated, but learning respect for authority in the workplace is important. We are proud to teach our students that happiness and satisfaction can be found in work.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## 'I want them to make an impact'

### Taylor excited about his call to serve in youth ministry

Frank Taylor knows about the responsibility and importance of a godly influence. "I came to know Jesus Christ as my Savior through the influence of a girlfriend who took me to a youth meeting in Charlotte, N.C.," Taylor recalled. "The Holy Spirit convicted me during that service and I knew I was not living for the Lord. My spiritual eyes were opened and I committed my life to Christ."

Since that time God has put people in Frank's life to help him develop a passion for being an influence on young people. "My youth pastor had a great impact on me. ... I remember how loving he was and how he had a heart for seeing us grow spiritually," Taylor said. "I hope to convey that same message to kids wherever God places me. I want those young people to know that I love them and that it is important to me to see them grow in the Lord. I want them to make an impact."

While this is Frank's first semester at Clear Creek, academically he already is a junior. He completed an associate degree from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in North Carolina. Clear Creek has an agreement with Fruitland to transfer most of a

student's two years of academic work completed there. They can then finish their bachelor's degree within two years on our campus.

"God has provided me many opportunities to gain valuable experience working with young people," Taylor said. "I was able to work with junior high students in Sunday school and AWANA in my home church. ... While I was attending Fruitland, I was given the opportunity to serve as interim youth pastor at a local church. God has really given me a heart for the young people of today."

Taylor said he is thankful for Clear Creek to continue his preparation for God's calling on his life. "I love Clear Creek," he noted. "I know people here truly love the Lord and they love my family. A few weeks ago, my wife experienced a problem with (the) ... pregnancy of our third child. Six of the ladies on campus came to our house and prayed with my wife and bought our dinner. That just shows the love of Christ that radiates through this school."

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

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

## KBC resolutions address abortion, economy

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Lexington**—A pair of issues closely tied to President-elect Barack Obama received attention in a pair of resolutions adopted by Kentucky Baptist messengers last week.

Protecting the sanctity of life and helping families deal with the struggling U.S. economy were the two main topics addressed. Obama, a pro-choice candidate, was elected Nov. 4 largely on Americans' hopes that he can bring the country out of recession.

Recognizing that "Holy Scripture reveals that all human life is created in the image of God" and that an "unborn baby is a person bearing the image of God from the moment of conception," the anti-abortion resolution urges Kentucky Baptist churches "to remain vigilant in the protection of human life by preaching the whole counsel of God."

The resolution even addresses the president-elect specifically, petitioning him and other federal and state

government officials "to work to legally protect the lives of all innocent American citizens, including those of the unborn."

It also decries the efforts of some church leaders in the United States to convince others to "move beyond the abortion discussion," relegating it to the background.

The resolution urges Kentucky Baptists to "pray and work for the repeal" of Roe vs. Wade, the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion; to support pro-adoption legislation; and to pray for "the day when the act of abortion will not be not only illegal, but also unthinkable."

Messengers also adopted a resolution calling on Kentucky Baptists to continue to "support the gospel advance through tithes and offerings" even during times of economic hardship.

With Kentucky families struggling "with economic challenges ranging from rising fuel costs and plummeting retirement invest-

ments to unemployment and even the loss of homes," the resolution urges Kentucky Baptist churches to pray for those who struggle.

It goes on to instruct churches to care for the poor in their communities. It also encourages leaders to "disciple believers in wise financial stewardship," teaching "personal responsibility in such areas as credit and other forms of debt."

Messengers adopted three additional resolutions, including one encouraging KBC churches to participate in Crossover Louisville next year prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting; and a measure intended to help develop young leaders within the convention.

That resolution states: "These young ministers and missionaries will be the future leaders of our churches, institutions, associations" and the KBC and SBC. It challenges "all ministers with experience" to seek and mentor young denominational leaders.

## CONVENTION NOTES

**Cross Over Kentucky.** Ross Bauscher, Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism team leader, said four area Baptist associations worked together at this year's Cross Over Kentucky to distribute blankets, Bibles, study materials and help local congregations get to know their neighborhoods better by hosting a block party and completing door-to-door surveys. Hundreds of volunteers from churches in Elkhorn, Franklin, Tates Creek and Boone's Creek associations participated in the evangelistic event. Kentucky Baptists were encouraged to participate in another Crossover event coming to the state next year. Prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June 2009, volunteers will converge on the Louisville area to share Christ and assist local congregations through an array of projects.

**Future KBC meeting sites.** Messengers to last week's KBC annual meeting approved a recommendation to hold the 2011 annual meeting at Florence Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky. Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green previously had been approved to host the annual meeting that year, but because of a church relocation project, it asked to be removed from consideration. The 2009 annual meeting will be held Nov. 10 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The 2010 annual meeting will be held Nov. 16 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

**North American Mission Board.** Disaster relief is one of the most visible ministries of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and represents the nation's third-largest disaster relief organization, according to retired KBC disaster relief coordinator Larry Koch. "It gives us a positive image across the nation ... as we try to help people," he said. "There are people everywhere who need to know that God loves them." In addition, NAMB has a force of nearly 3,000 chaplains, who recorded nearly 10,000 professions of faith over the past year, Koch pointed out.

**International Mission Board.** Speaking on behalf of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, Chuck Lawless found it easy to reinforce the annual meeting's theme to "Share Christ with Urgency." The dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville recalled an overseas visit where he spoke with the keepers of a shrine to a local holy man. He asked the people if they thought the holy man now was in heaven. "They said they didn't know, but they hoped that he lived a good enough life that God will receive him," Lawless said. A growing world religion that offers no assurance of salvation for its believers is a strong sign of urgency to share the gospel, he noted, adding that an estimated 1.6 billion people worldwide have no access to the story of Jesus. A consultant in global theological education for the mission board, Lawless said the IMB's 5,500 missionaries reported 609,000 baptisms of new believers last year, and 25,000 new churches were started.

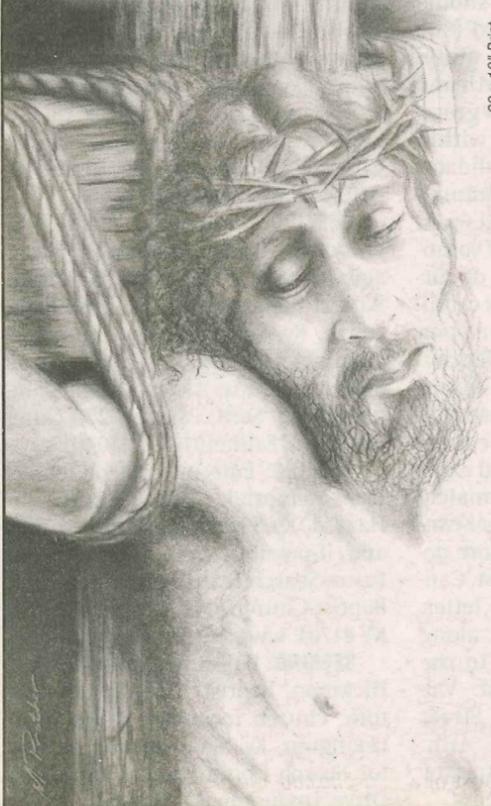
**KBC partnership missions.** At last week's annual meeting, Kentucky Baptists marked the end of a 13-year formal partnership with Baptist Convention of New England. Jim Wideman, executive director of the New England convention estimated that half of Kentucky's Directors of Missions he spoke with at a dinner the previous evening reported that churches or individuals from their areas had been on mission in New England over the past 13 years. Kentucky Baptists have entered a new formal ministry partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

## Convention messengers honor military veterans



**HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED**  
Tom Curry, pastor of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville and a chaplain with the Kentucky Air National Guard, leads Kentucky Baptists in a time of prayer during the morning session of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. The event was held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. About 40 wartime veterans stood as Curry mentioned conflicts from World War II to the current War on Terror. "The very reason we have the freedom to be here and conduct the business (of the convention) is because of the sacrifices of men and women," noted outgoing KBC president Bill Henard. The recognition took place just prior to 11 a.m., the specified time for Veterans Day observances, commemorating the end of World War I in 1918. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

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## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following requests associated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions efforts:

■ Pray for Paulo Paiva, a Brazilian church planter working with the Maryland/Delaware Baptist Association to start new churches among the 3,000 Brazilians in the area.

■ Pray that God will call Kentucky Baptists to respond to the numerous missions project requests associated with the KBC-Maryland/Delaware partnership.

■ Pray for those KBC churches and associations that are forming missions partnerships, both at home and abroad.

■ Pray for KBC partnership missions staff members Scott Pittman, Mary Livingston and George Chinn, and that God would give them wisdom in doing their work.

■ Give thanks to God for those who have given of themselves to go and serve as KBC partnership missions volunteers.

For more information about partnership missions opportunities, contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI  
COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEREA**—Galilee Church will hold revival services Nov. 19-23 with **Don McWhorter**, pastor of Broadway Church in Richmond, as evangelist. **Mike Hetrick** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's School of Music will present a full production of the comic opera "Die Fledermaus" Nov. 22 & 24, 8 p.m. A concert version will be performed Nov. 23, 3 p.m. Each performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call (270) 789-5237.

■ **DIXON**—Harmony Church recently called **Sammy Newberry** as pastor and ordained him to the gospel ministry Nov. 2.

■ **FRENCHBURG**—Frenchburg Church recently called **Mike Butler** as pastor.

■ **HICKORY**—Hickory Church recently ordained **Glyn Price** as a deacon. **C.W. Barnhill** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host its annual Central Kentucky Area-Wide Single Adult Thanksgiving Celebration Nov. 24, 6:30 p.m. The event includes a Thanksgiving dinner and entertainment from **Carl Hurley**, "America's Funniest Professor." The cost is \$15 per person and is open to single adults of all ages. For more information, call (859) 685-3200.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bashford Manor Church recently called **Robert Shaw** as pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Reid Village

## Spotlight on ...

## Cadiz



Canton Church will hold revival services Nov. 21-23 with **Don Pierson** as evangelist. The church also will host a marriage retreat Nov. 22, 8:30 a.m., led by Pierson. For more information, call (270) 924-5227. **Paul Cannon** is pastor.

Church recently called **Shad Tibbs** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Pleasant Home Church in Glencoe.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Clear Creek Church recently called **Billy Long** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Highland Church recently called **Bobby Cotton** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Victory Church in Providence.

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

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Patterson Creek Church recently called **Gary Lovitt** as pastor.

■ **CORRECTION**—An article in the Nov. 4 issue contained an error about **Aubert Rose**. Rose previously was interim pastor at Higher Ground Church in Wingo and now is retired.

## Mission Board approves CP budget goal, recognizes Mackey's service

By **Krisite Randolph**  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Lexington**—The Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board approved a recommendation for a total budget goal of \$25,780,000 for 2009-2010 during its Nov. 10 meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, held in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting.

The mission board also recognized **Bill Mackey** for 10 years of service as executive director for the KBC.

The budget recommendation approved by mission board members was a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$24,480,000 for the 2009-10 fiscal year with a \$1.3 million challenge goal.

The Cooperative Program is the plan Southern Baptists use to fund missions causes at the state, national and international levels. The program provides foundational support for international and North American missionaries; state convention mission work; training and other help for local churches; Baptist organizations; and more.

The board also approved a recommendation to allocate 37.32 percent of CP funds to Southern Baptist Convention causes, an increase of 0.28 percent over 2008-09.

The recommendations were approved by KBC messengers the following day.

Following the budget recommendation, outgoing KBC President **Bill Henard** recognized KBC Executive Director **Mackey** for his decade of service to the convention.



**A DECADE OF SERVICE** *Bill Mackey addresses Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board members during last week's meeting in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting in Lexington. Mackey was recognized for his 10 years as KBC Executive Director. (KBC photo by Kristie Randolph)*

"There are certain individuals who you can say are truly God's man for that time. I believe that is a statement that is true about Dr. **Bill Mackey**," **Henard** told Mission Board members. "He has done an incredible job and we appreciate his work for the cause of Kentucky Baptists and for the cause of the Kingdom of God."

Mackey joined the KBC in February of 1998. He is responsible for providing leadership to the KBC's mission board staff.

"None of this is possible without the response from the local churches," Mackey said. "That's why we do what we do—to strengthen local churches and see them grow."

The next mission board meeting will be held Dec. 8-9 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December

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

## January 2009

15-17 Shepherding the Shepherd, Lexington Downtown Hotel & Conference Center.

22 Pastor/Staff Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

23-24 Region 1 Disaster Relief Recertification and Training, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

28-31 Southeast Conclave, Atlanta.

30-31 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

**SEEKING:** Call center operators, Winchester, Ky. Eight weeks training provided. Call Keypeople, (713) 877-1427. Send resumé to [keykdr@aol.com](mailto:keykdr@aol.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Second Twelve Mile Baptist. Preaches from the Bible; willing to work with all ages; build a youth program, community and hospital visitation; mission-minded. Please send resumé, tape/DVD to Scott Horn, 14007 Hwy 10, Butler, KY 41006; e-mail [kybigtrack@aol.com](mailto:kybigtrack@aol.com).

**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](http://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](mailto:studentpastorsearch@valleyviewchurch.org).

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

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for 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.

# Covering the Bluegrass

*Evangelism efforts share faith while modeling outreach*

By David Winfrey  
State Correspondent

Lexington—Blankets, Bibles and blessings were the order of the day during the recent Cross Over Bluegrass 2008 evangelism emphasis.

Several people were reported to have made professions of faith in Jesus as their personal Savior during the event, hosted by four Baptist associations the weekend before the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Organizers said the evangelism emphasis is designed both to share the gospel message with non-Christians as well as energize congregations to go beyond their church walls.

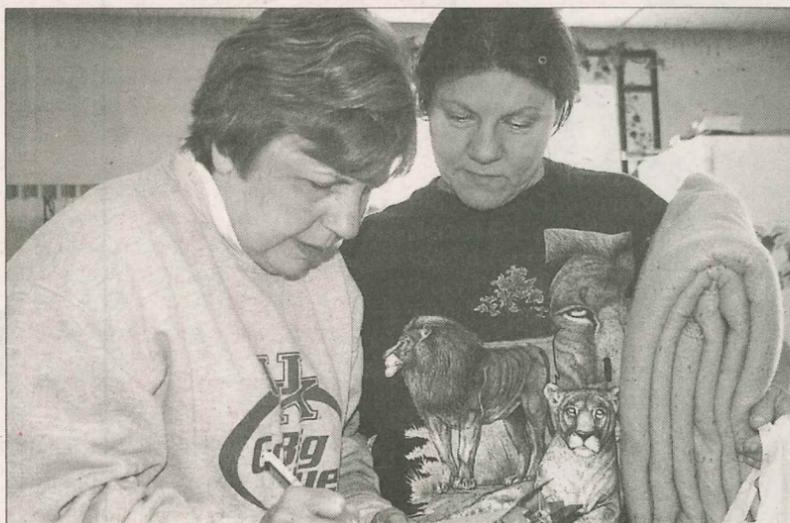
The event expanded beyond Lexington to Berea, Frankfort, Richmond and Winchester. Projects ranged from door-to-door visits and prayerwalks to revivals and service projects.

"The broad stroke for us is to connect as many people as possible with Christ. And we're doing that through various means," noted Ray Van Camp, director of church planting and development for Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington. One initiative of Cross Over was "Covering the Bluegrass," a ministry to give blankets to needy families. In Lexington, the association planned to distribute approximately 800 blankets at seven sites.

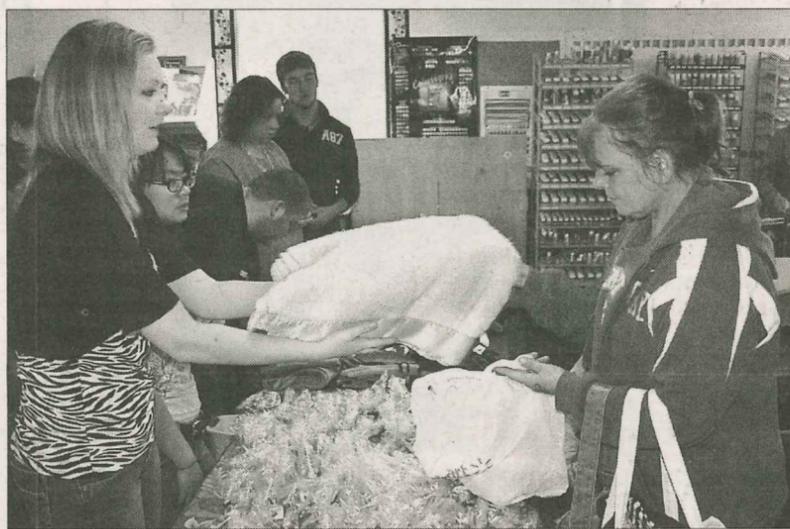
The Cross Over evangelism emphasis is held before each Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in and around the host city. In addition to sharing the love of Christ, organizers said they hope Cross Over will mobilize churches to be more evangelistic, according to Ross Bauscher, leader of the KBC's evangelism team.

"The primary goal is really seeing the associations activate their churches to get out in the community," he noted. "Rather than just being holy huddles."

Events such as Cross Over expose church leaders and laypeople to a variety of outreach methods, he added. "There are many, many different



**BLANKETING WITH PRAYER** Linda Lee (left), a member of Grace Baptist Church in Lexington, takes a prayer request from Letha Jones. Members of churches in Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington distributed hundreds of blankets as part of Cross Over Bluegrass '08, an evangelistic emphasis held each year prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. (Photos by David Winfrey)



**MISSION TRIP MOMENT** Kendra Kidd, a member of Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, offers a blanket to Karen Mitchell of Lexington. The church brought nine youth to Cross Over and used some of its missions funds to purchase hats, socks and gloves to give away.

ways you can share the gospel."

As with the blanket initiative, many of those ways to share the gospel involved service projects. In Richmond, volunteers from churches in Tates Creek Baptist Association helped renovate a house. Volunteers in that area also distributed DVDs telling the story of Jesus.

Jimmy Closterman, pastor of Faith Decision Baptist Church in Paint Lick, said the efforts might result in prospects for churches, "but that's secondary to the main goal of

sharing Jesus."

The ultimate results from the weekend's work isn't yet known, he added, noting that follow-up will maximize their efforts.

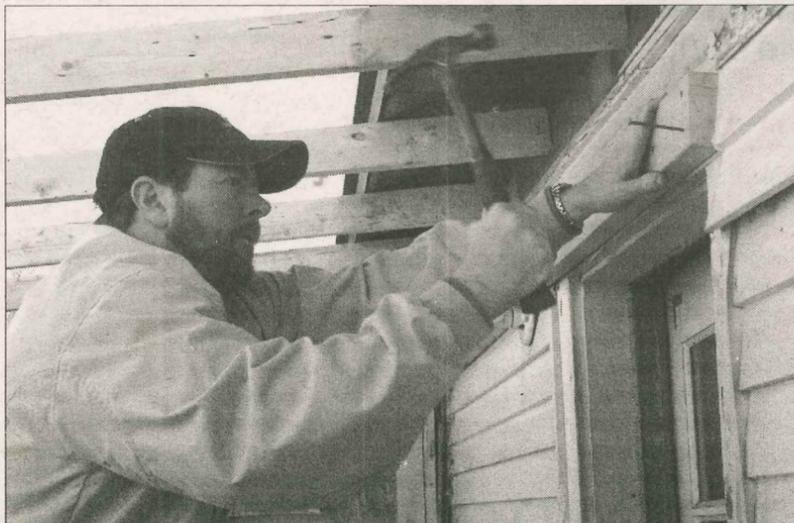
In Lexington's Irishtown community, churches hosted a parenting seminar in addition to a prayerwalk, "Jesus" film DVD distribution and a three-day revival.

Van Camp noted that some congregations demonstrated care for their communities by surveying local residents, asking about area needs.

While the focus is on the community, Van Camp pointed out that there are additional benefits to getting members involved in activities outside their church walls. "We try to help the churches understand that this will help the people in the churches better understand their mission."

Members of congregations at Frankfort's Franklin Baptist Association and Winchester's Boone's Creek Baptist Association were planning door-to-door visits and follow-up from previous missions activities, Bauscher noted.

Van Camp listed the threefold benefit that occurs with projects like Cross Over: Churches better connect to their communities; individuals are blessed to be in ministry; and lives are touched. "Everybody wins," he said.



**HAMMERS AND HEARTS** Gil Hunter, a member of Faith Decision Baptist Church in Paint Lick, hammers framing for a covered porch at a home in Richmond. Members of churches in Tates Creek Baptist Association have been working to renovate the home for several months.

## Cross Over highlights Irishtown ministry

By David Winfrey  
State Correspondent

Lexington—A five-minute walk from historic Rupp Arena sits a community where children face longer odds than a half-court jump shot.

Less than 1 percent of children living in the Irishtown community graduate from high school, according to missionary Pam Pyle. "Most of them drop out around sixth grade."



Pam Pyle

The recent Cross Over Bluegrass '08 highlighted the work of the Irishtown Baptist Mission. The mission houses a ministry that has been serving the 10-block neighborhood for approximately 150 years.

Recently, churches organized a prayerwalk, "Jesus" film DVD distribution, parenting seminar and a three-day revival.

The community got its name when it was settled by potato farmers fleeing famine in their homeland, Pyle explained. She has served in Irishtown since 2000, but her ministry extends to her student years at the University of Kentucky when the Baptist Student Union would serve at the center tutoring children.

The mission center offers a variety of ministries throughout the week to the low-income residents. Churches take turns leading a Sunday afternoon worship service. On Mondays, volunteers serve approximately 100 lunches and open a clothes closet that gets an average of 15 visitors.

Monday night, area youth attend a Bible study, and on Tuesdays volunteers lead a "Read to Succeed" program.

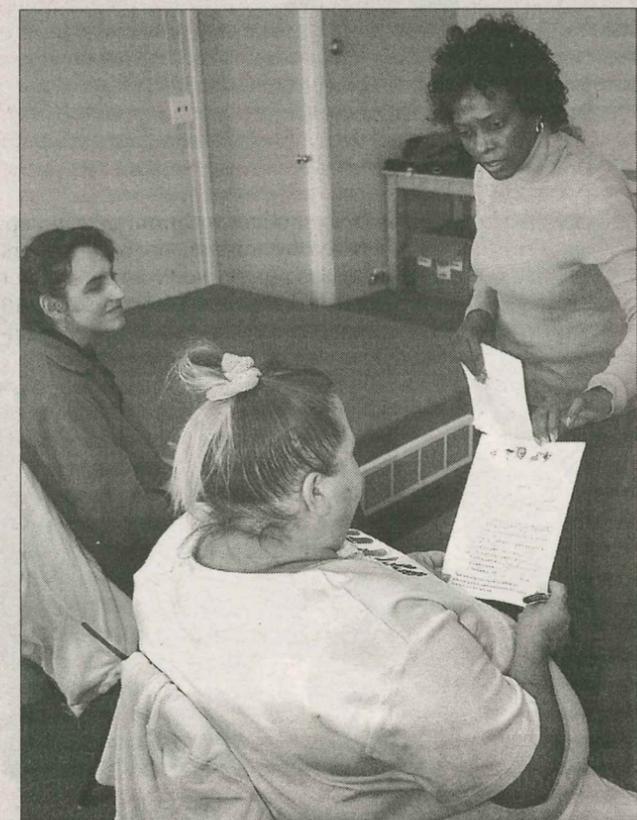
Pyle said she was surprised by the level of poverty she discovered. "I just never knew there was that much need in Lexington," she noted.

That poverty spawns other issues, such as emotional and physical neglect for children and adults. When she first arrived, Pyle recalled, ministry volunteers surveyed the community asking residents what needs they had.

"They just wanted someone to be their friend because they felt they were overlooked or looked down on because they were from Irishtown, and that's an answer I wouldn't have expected at all," she said.

Pyle requested prayer that those serving at the center would have the wisdom to know how best to reach residents with the gospel and disciple them.

"That's what will make a difference," she added. "We can give out a lot of food and clothes, ... but they need to know Christ for there to be an eternal difference."



**PARENTING SEMINAR** Shelly Johns (right), women's ministry leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, talks to Marianna Perkins during a parenting seminar at Irishtown Baptist Mission. Kentucky Baptists have maintained a ministry in this downtown Lexington community for approximately 150 years, according to local missionary Pam Pyle (left).

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## Oneida Baptist Institute

PO Box 67  
Oneida, Kentucky  
40972  
Phone: 606-847-4111  
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