

Calling
Kentucky
Baptists to
"shine like
stars in the
world"
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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FOR THE RECORD

Because of last week's winter storm and subsequent power outages in Louisville which severely limited our production schedule, this week's Western Recorder was reduced to eight pages.

We would like to hear your church's stories of ministry during last week's storm. Please e-mail them to the editor at Todd.Deaton@KyBaptist.org.

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GuideStone Financial Resources reduces its budget, cuts personnel. Page 2.

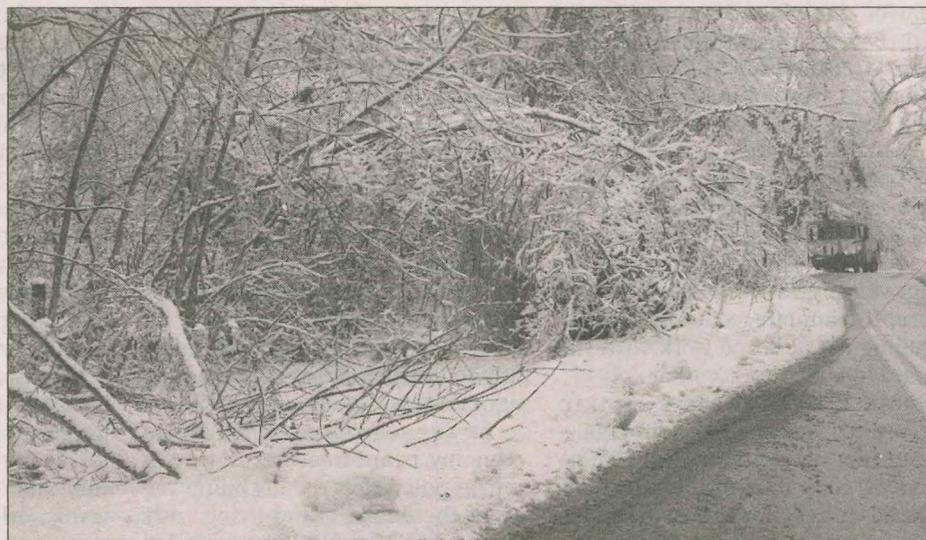
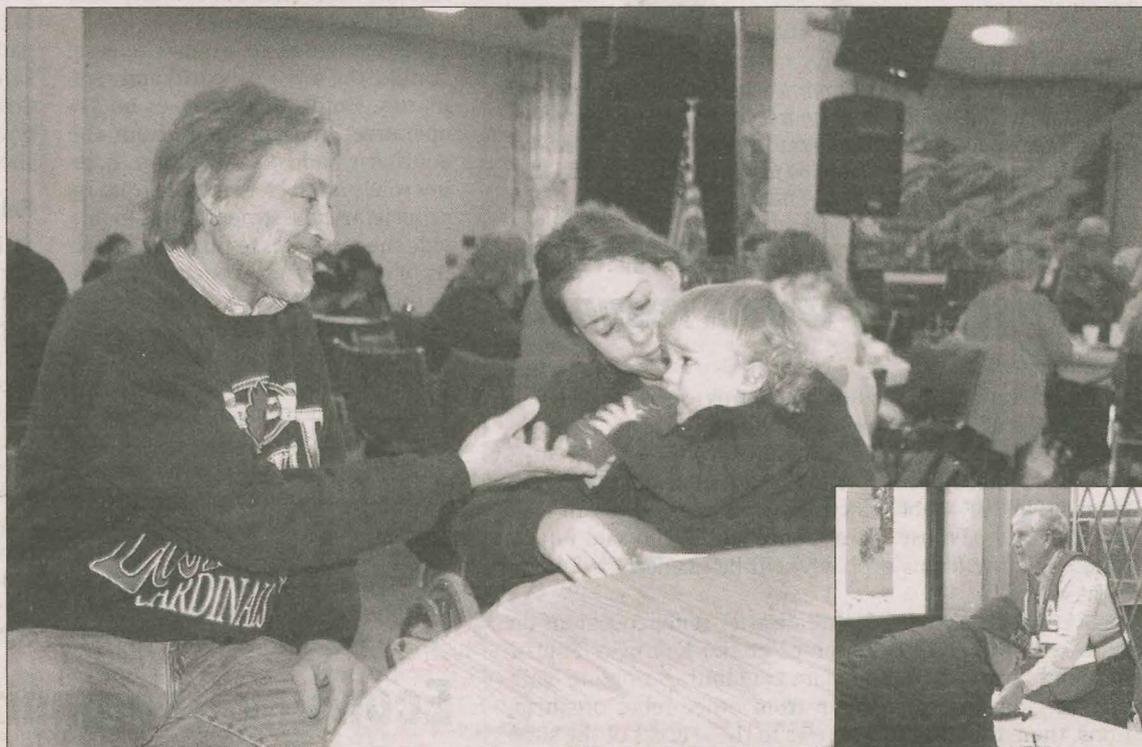
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National Woman's Missionary Union honors past leaders, look toward the future. Page 6.

Shelter from the storm

Larry Lewis (left) assists 17 month-old Ashton with a bottle at a Red Cross emergency shelter at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Holding Ashton is his mother, Jamie Gunnels, who came to the shelter when last week's ice storm disrupted power to her home. Gunnels, who uses a wheelchair, said Lewis was "a big help" to her while she was at the shelter. A member of Walnut Street Baptist, Lewis is a longtime volunteer at the church's activities center that was transformed as a shelter for about 200 people during the widespread power outages. Inset: Jim Cahoe, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, welcomes people to the emergency shelter at Walnut Street Baptist following last week's ice storm. Cahoe said he has been a Red Cross volunteer for about three years. News reports said that as many as 700,000 homes and businesses lost power at the height of the storm. As of Feb. 2, more than half of those utility customers had their electricity restored. However, officials in Western Kentucky have predicted that some residents may not have their power turned back on until next month. Baptist disaster response teams from Kentucky and surrounding states began working last week to help Kentuckians clean up from the mess left by the storm. See story below. (Photos by Dannah Prather)



ICE AGE A tree, bowed from the weight of several inches of ice and snow, reduces an Oldham County road to one lane, as a clean-up crew from Virginia prepares to clear the hazard. Scenes like this were repeated all over Kentucky roadways, following the ice storm that hit the area last week crippling much of the state. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Ice storm slams Kentucky, other states, disaster teams respond

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Louisville—Authorities say 27 people have died as a result of the massive ice storm that swept across Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Ohio Jan. 27 and 28.

Kentucky and Arkansas caught the brunt of the ice storm that rolled out of the central plains and wreaked havoc all the way to Appalachia.

Kentucky was hit hardest by the ice, with as many as 700,000 customers losing their electricity due to downed trees, limbs and power lines. As of Feb. 2, more than 350,000 Kentucky homes and businesses—83,000 in Louisville alone—still were without electricity, according to news reports.

Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention's state disaster relief coordinator, was

forced to work from his Louisville home, using a cell phone, because of the widespread outages. Webb said two-thirds of Kentucky was impacted by the ice storm, which blanketed the state west to east.

"We've already deployed a kitchen operation at a Methodist church ... in Lincoln County," Webb noted. "We had to use the Methodist church there as a shelter because the Baptist church didn't have electricity."

Three Southern Baptist disaster relief chainsaw teams already have been activated in Richmond and Bowling Green and Christian County, according to Webb.

"But we're going to have to have some of other chainsaw teams from other states activated," he pointed out. "The main problem now is that state emergency man-

Ethnically diverse churches unite in military community

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Oak Grove—Living Waters Fellowship in Oak Grove plans to dedicate its new church Feb. 8, which coincides with its fifth anniversary as a congregation.

However, completing a 7,000-square-foot building is only the beginning of the excitement surrounding its property on the main street in this military town, adjacent to Fort Campbell.

By spring, Eternal Rock Baptist Church—the Kentucky Baptist Convention's first constituted Hispanic Baptist church—hopes to move into its new 6,000-square-foot building on the same 39 acres.

Also meeting on the property will be a new Korean church, Eternal Living Waters. Members initially will worship in a double-wide trailer donated by First Baptist Church of Oak Grove.

This three-tiered cooperative agreement is known as the 1/21 Church Network.

"It's a first-century church concept in the 21st century," said Living Waters Pastor David Coram. "The first church held everything in common. We looked at everything we have and said, 'How can we eliminate duplication when possible?'"

Larry Baker, KBC's director of new work and associational missions, said he sees this project as significant and strategic, especially as Southern Baptist churches prepare to recognize Racial Reconciliation Sunday Feb. 8.

□ See Ethnic church network reaches out ... Page 3



ETHNIC CHURCH NETWORK Oak Grove pastors David Coram (left) of Anglo congregation Living Waters Fellowship, Peter Kang (center) from the Korean Eternal Living Waters and Jorge Garcia of the Hispanic Eternal Rock Baptist Church have formed a partnership in which the three congregations are in the process of all locating on the same 39-acre tract of land.



ICY WELCOME Icicles hang from a sign welcoming motorists to Louisville. The weight of ice on trees from last week's winter storm that swept through Kentucky caused many of them to topple, taking down power lines and leaving as many as 700,000 Kentuckians in the dark for days. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Ice storm cripples Kentucky, Baptist relief teams respond

Continued from page 1

agement says it's still too unstable for us to go into some areas because of the live power lines down.

"We anticipate we'll need help from out of state so ... we'll start coordinating with the national disaster relief team at NAMB," Webb added. "There's no way we can handle all the needs just out of Kentucky." Webb said out-of-state chainsaw teams probably will be needed for four to eight weeks.

Over the weekend, a NAMB disaster relief coordination team set up a command center at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville. The team is manning a phone bank to take calls requesting help from other relief organizations, then directing relief crews to those areas of the state where they are needed.

Meanwhile, Arkansas was clobbered with nearly three inches of ice, according to the Arkansas Baptist Convention's Robby Tingle, who is based in Little Rock. That city was unaffected by the storm.

"About 250,000 homes from Clinton north lost power," Tingle said, adding that some estimates call for electricity to be out from 10 days to three weeks.

Tingle said Arkansas disaster relief feeding teams have set up stations in several cities across the state.

"We've already contacted all our affected associations, churches and missionaries, to let them know we'll help them carry out their ministries," he noted. Tingle added that some Arkansas SBC churches did not have power restored in time for last Sunday's services.

In addition to the feeding teams, Arkansas Baptists have deployed around 10 chainsaw teams and are getting more ready to go, according to Tingle.

"While we don't need help from out of state at the present time, our white caps and blue caps are still assessing the situation which is still fluid," Tingle explained. "We appreciate the willingness of Southern Baptists from across the nation to help. And I'm so grateful for our volunteers and their willingness to demonstrate the love of Christ in a real, tangible way right now."

In Oklahoma, state disaster relief director Sam Porter said he feels like the Sooner State dodged a bullet with this ice storm as compared to 2008, when a storm left 600,000 customers without electricity.

"Most of Oklahoma is OK," he noted. "Oklahoma City, Tulsa and the west side of the state were largely unaffected. The major power loss was in a 30-mile radius in the eastern and northeastern parts of the state." Only 38,000 homes and businesses initially lost power, and that number was down to 25,000 as of last week.

Porter said two of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's mobile kitchens were deployed at the fairgrounds in Muskogee and at First Baptist Church of Tahlequah. Three chainsaw teams—with about 15 volunteers each—were deployed in three Oklahoma cities. Another 15-20 volunteers will serve on the two feeding units.

In Ohio, Duane Floro, ministry evangelism strategist for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, said two counties in south central Ohio were hit hardest by the ice storm.

"We just received a call from the American Red Cross to bring out our feeding units," he noted, adding that the highest priority for feeding in Ohio is a senior adult retirement center in Hocking County, where power remained off days after the storm. Some 350 meals a day have been prepared waiting for power to be restored, Floro said. (BP)

Guidestone reduces budget, cuts personnel

Dallas—GuideStone Financial Resources announced Jan. 27 a workforce downsizing of 10 percent through projected attrition, and a hiring freeze as part of a reduction of its 2009 budget.

"The downturn in the global economy and the subsequent reduced value of securities in our investment funds has impacted the fee revenue that funds our budget," said President O.S. Hawkins.

As explained in a news release: "Unlike the mission boards and seminaries, GuideStone receives no Cooperative Program funds from the Southern Baptist Convention. It relies solely on the fee revenue from its proprietary investment funds to provide the resources to fund the majority of its operating expenses. Expenses related to its life and health products are funded through the premiums paid by organizations whose participants are in those plans."

Other reductions in operating expenses include a salary freeze and "delaying some purchases such as additional computer equipment, reducing travel, delaying some professional development and reducing the amount of printed materials by providing more materials on GuideStone's Web site."

The GuideStone news release noted that an operating reserve also is part of its budget strategy.

"Over a decade ago, and in recognition that financial markets are cyclical, GuideStone trustees established an operating reserve that would provide additional resources for times such as these," the news release stated, then quoted Hawkins as saying, "This reserve enables us to maintain our service levels to our participants in times when the markets are down. We must use it prudently in order to extend its ability to offset our anticipated revenue shortfall."

Future cutbacks in store?

Hawkins pointed out that additional budget reductions may be required, explaining, "While we are hopeful about the future, further deterioration in the financial markets or a significantly prolonged recovery from the current recession may require other measures to further reduce future costs. Continued monitoring of the budget and additional strategic planning is a priority as we move through 2009 and into 2010 with all of its financial uncertainties."

"If the financial markets con-

tinue to decline, GuideStone has a strategic plan to add other budget cuts when and if they are needed," Hawkins continued. "If the markets stabilize, GuideStone will carefully monitor its expenses to operate within its modified budget. Even if the markets should begin to rebound, it will likely take an extended period of time to regain the losses experienced during this period of unprecedented market volatility."

"We believe these reductions are absolutely necessary and we must all be diligent to maximize the resources that remain available to us," Hawkins said. "More than ever before, we are challenged to find ways to serve our participants in a manner that seeks to enhance their financial security."

The news release also stated, "During its nine decades, GuideStone has weathered a Depression, multiple recessions, world and regional wars, terrorism at home and abroad, a dot.com tech bubble and economic upheaval. Hawkins assured participants, "Know that GuideStone remains strong and is well-positioned to continue in its commitment to serving you through these challenging times and is keenly focused on the trust you have placed in us." (BP)

Economy, reorganization top IMB trustees' agenda

Richmond, Va.—Facing another year of a troubled economy, Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees pressed forward with efforts to restructure the organization and respond to a lost world during their Jan. 26-27 meeting.

Trustees also heard a report that \$3.3 million was appropriated this past fall to human-needs projects around the globe. Tom Elliff, senior vice president for spiritual nurture, also announced he will be concluding his full-time work with the board in March.

IMB President Jerry Rankin shared his excitement about changes on the way this year. In their September 2008 meeting, trustees approved a reorganization designed to improve the board's ability to impact lostness and expand relationships with churches.

"I envision a massive mobilization of Southern Baptists engaged in the task through a growing variety of relationships and personalized involvement in mission strategies," Rankin said. "My vision is renewed that we can look forward to that day in a very few years when

we will be unable to identify a people group that doesn't have access to the gospel."

Trustees voted to realign their regional committees to focus on people groups or "affinity groups," matching the reorganization of the board's overseas work. Affinity groups are drawn together by language, culture and ethnicity, and not limited geographically.

Trustees also approved a measure that will streamline the restructuring process by allowing IMB leadership to transfer personnel to new assignments without trustee action.

As angst grows over the world economy, board treasurer David Steverson noted that the declining value of the dollar, rising living costs overseas and medical expenses led the IMB to draw a "larger than usual" amount—about \$7 million—from reserves.

Trustees allocated those funds to cover expenses—most of which allowed missionaries to keep up with rising living and medical expenses.

"I believe we need to buckle our seatbelts and get ready for another challenging year in 2009," Steverson

said. "While I believe the worst of the stock market decline is behind us, we now have to deal with all the fallout of that decline."

Anticipating another tough year, trustees already had tightened the 2009 budget in their November meeting. The budget allows for sustaining the current levels of missionaries on the field. Whether or not those numbers will rise above current levels will depend on the gifts of Southern Baptists.

In other business:

Trustees heard reports that the board's human-needs ministry appropriated more than \$3.2 million for 119 projects in the fall. Out of that amount, \$2.3 million went toward world hunger needs, \$701,945 went to general relief projects and \$179,420 went to projects continued from 2004 tsunami recovery efforts.

Tom Elliff, senior vice president for spiritual nurture, announced he will depart in March. Elliff has led training and provided mentoring to new missionaries at the IMB's International Learning Center. He will continue teaching at the center through the end of the year. (BP)

BAPTIST DIGEST

Oklahoma foundation hit by Madoff scandal. At least one Baptist group lost money as part of Bernard Madoff's alleged \$50 billion Ponzi scheme. The Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma said it lost \$1.4 million, less than 1 percent of its assets, when third-party money managers invested in two of Madoff's allegedly fraudulent hedge funds. Madoff, former NASDAQ chairman and founder of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, was arrested in December for allegedly swindling a number of high-profile charities and celebrities. Robert Kellogg, president of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, said his organization did not make any direct investments with Madoff, but learned that one of its managers gave the foundation "nominal exposure" to allegedly fraudulent management by Madoff. Kellogg said total losses amounted to about

\$1.4 million out of a total of \$234 million in assets managed by the foundation.

Dallas pastor accepts BGCT post. Jim Denison has resigned as senior teaching pastor at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas to become founding president of the Center for Informed Faith and theologian-in-residence with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The new center is an independently financed ministry that will have offices at the Baptist Building in Dallas. As BGCT theologian-in-residence, Denison will provide theological resources for Texas Baptists through church conferences and seminars, Internet resources, BaptistWay Press publications and annual meeting workshops. Denison has been pastor of Park Cities Baptist since 1998.

Ethnic church network reaches out to military community

Continued from page 1

Even though many Baptist churches in the area are doing an excellent work in reaching the military, more are needed, he said.

"This unique arrangement allows for sharing of facilities and developing a variety of English, Korean and Spanish-language ministries," noted Baker, who as director of missions for Christian County Baptist Association was involved in planting the Living Waters and Eternal Rock congregations.

Though unusual, the network is not unique, since many Kentucky associations have good working relationships across state lines, Baker added.

One example is McCreary Baptist Association. The Eastern Kentucky group does mission projects with New River Baptist Association in northern Tennessee, and the two have agreed to jointly employ an associational missionary.

Under the agreement in Oak Grove, the Anglo, Hispanic and Korean churches will retain separate worship facilities.

However, since second-generation immigrants tend to primarily speak English, the three churches plan to combine youth and children's ministries under the direction of an inter-ethnic leadership team.

"How far this will go is limitless," said Coram, a retired Army chaplain. "We can do mission trips and other things together. A lot of churches have different groups that meet in the same building, but they seldom do things together."

For now, Coram and Korean Pastor Peter Kang are meeting weekly to discuss sermon texts, illustrations and insights in preparation for upcoming services.

Eternal Rock Pastor Jorge Garcia does not meet with the other two pastors yet, since his church is meeting in rented facilities in neighboring Clarksville, Tenn. However, he will join them when its new building opens.

Each pastor preaches a unique message. However, by using the same text and similar illustrations, a multi-ethnic family attending different services on the property can later discuss common themes, Coram explained.

"Denominations do this all the time—send out lectionary readings and pastors preach from the same text," he said. "We're continuing the idea of unity of three congregations."

All three pastors have prior military experience, which makes this project a good fit, Garcia noted.

"This is a very unique community," said Garcia, who has a son and daughter serving in the Army. "Every time you have military, you have diversity."

Not only is the 1/21 network drawing three ethnic groups together, it has joined two state conventions and two associations.

The Tennessee and Kentucky Baptist conventions each financially support the Korean church, which started meeting in mid-November at First Baptist, Oak Grove.

In addition, Living Waters and Eternal Rock are dual members of Christian County Association in Ken-



NEW FACILITIES An artist's depiction of Eternal Rock Baptist Church's new building in Oak Grove due to be finished in the coming months. The Hispanic congregation's facility will be located on the same 39 acres as two other churches, Living Waters Fellowship—an Anglo congregation—and Eternal Living Waters—a Korean congregation.

tucky and Cumberland Baptist Association in Tennessee.

The directors of missions for both associations recently began meeting monthly to discuss ways of supporting this outreach.

Bob Melton, director of missions for Christian Association, and Cumberland DOM Dennis Pulley had been meeting periodically since Melton took office three years ago.

However, last September, they decided to have breakfast or lunch regularly to discuss the network and other potential church plants for the area around Fort Campbell.

"It's unique in the sense of three different nationalities" coming together, Melton said. "I look at it as a great opportunity. It's fresh and exciting."

"We've talked about how we could bring our associations together," he added. "There are so many unreached people in the Fort Campbell area we've got room for 10 more churches."

Coram's original vision for a multi-ethnic church goes back about nine years while he was still in the Army, according to Pulley.

The Cumberland DOM eventually helped Coram enroll in church-planter training and later helped secure start-up funds for Living Waters from the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Pulley said he foresees a great future for the network, noting Fort Campbell is home to numerous Hispanics and Koreans and is one of the nation's fastest-growing areas.

"There's a lot of people from all cultures to be reached," Pulley pointed out. "I see a great future there. David's vision is a great, global vision."

"God's had his hand on his life and just blessed him. God's going to bless him in an even greater way when he gets in his new building."

The partnership between the three pastors is close. In May of 2007, Coram and Garcia traveled to South Korea to meet with Kang and help raise financial support for Eternal Living Waters.

Coram said he hopes to eventually construct a building that will house all three congregations, including an educational wing in the shape of a cross.

"Many of the people who attend our three congregations are military, so we have that in common as well as a vision for the community," Coram noted.

"People have military experience that transcends culture. We've all been in the military and understand what military life is all about."

Churches help military families heal

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Oak Grove—Whether staging free concerts, handing out tracts at Wal-Mart or counseling troubled soldiers, Kentucky Baptist churches in the shadow of Fort Campbell seek to share God's love with members of the military.

"We're actively involved in the military community," said Jorge Garcia, pastor of Eternal Rock Baptist Church (in Spanish: Iglesia Bautista la Roca Eternal). "We've got to constantly be reaching out in the community."

Originally a mission of First Baptist Church of Oak Grove, Eternal Rock celebrated its 11th anniversary last November.

With three-quarters of its members either active or retired military, the Hispanic congregation maintains a continuing schedule of special events and other services.

As part of its 11th anniversary observance, the church hosted a concert featuring Puerto Rican musician Samuel Hernandez, the winner of two Latin Grammy Awards.

Last summer, Eternal Rock and three other KBC churches helped stage an outreach at the county fairgrounds with games, inflatables and other activities for children.

Caring for those back home

On the more serious side, Eternal Rock is helping fill the gap left by thousands of soldiers deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, offering spouses financial support, prayers and counseling.

The latter includes help for returning soldiers and their families, who often struggle with reuniting after long absences.

Divorce rates in military marriages are between 30 and 40 percent and there are strains on numerous families, Garcia explained.

"Right now, one big thing is marriage and family counseling dealing with anger," he said. "Within our church family, we are seeing a lot of family problems because of that. We are doing a lot of counseling to help them with that trauma."

When the situation calls for more help than the church can offer, couples are referred to Cornerstone Counseling, an outreach of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The last time a large group of soldiers returned from Iraq, Oak Grove's Living Waters Fellowship hosted a three-day family retreat at Lake Barkley.

While children enjoyed games and activities, their parents were in classes about family reintegration, including a spiritual emphasis.

The church plans to sponsor another one this winter after it moves into its new building, Pastor David Coram noted.

The Kentucky Baptist church stays in touch with members while they are on duty overseas, regularly sending them care packages that include DVDs of worship services.

Living Waters also has a ministry known as "Home Team," which conducts family recreational outings and offers child care once a month so parents can go out to dinner.

"Our goal is to be a home away from home for military families," Coram said. "We advertise (military outreaches) on the Web site and in the newspaper. We have ideas for other things we'd like to do, such as a 'Friday Night Live' for young people."

Opportunities for ministry

If there is a positive side to the strains on soldiers and their families, it is an increased sensitivity to spiritual matters.

Many soldiers are willing to listen when pastors and laypersons want to talk to them about Jesus, Garcia said.

"They're seeking out because they see their mortality," he pointed out. "My son was ... in Iraq. I have to deal with the anger and the feelings."

"He still has an (issue) with traumatic stress that started with ... (a) friend who died in his arms. That causes a terrible change in a person. We're helping him deal with that in a positive way."

A lot of families are tired after experiencing multiple deployments of loved ones, Coram pointed out.

One member of Living Waters who is due home in May from Afghanistan already has seen action in Iraq, a story that has been repeated numerous times, Coram said.

Meanwhile, children often release the emotional stress they feel by acting up in school, getting in fights, throwing things or walking out of class, he added.

"There's a lot of uncertainty about the future," said Coram, who recently attended a seminar—sponsored by Cumberland Baptist Association in Clarksville, Tenn.—about how churches can deal with these issues.

"I provide a lot of one-on-one counseling as needed for spouses or couples. A lot of it is informal, after a meeting or Bible study, when someone says, 'Pastor, can you talk?' and it ends up being 35 or 40 minutes. A lot of it is talking and letting people express their feelings."



PRAYING FOR GOD'S PROTECTION Members of Living Waters Fellowship in Oak Grove pray for soldiers prior to a recent deployment to Afghanistan. The congregation, along with a partnering Hispanic and Korean church in the area, frequently minister to soldiers and their families who are stationed at nearby Fort Campbell.

WESTERNRECORDER

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*"Therefore let us
pursue the things
which make for
peace and the things
by which one may
edify another."
Romans 14:19*

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Shining like the stars

It was a cold, blustery December Sunday. The pastor had prepared a message that cast Mary and Joseph as "everyday heroes," ordinary people who were willing to be used for God's extraordinary purposes. Even though he had no notion that I would be worshiping there that day, his words seemed as though especially prepared for me.

On that morning, I stood squarely on the threshold of one of those "but" moments in life, as pastor Les Hollon of Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church aptly referred to times when God's will and timing intersects with our plans.

Mary and Joseph's story enables us to see that everyday people are sometimes called upon by God to do what seems to be impossible, but yet is possible with God, the pastor began. Being faithful each day to see what God will do requires trusting Him in a way that is extraordinary, so that His power can be released in your life, he explained. "As God speaks a message to you, don't stiff arm God. Don't talk yourself out of it, but walk into it, trust it and apply it," he challenged.

Two days earlier, the trustees of the Western Recorder had voted to recommend that I become the next editor of this newspaper. Two days later, the State Mission Board would be determining whether to approve their decision.

For the past 12 years, I have been hoping that one day, in God's timing, I might become an editor, assumedly in South Carolina, where I was then serving. But ... God had somewhere else in mind. And the Holy Spirit firmly convicted me that Sunday that for the past six months or so, I had been "stiff arming" God, as Hollon so aptly put it.

Pause for a moment: "What are your circumstances in which you are trusting God in your life today?" Hollon challenged. "Are you trusting God in such a way that others will say, 'I'm going to believe what this person is telling me because I see this person living out what he or she speaks about Jesus?'"

Mary's response to God was that of a humble servant: "May it be done to me according to your word."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Her reply is a model of what ours always should be: to joyfully follow God, trusting His promise that He will be with us.

Christian journalism is the ministry to which God has called me, and my deepest desire is to use the writing skills that God has given me in service to my fellow believers. Answering God's call now has led me back to Kentucky, where I was privileged to serve during my seminary years.

As editor, I will endeavor to bring to the pages of the Western Recorder accuracy, balance and fairness. I am equally committed to missions and evangelism and have a fervent desire

to tell the stories of how Kentucky Baptists are joining together to further the cause of Christ. The Bible verse that will always guide my ministry—and any editorial I write—is Romans 14:19: "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."

Through telling these stories, the Western Recorder will uplift these Kentucky Baptists and inspire others to "let their Light shine." So, on the front page, the news journal's motto is changing to reflect this Christ-centered focus: "Calling Kentucky Baptists to 'shine like stars in the world,'" based on Philippians 2:15. As a backyard astronomer—or at least a stargazer—I find appealing the imagery that Paul used in charging the Philippians to be blameless and pure children of God in the midst of a crooked and depraved generation. Looking at the glimmering stars against a darkened night sky, believers should be ever minded of their incarnational purpose of "holding out" the Word of Life, and in doing so, reflecting "the Light of the world" to those grasping in darkness.

This past week, I have met many wonderful servants among the state convention's leadership, and I am looking forward to meeting others all across our state. In the days ahead, the Western Recorder will strive to reach out to and serve all Kentucky Baptists, informing and inspiring them to use their gifts and talents in missions, evangelism and ministry as they "shine like the stars" in the world.

'The Ultimate Sacrifice, Share God's Gift'

The theme for the upcoming Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference to be held Feb. 23-24 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington is an awesome and challenging one—"The Ultimate Sacrifice, Share God's Gift."

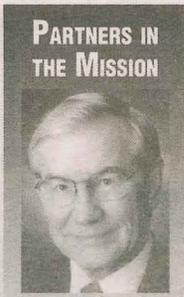
The theme verse is Galatians 1:14: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world."

God has led KBC Evangelism Growth Team Leader Ross Bauscher to select a great theme and outstanding speakers. What I like most is that the theme for each message is focused on the cross of Jesus Christ and the challenges of living and sharing His message in a post-modern, anti-church culture.

The conference begins with praise and worship led by The Specks at 1:30 p.m. with Robert Smith, preaching professor at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., preaching the first sermon.

What follows will be two days of

outstanding and challenging messages. Dennis Swanberg, inspirational speaker and humorist, will close out the conference on Tuesday afternoon as we prepare to return to places of leadership and service.



Bill Mackey

Due to the biblically focused topics and outstanding speakers, I plan to be present for all sessions and I hope you will join me.

Monday night will be an incredible opportunity to hear two outstanding scholars, theologians and seminary presidents address two of the most challenging topics facing Christendom. Ergun Caner, president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., will speak on the topic, "The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ." Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, will speak on the topic, "Sharing Jesus Christ in a Postmodern Culture."

On Tuesday morning, we will hear from two well-known former KBC pastors and leaders—Dan Gar-

land from LifeWay Christian Resources, and Kevin Hamm, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Gardendale, Ala. We also will hear from David Burton, the strategic and inspirational evangelism division director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

There will be informative breakout sessions over lunch Tuesday starting at 11:30 a.m. and a separate conference specifically for women on Tuesday from 9:15 a.m.-1:35 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the host church.

For a complete list of speakers and more information about the Evangelism Conference, visit www.KyBaptist.org/Evangelism Conference or call (502) 489-3576.

From my earliest days in ministry, the Evangelism Conference has been the event that God has used consistently to inspire and encourage me to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person possible. It is my prayer that pastors, church staff members and laypersons will take advantage of this opportunity to renew their commitment to connecting all people to Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Diversification is key to maintaining balanced portfolio

By Jeremy White

The mantra of real estate is location, location, location. An important wisdom principle for preserving investments is diversification, diversification, diversification.

Most stocks and bonds took a hit in the 2008 economic downturn. A common question then is, "Why diversify if international stocks, U.S. stocks and bonds all declined?"

Diversification doesn't guarantee a better return, but it does reduce risk.

Diversification is spreading your money among different types of investments. By doing so, you diminish your overall risk. If you had put all of your money in one stock (such as General Motors, Lehman Brothers or Citigroup), you would have lost almost all of your investment.

Let's say a retired couple wanted to start a small business in the mountains of North Carolina, and they were leaning toward opening a cozy gourmet coffee shop. Then a friend pointed out that the coffee shop would be a welcome retreat from the brisk autumn breezes and winter snows, but sales were apt to be sluggish during the hot summer months.

Rethinking their plan, the couple decided to open a coffee and ice cream shop. When coffee sales lagged in the heat, ice cream would lure the summertime crowds. Similarly, a hot cup of coffee would keep the winter customers coming even if ice cream sales melted. By diversifying their offerings, the couple had hit upon a plan that would reduce risk while enhancing their return.

The most important strategy to preserve your capital is a diversified portfolio. In other words, spread your investments among several alternatives so that if any of them suffers, your entire investment portfolio does not shrink. The tradeoff is to give up the potential for hitting it big in a single investment for a modest return on the entire investment portfolio.

Although diversification is a foundational concept in investing, it's not new.

Solomon stated the principle of diversification in Ecclesiastes 11:2, "Divide your portion among seven, even eight, so that no harm will befall you." Apply this principle to your investing by holding different types of mutual funds, CDs, real estate, precious metals and bonds.

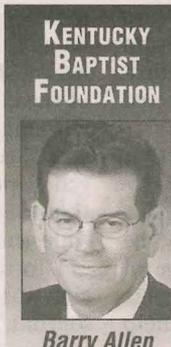
Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah



Estate stewardship: Be a blessing

Ky. Baptists have means to show faith through giving

Giving via a bequest in your will or revocable living trust, and/or a beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy or retirement account is the simplest and—for many—most sensible way to be a blessing for Kingdom advance in the future. Everyone, regardless of their financial stations in life, can demonstrate faithfulness through this kind of estate stewardship, because you continue to control the use of that which God has entrusted to you until you no longer need it.



Barry Allen

Fortunately for Kentucky Baptists, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation provides that confidential and personal estate planning assistance at no cost or obligation. There is no cost because it has been paid from the collective giving of churches through the Co-operative Program. The Foundation's trust counsel, Laurie Valentine, provides the assistance. She is available by telephone or in person. You may just have an estate planning question you need answered, or you may need a more extensive session. Just call Laurie toll free and let her know how she can be of assistance.

If you really believe God and trust Him and His word, you will include a provision(s) in your estate plan to further His Kingdom beyond your lifetime. In so doing, not only will He bless you now, but you also will be a blessing to the multitudes who benefit from your faithfulness via estate stewardship until Jesus comes again.

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 Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "I will come in to him and will _____ with him" (Revelation 3:20)
- 4 "The foxes have _____" (Matthew 8:20)
- 9 Isaac, to Abraham
- 12 _____-la-la
- 13 Pole vault or high jump, for example, in a track meet
- 14 "_____ of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark" (Genesis 6:19)
- 15 Went in
- 17 Alter, hopefully for the better
- 19 "And he shall rule them with a rod of _____" (Revelation 2:27)
- 20 Celestial sign, to Magi
- 21 Remnant of a broken pot (KJV var.)
- 23 "Nor silver, nor brass ... nor scrip for your _____" (Matthew 10:9, 10)
- 26 Fowl creatures
- 27 Nonsense
- 28 In _____ (concerning)
- 29 Consume
- 30 Certain collectibles
- 31 Age
- 32 Title used when not on a first-name basis (abbr.)
- 33 "You're So _____" (C. Simon hit)
- 34 Confirm
- 35 "If any man _____, let him come unto me" (John 7:37)
- 37 Drops pounds
- 38 Act as accomplice
- 39 Actor Orson, for one
- 40 "Ye are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:4)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15			16					17	18			
		19					20					
21	22					23					24	25
26					27						28	
29				30							31	
32				33							34	
	35	36						37				
			38					39				
40	41					42					43	44
45					46	47				48		
49					50						51	

- 42 Pasture activity
- 45 Rowing implement
- 46 Chief son of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5)
- 48 Born (Fr.)
- 49 Twisted strand in rope
- 50 "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye _____" (Psalm 100:1)
- 51 Came into possession

- 21 Son of Noah
- 22 "A merry _____ maketh a cheerful countenance" (Proverbs 15:13)
- 23 Elbow, for one
- 24 "Who concerning the truth have _____, saying that the resurrection is past" (2 Timothy 2:18)
- 25 "For I have laid upon thee the _____ of their iniquity" (Ezekiel 4:5)
- 27 Raise up
- 30 "Be _____ for nothing" (Philippians 4:6)
- 31 After dusk
- 33 Emotional reaction (colloq.)
- 34 Son of Jotham, king of Judah (2 Kings 16:1)
- 36 Hirsute
- 37 What the Lamb opens, in the Book of Revelation
- 39 Partner of born
- 40 Over the _____
- 41 Masculine nickname
- 42 Cotton _____
- 43 New (comb. form)
- 44 "_____ thee behind me, Satan" (Matthew 16:23)
- 47 Chemical element (abbr.)

Down

1. Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.
2. Vase
- 3 "Rejoicing in hope, _____ in tribulation" (Romans 12:12)
- 4 "For _____ feared John, knowing that he was a just man" (Mark 6:20)
- 5 Appliance
- 6 "He was _____ as a sheep to the slaughter" (Acts 8:32)
- 7 Half an em
- 8 Icons, perhaps
- 9 Far from cracking a smile
- 10 Possess
- 11 "And Cain ... dwelt in the land of _____ on the east of Eden" (Genesis 4:16)
- 16 Blunders
- 18 One betrothed to Joseph
- 20 In the near future

Last week's solution

W	A	S	T	W	A	D	S	A	R	E		
S	E	R	E	A	B	I	A	M	E	R		
S	P	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	S	F	A	
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S	H	A	D	E	E	N		A	E	R		
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O	B	T	A	I	N	S		T	E	R	N	S
G	I	F	T		C	A	S	H		O	C	T
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T	E	R		E	W	E	S		P	E	R	E

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

15-Days; Departs July 2, 2009 from \$2148*

"I liked this trip so much...we're going back!"

On July 2, 2009, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. J. Barry Worrell on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. This will be Rev. Worrell's second time hosting this YMT Baptist vacation package. The first was on this same Alaska Cruise and Pacific Northwest trip that departed June 12, 2005. For 22 years, Rev. Worrell has served as Minister of Music and Senior Adults at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada, Mississippi. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City for a day with a city tour (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake). Next your group will take a five day scenic drive to Vancouver by way of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone & Yellowstone National Park (two days); Butte, Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Spokane, Washington; and Penticton, BC before boarding your five-star ship, HAL's *ms Volendam* in Vancouver. Enjoy the 5-star *Signature of Excellence* Holland America Line is famous for! And take advantage of Baptist devotions for your group aboard ship! Travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skaqway, Glacier Bay National Park, and Ketchikan while sailing Alaska's Inside Passage. End your tour with one night in Seattle, Washington (with city tour) before flying home July 16, 2009. *Price per person, double occupancy; includes port charges, government fees, taxes and services; Alaska visitor's tax; the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, baggage handling and lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest. Airfare is extra. Call for details.

For Information, Reservations, Brochure & Letter from Rev. Worrell Call 7 Days a Week:

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National WMU honors past leaders, looks toward future

By Julie Walters
National Woman's Missionary Union

Talladega, Ala.—The lives of two former leaders of national Woman's Missionary Union, Alma Hunt and Dellanna O'Brien, were celebrated at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Ala., as WMU board members gathered for their January meeting.

The trustees also heard reports from Southern Baptist mission board leaders and looked at initiatives for 2009.

The board paid special tribute to Hunt and O'Brien, two former leaders of the national missions organization, who both died in 2008. Hunt served as WMU executive secretary from 1948-74. O'Brien, the first international missionary to serve as WMU executive director, led the organization from 1989-99.

In her address, National WMU President Kaye Miller called Hunt and O'Brien "heroes of the faith" who were faithful and courageous to do what they knew the Lord had called them to do, despite their cir-

cumstances and trials. "Shame on us, if standing on the shoulders of these giants, we do not see further," she noted.

"I believe in WMU as a force for fulfilling the Great Commission and it is worth the investment of my life," Miller said. "WMU continues today because God is not through with us yet. It continues today because of courageous and faithful women and men who believe with all their hearts the Great Commission call is for them to embrace personally."

Lee: WMU faces "new challenges"

In her report, Executive Director Wanda Lee reviewed highlights of 2008 and cited challenges the organization will face in 2009, including the nation's ongoing economic downturn, a world facing numerous wars, churches in transition and individuals seeking that which will make a difference in their lives.

"The task before us is great with new challenges," Lee said, "but we are just as committed today as those who came before us 120 years ago to press on, engaging people with the message of hope that only comes through faith in Jesus Christ."

Lee identified three actions WMU leadership must take to advance the organization as it seeks to further the mission of God.

First, Lee pointed out that a new financial reality must be embraced. National "WMU leadership embraced the financial reality of our current economic climate and developed a plan to help us care for our staff and move forward with our missions task," she said. "In the

meantime, WMU staff will learn some new lessons that will make us stronger and help us focus on the most important things for the cause of missions."

Second, Lee said WMU leaders must confront the culture in many Baptist churches whose members believe "someone over there will care about the people of the world and we can remain safe and comfortable right here within the protected walls of our church."

"If we truly understand that missions education is a holistic approach to discipling missional people," she noted, "then we must be bold in confronting the culture of our churches with this challenge and do everything possible to help them focus on the essential elements of learning, praying, giving and going."

Finally, Lee challenged participants to reaffirm their personal missions calling. "Jesus walked into a world of turmoil, uncertainty and instability not so different from what we face today," Lee explained. "He touched the lives of one person after another, changing them and

changing their world forever. When He told the disciples to 'go into all the world,' He didn't say 'if you want to' or 'if you feel like it.' He said, 'As you go,' assuming they would take up the missions mandate if they were committed to following Him."

In other business, Geoff Hammond, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, shared the unaudited results of the 2008 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with the group. Despite last year's economic downturn, Southern Baptists still contributed more than \$58 million to support North American missionaries.

"To raise \$58 million in a recession was a miracle and we praise God for that," Hammond said. "While Annie was down about 2.2 percent over last year, the fundraising of many charitable organizations was down 10 percent or more."

Also, the WMU executive board approved a goal of \$175 million for the 2009 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and a revised 2009-10 budget of \$9.6 million, representing a reduction of \$1.4 million. (BP)

STATE WOMEN HONORED

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union was awarded \$1,300 from WMU's Second Century Fund during the recent National WMU board meeting Jan. 10-13, in Talladega, Ala. Managed by the WMU Foundation, the fund goes to financially support women's leadership development in the United States and around the world. Pictured are (from left) National WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee; Kentucky WMU President Pat Reaves; Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton; WMU Foundation President David George; and Sylvia DeLoach, chair of the WMU Foundation board of trustees.



"Calling all frazzled females"
First Baptist Church of Owensboro will host
The Frazzled Female Conference & Lunch
 Featuring Cindi Wood Feb. 28, 9:15 a.m.
 author of "Frazzled Female" & "Victoriously Frazzled"
 Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the church or the Owensboro LifeWay Store
Call the church before Feb. 22 to purchase tickets or register
 Nursery provided (270) 683-8505

Our faculty and staff are different

Oneida's caring teachers and coaches make lasting impact on our students

Ask 10 of our students at random why they think Oneida is different and you'll likely get 10 different answers.

I think most would agree that one of the ways we are different is our staff. Any administrator knows that his program is only as good as his staff. Our faculty and staff always have been a key to what makes OBI work. The personal attention and compassion they give to our students and their genuine interest in meeting the needs of our students sets them apart.

I experienced that when I was a student at OBI. Ms. Wilson was a devoted math teacher who loved and challenged us. Ms. Bain (Rice) was a demanding English teacher, but always made time to befriend her students.

Mr. Combs, the dean of boys, became a lifelong friend and father figure. My son is named after Mr. Combs and he was my best man when I married my Oneida sweetheart more than 44 years ago.

Other Oneida faculty and staff also made lasting impressions on my life.

During the Christmas holidays, we often are blessed to receive words of encouragement and praise, usually included with a Christmas gift to this ministry. I would like to share part of one such letter with you. I will not reveal the name of the student or the teacher the parent is commending (Mr. ???). I will tell you this student came to us from Texas with average grades but had made some poor choices. This young man was with us for three years. During his senior year, his lowest quarterly grade point aver-

age was 3.71 and his highest was 4.0. Here is part of that letter:

"Last year, I gave a year-end gift in honor of my dad who passed just before my son's graduation. This year I would like to give \$1,000 in honor of my son and Mr. ??? I do so because the two of them demonstrate the power of relationships in changing lives. Mr. ??? believed in my son and my son was open and accepting of his guidance and friendship.



"My prayer is that each of your staff is aware that they have the power to transform the life of a child at every interaction. To say to a student, 'I believe in you even when you don't believe in yourself,' changes lives. Every child deserves a champion in the way that Mr. ??? has been there for my son."

The teacher this father referred to is an Oneida graduate himself. He came to OBI in the late 1980s because of conflicts with his adoptive parents. He lived in the dorms for six years. He was never a discipline problem and always was respectful. If he were writing this article, I suspect he would identify at least one teacher or coach who was helpful to him when he was struggling with personal issues.

After he graduated from college he returned to Oneida. He is highly respected among our students and faculty. OBI was just what he needed at a critical time in his life. Now he is providing the same loving guidance and compassion he received. God surely has blessed this ministry with wonderful faculty, staff and friends who help make all we do possible.

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

Jack Frost no longer nipping

New Clear Creek student now is warming hearts

Jack Frost is now at Clear Creek. Not the Christmas version of Jack Frost—I'm talking about our new student. He has become a popular conversation starter around here

with his name. He is excited to tell everyone that he now is glad to be "warming" instead of "nipping" people's hearts with the gospel since a personal relationship with Jesus Christ changed his life.

"I was raised by a Baptist minister and his wife," Jack recalled. "Because of them, I had every opportunity to be raised in church and know about God. I professed Jesus Christ as my Savior at an early age and thought I was saved. But I didn't live for the Lord like I should have. ... I fell away from the Lord and got involved in things I had no business being a part of. My life literally turned into a horror story.

"I finally realized that I had never really come to know Christ through that personal relationship that He wants with us," Jack continued. "So I finally came to the point in my life where I surrendered my life to Christ and made a commitment to follow Him. I got involved in a program in Florida called Teen Challenge (which) really helped me

to focus on how to embrace God's will for my life.

After that "I ended up spending some time in Santiago, Dominican Republic. That was my last step in my journey to Clear Creek," he said. "While I was there, God began to direct me back to Kentucky



to share with people who had supported me about how God had changed my life. ... God also told me that I needed to go to Clear Creek.

"I just knew there was no way that I would be able to attend college with my background," Jack noted. "But I remember sitting in the admissions office and Director Billy Howell telling me, 'Jack, if you can assure me God has called you to this place then we are going to facilitate that call and let God take care of the rest'—and here I am."

It's no surprise that Jack is in the missions and evangelism track. "The gospel is really a simple message for me," Jack said, "and I feel led to go out and introduce Jesus to people who do not know Him. I believe that is God's will for my life now."

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 6-7 Region 3 Disaster Relief Re-certification and Training, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 6-7 Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat, Griffin Gate Marriott Resort, Lexington.
- 16 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville; Eagle Heights Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 17 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville; First Baptist Church, Hindman; First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 18 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; First Baptist Church, Pikeville.

- 20 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 23-24 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 26 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, First Baptist Church, Mount Sterling.

March

- 4-18 College Blitz, Habitat for Humanity, Morehead.
- 6-7 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 7 RA Congress Region 1, Bellview Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 7 RA Congress Region 3, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.
- 7 Hispanic Evangelism Conference and Hispanic Women's Event, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.

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

Faith-filled players become growing Super Bowl feature

By Art Stricklin

Tampa, Fla.—Every angle of the Super Bowl seems to get media attention, including a trend that has buoyed Christians across the country: The fact that a faith-filled player or coach will find a special moment to proclaim his love for Jesus Christ.

From Tom Landry to Roger Staubach, Shawn Alexander, Tony Dungy and last year's Super Bowl hero, David Tyree, a passion for Jesus Christ has been seen by millions of Super Bowl viewers.

"You have the eyes and the ears of the world during the Super Bowl, so it's natural players will want to talk about their faith in Jesus," said Miami Dolphins chaplain Corwin Anthony, who oversees the Athletes in Action ministry program that provides chaplains to 12 NFL teams.

"When you have the name of Jesus in you, you just have to get it out," as New York Giants receiver Tyree put it before last year's miracle catch in the Giants' upset win over the New England Patriots.

This year's Super Bowl matchup between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals featured Christians on both sides of the field. Steelers' safety Troy Polamalu and running back Melvin Moore, and Cardinals' quarterback Kurt Warner and wide receiver Anquan Boldin all discussed their faith in Jesus Christ during the media day prior to last Sunday's game.

Using the "platform for Christ"

Anthony has been the Dolphins' chaplain for nearly a decade. While he says he has not seen a huge surge of Christians in the league, typically a player has shared the Super Bowl spotlight through an opportunity to voice his faith in Christ.

"Go back to (Dallas Cowboys' head coach) Tom Landry and the influence he had. There were quarterbacks Roger Staubach, Kurt Warner and coach Tony Dungy. There is always a guy in

every era who uses his platform for Christ," Anthony noted.

That influence extends into the college ranks, he added, noting the example of players like Tim Tebow or Colt McCoy who have spoken of their faith to national media audiences.

Even the NFL itself, which takes a decidedly neutral stance toward matters of faith, acknowledges a Christian presence in the league.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, in an interview with Baptist Press (see last week's Western Recorder), called faith a private matter for players and coaches, but acknowledged that faith is "an important aspect of their lives."

The annual Saturday Super Bowl Breakfast sponsored by Athletes in Action now is in its second decade, while the Friday evening Super Bowl Gospel Celebration is marking its 10th anniversary. Both events now are officially sanctioned NFL events during the Super Bowl week of activities. For the first time, representatives of the two events were scheduled at the NFL media center this year to talk about their missions and activities.

The Super Bowl is "the super gathering for everybody," former wide receiver Cris Carter once said. "The Super Bowl for parties and for products and for games. Why shouldn't it be the Super Bowl for Christians as well?"

Anthony noted that Christians in the NFL "are always pressured to compromise their faith, but they see the examples put before them as inspiration to share what is important."

While Warner's witness for his faith is no secret to anyone who has followed his career, Arizona chaplain Chad Johnson said the veteran player was grateful for another chance to share.

"Kurt isn't a get-in-your-face type of guy," Davis noted. "But he is a sincere witness." (BP)

WMU, churches prepare for children's day

Birmingham, Ala.—

On Feb. 14, church groups and families from around the country will put faith into action as part of National WMU's Children's Ministry Day.

The theme for Children's Ministry Day 2009 is "Loving Hearts." Participants are asked to minister to the health care needs of those in their communities. The focus Scripture for the event is 1 John 3:18, "Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action. Then it will truly be love."

"Children's Ministry Day allows children's groups from all over North America to minister and witness together," said Mitzi Eaker, children's ministry consultant for National WMU. Last year's inaugural Children's Ministry Day engaged an estimated 15,000 participants to provide help and hope to the hungry.

"Children's Ministry Day is designed to positively impact the lives of children, leaders, parents, and recipients of ministry with God's love," Eaker added. "We want children to know that they, through their Christ-like service, can change lives and change the world."

Children's Ministry Day promotional packs are available, with everything from a children's sermon, invitations and ministry project ideas, to skits, clip art and learning activities designed to help groups plan their Children's Ministry Day activities. To order, visit www.WMUStore.com, or call (800) 968-7301.

For more information on Children's Ministry Day, visit www.ChildrensMissions.com.

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FREE: Oneida Baptist Institute has three nice organs in working condition when donated. They are free, but you must pick them up. Contact Missy Nichols, donations coordinator, (606) 847-4111, ext. 248. Leave voicemail if no answer.

SEEKING: Southern Baptist pastor for CBC of Winchester, Ky. Must be spiritually led. Please send resumé and non-returnable DVD/VHS by March 1, 2009, to Pastor Search Committee, CBC, PO Box 4524, Winchester, KY 40392.

SEEKING: Interim youth minister for east end church. Approximately 20 hours per week; \$200 per week. May lead to continuing ministry. Experience and degree preferred; will consider someone who is working toward these goals. Send resumé to Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220, Attn: Personnel Dept. For any questions, call the church at (502) 454-4681.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to youth/recreation/media. Salary range: \$35k-\$42k. Submit questions or resumé to Dale.Morris@ky.gov; or Dale Morris, PO Box 322, Hodgenville, KY 42748. Resumé deadline is Feb. 28, 2009.

SEEKING: Senior pastor that is capable of strongly preaching God's Word, recognizing and casting God's vision for our church, leading our congregation and staff to His purposes and grow His Kingdom. Great Bridge Baptist Church of Chesapeake, Va., desires a pastor who has completed his Southern Baptist education (M.Div. minimum) from an accredited seminary and has at least 5 years experience as a senior pastor of a medium-to-large congregation. We are blessed with a wonderful facility, great staff and loving congregation. Now, as our pastor has retired, we seek God's leader for our flock. Please send resumé and CD/DVD sermon to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 16432 Chesapeake, VA 23328; or pastorsearch@greatbridgebaptist.org. Please submit by April 30.

SEEKING: Interim worship leader for Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, Ky. Must be capable of leading a blended service/praise band. For more information, e-mail pastorbrad@gmail.com, or call (859) 792-2781.

SEEKING: Part-time music director (blended style) for Belleview Baptist Church in Burlington, Ky. Applicants should have the desire and skill to honor and serve God in worship, and grow, develop and maintain a comprehensive worship ministry that includes all ages. Interested applicants should submit resumé to Alan Walters at alan_walters@adp.com before March 30, 2009.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students to minister alongside four other full-time pastors at First Baptist Church of Tullahoma, Tenn. The minister will focus on middle school, high school and college students. First Baptist seeks to be conservative in its theology and progressive in its methodology. Send resumé to Dr. Herb Hester, pastor, 108 E Grundy St., Tullahoma, TN 37388. (931) 455-5461.

SEEKING: A growing church in southern Kentucky seeks a committed Christian with a passion to work with children (birth-6th grade) and their families. Contact High Street Baptist Church, 102 Bourne Ave., Somerset, KY 42501; or www.highstreetonline.org. Phone: (606) 678-8973.

SEEKING: Bivocational songleader to lead blended style worship at Pilot Oak Baptist Church in Graves County. Send resumé to Pilot Oak Baptist Church, 5378 State Route 94W, Water Valley, KY 42085.

SEEKING: Instrumentalist for east end congregation—contemporary and traditional music. Send resumé to Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220, Attn: Personnel Dept. You may call the church at (502) 454-4681 to set a time for an interview; hours and pay will be discussed at the interview.

SERVICES: Experienced tax practitioner seeks to help ministers with tax returns, housing allowance and basic record-keeping. Contact Bro. Grant Mathes at (502) 859-0359.



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