

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

WESTERN Recorder

February 24, 2009
Vol. 183, No. 8

FOR THE RECORD

Disaster relief

Hot food and warm hearts define Hartford church's disaster relief efforts. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

Hickman church expands its community outreach through local access cable channel. *Page 3.*

Kentucky

Series of statewide Cooperative Program rallies slated for March and April. *Page 3.*

Editorial

Do Kentucky Baptists need a stimulus package? *Page 4.*

Financial Forum

Do you really believe that everything belongs to God? *Page 5.*

Baptists

SBC Executive Committee delays vote on removal of controversial Texas church. *Page 6.*

Baptists

North American Mission Board makes gains in church plants, missionaries. *Page 7.*

Nation

Evangelical leaders voice concerns about new economic stimulus law. *Page 9.*

Resources

Preview events ramp up excitement for upcoming vacation Bible school season. *Page 10.*

Clean-up continues

Many western counties still dealing with effects of last month's ice storm

By **Dannah Prather**
Partnerships Editor

Salem—Most of Kentucky's city and suburban dwellers resumed their normal routines weeks ago after the crippling Jan. 27 ice storm, but for Western Kentucky residents, recovery has come more slowly.

"There are still areas that don't have power restored in Livingston County," Rodney Cude told the Western Recorder last week. As director of missions for Ohio River Baptist Association, Cude has spent nearly a month helping neighbors clear storm debris, checking on area Baptist churches and helping coordinate projects for local and visiting Southern Baptist disaster relief workers.

"We still have churches that do not have power," he added. "They are going in on Sunday mornings and having (worship) services but not Sunday school."

Some congregations are meeting in the dark; others are using portable generators, he said.

"The church services I've attended, we've sat around and talked about this," noted Cude, who lives in Smithland.

"War stories" is how Carl Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Kuttawa, de-

□ See *Clean-up work continues ... Page 2*



Timmy Cude (left), Andrew Cude (center) and Roger Devine clear debris from a Western Kentucky residence about two weeks after an ice storm crippled the commonwealth. These and other volunteers from churches in Ohio River Baptist Association have been joined since the storm by Southern Baptist disaster relief crews from North Carolina. According to Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb, more than 1,000 SBC disaster relief volunteers from 21 states have served in Kentucky. As of last week, some residents and churches in the state's western counties still were without electricity. (Photo by Chris Devine)

Cooperative Program deficit narrows with strong January gifts

Louisville—Strong giving from churches in January has sharply narrowed Kentucky's Cooperative Program budget deficit, even in the midst of a harsh economy.

Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$2.6 million in January, the highest monthly total so far in the current fiscal year. The January gifts reduced the CP deficit to \$205,356 (2.05 percent) from 10.05 percent after the December totals were posted.

"We are celebrating the generosity that Kentucky Baptists continue to show, even during difficult financial times," said Billy Compton, Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "The needs of the missions and ministries supported through CP have not changed, and these gifts will continue to undergird their important work."

According to Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader, through January, churches have given a total of \$9,794,644 through the Cooperative Program.

The 2008-09 CP budget is \$24 million. In order to meet budget for the fiscal year, more than \$2 million still is needed in each of the seven remaining months.

Missionary couple content to spend retirement years on the mission field

By **Mickey Noah**
SBC North American Mission Board

Memphis, Tenn.—Six people were found shot and stabbed to death in a mass murder in Memphis' dangerous Binghamton neighborhood. Three children who survived the attack were hospitalized in critical condition.

And before the dead bodies were cold, yet another shooting and robbery took place in the same gang- and drug-plagued Binghamton area, located just six miles from downtown Memphis.

Southern Baptist missionaries Willie and Ozzie Jacobs—believing it will take no less than Jesus Christ to once and for all change the crime culture of Memphis and stop such senseless neighborhood violence and bloodshed—have taken on the challenge.

Although now in their early 60s and married for 41 years, the couple is not ready for matching rocking chairs. They are on a mission from God in one of the perennial "Top 10" most dangerous cities in the United States.

"Memphis is in the middle of spiritual warfare," Jacobs said, when asked about the spiritual climate of Tennessee's youngest but second largest metro area. "We're dealing with murder, crime and drugs throughout the city. There's a racial divide that has plagued Memphis since the days of Dr. Martin Luther King. It's never healed. There's also an economic and a political divide. In the middle of all this, we try to do ministry."

As if ministry in Memphis was not challenging enough, Jacobs serves the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board—in partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Mid-South Baptist



MAKING AN IMPACT NAMB missionaries Willie and Ozzie Jacobs work with Memphis' Impact Baptist Church and Ministries as part of their church planting ministry in the Memphis area. (NAMB photo by Justin Veneman)

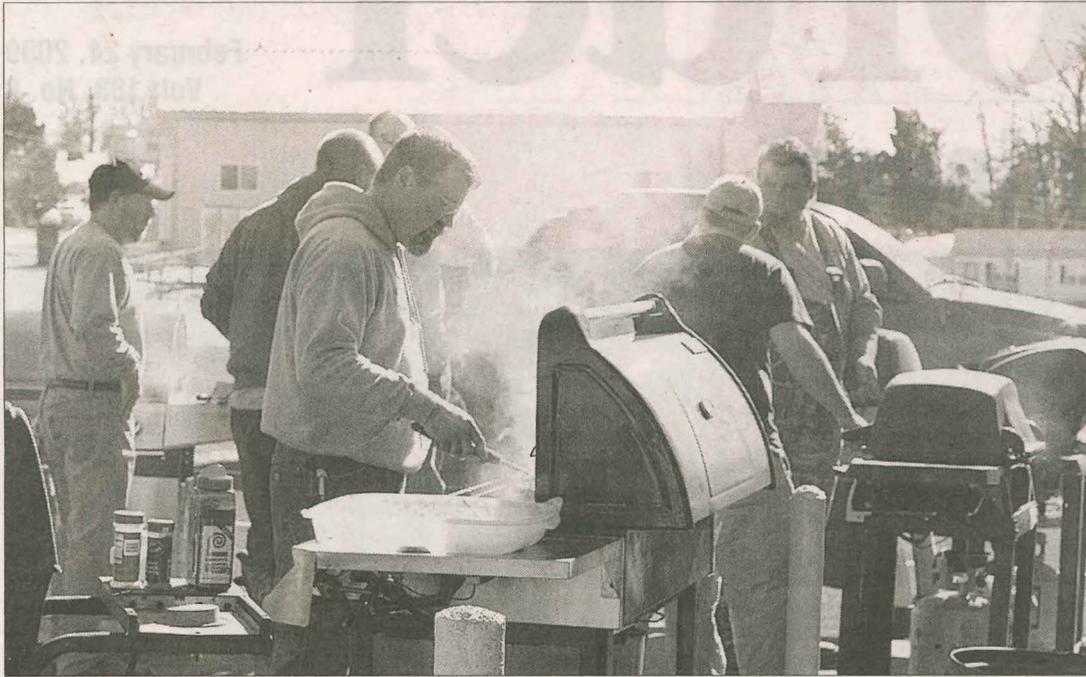
Association—as regional coordinator of church planting for the four-state Memphis Delta Region, including parts of Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri.

The Jacobses are two of 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The couple is among the NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer March 1-8. This year's theme is "Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest." The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$65 million.

□ See *Couple chooses missions ... Page 8*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Hot food, warm hearts define Hartford church's relief efforts



GRILLING OUT A group of men from Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford gather in the church's parking lot to grill the hundreds of pounds of meat donated to the church following last month's ice storm. Many area residents enjoyed their first hot meal after days of living in cold, dark homes. Pastor Kenny Rager called the Sunday cookout "a God moment." (Photo courtesy of Living Faith Baptist Church)

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Hartford—On Jan. 25, Kenny Rager, pastor of Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford, preached on the importance of Christians serving their communities. He challenged each church member to help three people the following week and to perform the service in the name of Christ.

Talk about your overachievers.

By the following Sunday evening, Rager recalled, Living Faith had fed hundreds of people in their Ohio County community who were living in cold, dark homes after the Jan. 27 ice storm.

He said a single act of kindness by Living Faith's music minister, Steve Kibbons, snowballed into a "meat cookoff" that provided some Hartford residents with their first hot meal in days.

Responding to Rager's sermon, Kibbons fired up his chainsaw to clear storm debris from his neighbor's driveway. The family was so grateful they offered the church 100 pounds of beef and pork in their freezer that would spoil because of the power outage.

"That sparked a God moment," Rager said. "We had already canceled services for Sunday but when I heard that we had 100 pounds of beef and pork given to us, we decided to call church back on."

Instead of meeting in the sanctuary for worship, Living Hope members gathered in the parking lot with their barbecue grills.

E. Ky. church earns reputation as shelter

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Stanton—Stanton Baptist Church may come to be known around Powell County as the "911 congregation."

Years ago, church leaders decided to open the facility as an emergency shelter during tornado warnings and other severe weather. Following last month's ice storm, the church did just that—and much more, according to member Tina Davis.

Only a few ice storm refugees stayed overnight, but as church members remained on call at the facility on East College Avenue, Davis said they talked about what other needs they might meet.

Members of the local volunteer fire department and the forestry service were working hard helping residents dig out from storm debris. Church members began preparing sack lunches for the crews, later adding a hot evening meal at the church.

"It really kind of exploded," Davis said.

When word got out that the church was provid-

ing for the workers, donations came pouring in. "Within three hours we had taken in over \$600 in cash," Davis recalled. Other residents brought food to the church.

For more than 10 days, members of the congregation and the community provided two meals for about 40 workers, Davis said. "It was amazing how the community came together."

Pastor Troy Luttrell said the congregation had "an environment of service" before the ice storm and now is more enthusiastic than ever.

"An emergency ministry has begun in our church preparing for the next weather event," he explained.

When the skies turn dark, Stanton Baptist's doors will be open, Davis said. "Anytime there's a storm, I'll come." Her family lives in a mobile home, she added, so the shelter is a personal blessing as well as a ministry for the church.

She also said there have been new faces at church on Sunday mornings since the ice storm. "People are seeing us as a church that cares."

In addition to the donation from Kibbons' neighbors, a church member contributed half of the beef that was soon to thaw in his freezer. A third church member donated meat from an entire hog. Others added chips and buns.

"We called every radio station that we could and told them that we were giving away free ribeyes, t-bones, pork burgers ... and every beef product you could imagine," Rager noted.

Prior to the cookout, the town seemed "kind of in a state of despair," Rager recalled. One woman said she had been heating canned food by candlelight and that the cookout provided the first truly hot meal she'd had in days.

From 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., dozens of church members worked the grills and served food to their neighbors. Power was restored to the church facility, providing a warm refuge in addition to the hot meal.

Guests and church members took meals to neighbors and loved ones unable to venture outdoors. Staff of the local hospital requested burgers via a radio station, so volunteers made the delivery.

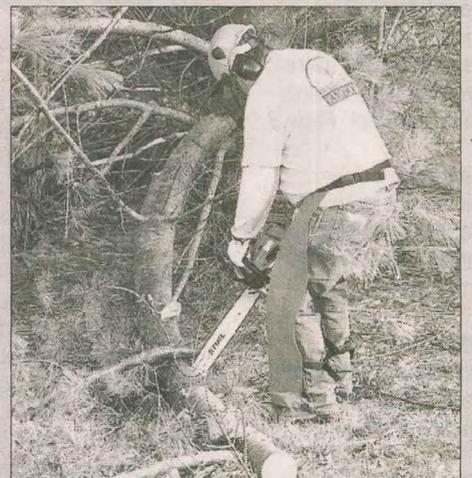
"We ran out of every piece of food we had," Rager said, noting that a gentleman even asked for beef liver.

"It was good for our people because they got just as much of a blessing out of it (as) the people we served," the pastor said.



TREE CLEAN-UP ■ Top: Leaders and students of Princeton's Northside Baptist Church collegiate ministry cut and clear storm debris from yards in their Caldwell County community. (Photo by Anita Baker/Princeton Times-Leader)

■ Right: A Southern Baptist disaster relief worker uses a chainsaw to clear away debris in the Western Kentucky town of Livermore. Clean-up work continues in several western counties almost a month after an ice storm that crippled much of the state. (Photo by Ed Greene)



Clean-up work continues in many Western Ky. counties

Continued from page 1

scribed members' accounts of being isolated by ice and debris inside cold, dark homes without telephone service.

"We lost cell phones (and) landlines," he reported.

Before teams of yellow-jacketed SBC disaster relief volunteers came to the area, Kentucky Baptists rolled up their sleeves and went to work.

"We've got a lot of work sitting on our farm but that takes second place for the people who have their driveways blocked," Cude said.

"It became a kind of neighbor helping neighbor thing" immediately after the storm, according to Nelson.

One of his first concerns was the elderly people who lived nearby. He took his four-wheel-drive vehicle to check on them. Like many of his church members, he parked the truck and walked into some areas where roads were blocked by trees and utility poles.

When Cude escorted Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders around the area the second week of February, "they were surprised by how much clean up had gone on already," he recalled.

Amid the flurry of activity, Nelson and Cude said Kentucky Baptists with whom they have worshipped since the storm have been eager to give thanks to God.

"Everybody's thankful," Cude noted, adding that while severe, the storm did not produce catastrophic property damage, and very few injuries were reported.

"The first thing I wanted to do was worship the Lord," Nel-

son said. As he made his rounds, he discovered that many members of his congregation felt the same way.

The doors of many churches in Kentucky were closed Feb. 1 but 68 members of the Kuttawa congregation gathered for worship. A member brought a generator to heat the sanctuary. They made do without lights, the pastor recalled.

"As far as I know we were the only church in the county that had services that Sunday morning," Nelson said. "I preached on Job. ... For the most part, our people understood there was a purpose behind" the storm, he added. "They came to the conclusion that God is in control."

Much work remains. Several communities in West Union and West Kentucky Baptist associations need assistance. Other associations where Southern Baptist disaster relief is focusing efforts include Caldwell/Lyon, Daviess/McLean, Graves County, Muhlenberg County, Ohio County and Ohio River.

More than 1,000 volunteers representing 21 state Baptist conventions have served in Kentucky since the ice storm, according to Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They have prepared more than 22,000 hot meals, provided hot showers and laundry service, and completed nearly 3,000 clean-up jobs.

Webb also reported that 11 people are known to have professed faith in Christ after hearing the gospel from someone on a disaster relief team.

Hickman church hits the airwaves

W. Ky. congregation expands outreach with cable channel

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Hickman—Formed not long after the Kentucky Baptist Convention's founding in 1837, First Baptist Church of Hickman has reached a milestone: It is one of the first KBC churches to operate a cable TV public access channel.

In a move whose only cost has been new videotapes, the small congregation took over the equipment last November after the non-profit organization that had managed it suffered money problems.

Jimmy Haynes, regional manager for Galaxy Cablevision, said a church in Graves County used to supply tapes for an access channel there, but this is the first time one has been based at a church.

Located on the Mississippi River, Hickman is the first system ever built by the company.

Galaxy operates cable franchises in nine states, including 25 in Kentucky. It serves about 375 homes in the town of 2,500.

"I was kind of excited about it," Haynes said. "I know they were excited about it."

"We feel like we've increased our outreach to 400 homes," Pastor Tom Quimby noted. "As we get more confident with what we're doing, we'll do some more live programming."

"I think it's given us a renewed spirit—a little spunk," quipped Hugh Caldwell, a deacon who helped organize the equipment transfer.

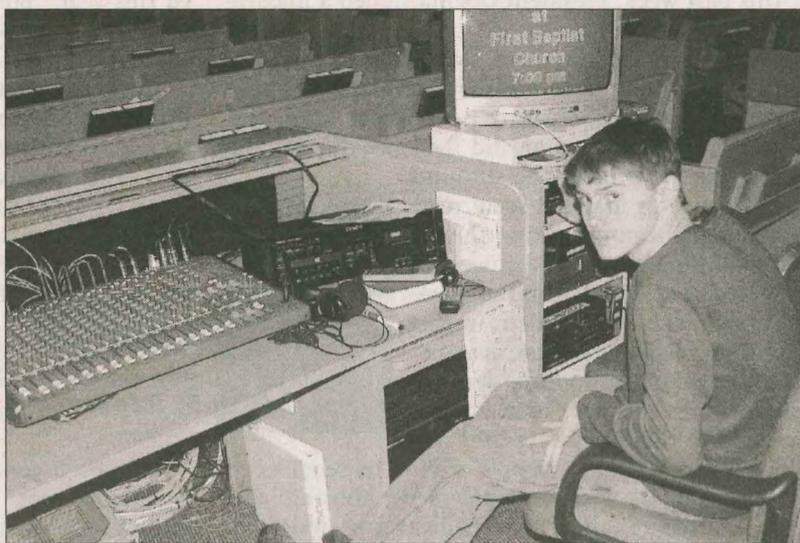
"We've had people tell us they're watching and that's what we want. We have an opportunity to put the gospel in 400 homes. Our church members are excited we're able to do that."

The church already has increased its broadcast schedule. Although it showed tapes of worship services in the past, it now airs Sunday morning and evening services live. Tapes of the morning services air Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

The other KBC church whose services air on Hickman Broadcast Ministries (Channel 13) is West Hickman Baptist, whose morning service is shown at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Hickman's First United Methodist's Sunday morning service is on at 5 p.m. Sundays and 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

"I wish more churches would get involved with it," Quimby said. "It would be more work for us, but



AT THE CONTROLS Above: Matthew Quimby, son of Pastor Tom Quimby, serves as the video technician during First Baptist Church of Hickman's live broadcast of its worship services. The church is one of the first Kentucky Baptist congregations to operate its own cable TV public access channel, which it took over from a non-profit group last November. Left: "We feel like we've increased our outreach to 400 homes," said Pastor Quimby (at pulpit), following its acquisition of a local public-access channel.

that's what we're all about."

Jason Sipes, pastor of West Hickman, recalled several people in the community who have said they are glad to see the church return to TV after a three-month break last fall.

Not only do shut-ins watch, members of other churches have told Sipes they also tune in while eating lunch.

"I'm very positive about it," Sipes said of another KBC church running the channel. "I think it was very insightful on their part to take the reins. I'm grateful for that."

Also music director at First Baptist, Hickman, Caldwell was a board member of Visions Development in the late 1980s when the non-profit group began managing the channel. Even 20 years ago, the church deacon envisioned his congregation taking over operations one day.

"Hickman is a small town and things come and go," Caldwell noted. "I let it be known if Visions ever decided not to continue, it would be a good outreach. In the back of my mind, I thought that opportunity might present itself."

The younger generation helps with the duties. Quimby's 15-year-old son, Matthew, gets services on the air, handles camera duties and mans the sound system.

The younger Quimby learned about responsibility recently when he had to carry on despite suffering from a virus.

"I said, 'This is the advantage of being a pastor's kid,'" his father told him. "You've got to get up and go

to church."

First Baptist, Hickman, which averages 60 in Sunday morning attendance, has not seen a large influx of visitors because of the broadcasts.

However, Quimby said a man who has refused to attend despite numerous invitations recently told a member, "I saw you on TV the other night."

Older members also appreciate being able to watch. Longtime member Raynalda Henry said problems with hearing and sight sometimes prevent her from attending, so she is happy the services are televised.

"I told (Quimby), 'I can hear you better when I'm sitting and listening at home,'" she recalled. "It's wonderful for people who can't get out and go."

"I think we're doing good," added Henry, who thinks broadcast quality has improved lately. "I really enjoy being able to see it."

The pastor is the TV operation has brought members closer together and increased their community awareness.

One of the events it plans to broadcast is this fall's annual Pecan Festival, as well as fundraisers for local sports teams.

"People are aware we have a ministry in town," Quimby said. "Hopefully people will see we need a little better equipment and will help us."

All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra auditions set

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist high school students seeking to refine their musical talents are invited to audition for the Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra next month.

Auditions will be held at six locations across Kentucky March 7 and 14. High school students who have completed grades 9-12 and are active members of a Kentucky Baptist Convention church are eligible to try out.

Now in its 21st year, the 60-voice

choir and 30-piece orchestra meets every summer for a retreat, followed by a concert tour. This year's tour is scheduled for June 14-21.

The March 7 auditions will be held at Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes; Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset; Boyce College in Louisville; First Baptist Church of Richmond; Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green; and Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

The March 14 auditions will be held at Boyce College; Erlanger Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of

Bowling Green; First Baptist Church of London; First Baptist Church of Madisonville; and First Baptist, Richmond.

Registration for auditions is \$10 per person and must be completed two weeks prior to the audition date. For more information or to register for an audition, visit www.KyBaptist.org/ASYCO or contact the KBC's worship and music department at (502) 489-3524; or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3524.

Series of rallies to celebrate Cooperative Program to be held during March & April

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Conv'n

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists are gearing up to celebrate the Cooperative Program during a string of rallies across the state in March and April.

The rallies will mark the official launch of the CP Missions Challenge, a three-year emphasis aimed at raising awareness of the Cooperative Program and celebrating cooperation between Kentucky Baptists.

According to Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, all Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to participate in their region's rally. The events will be held at 11 different locations statewide.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

"This is an important time for the Kentucky Baptist family to come together to remember our common goal and celebrate what God has done through our partnership," Compton said.

The focus of the rallies will be "to thank our churches that have given sacrificially through CP, and to reignite a passion for Baptist cooperation," he added.

Kentucky Baptist churches also will be challenged to observe Cooperative Program Sunday on April 26 and to give renewed focus to educating church members about CP.

"The CP Missions Challenge is a challenge to pastors and other leaders of our churches to educate their members about the impact of the Cooperative Program," Compton explained. "The goal is to celebrate the vital role CP plays in Southern Baptist missions and ministries."

Another long-term facet of the initiative is for churches to consider strengthening their contributions through CP as they are able, Compton noted.

"It would be exciting to see churches increase their giving through CP and yet at the same time, we understand the economic situation is becoming increasingly difficult," he said. "We want all of our churches to know we appreciate their financial commitment to ministries and missions through CP."

The rallies will feature testimonies from individuals, churches and ministries about how individuals have been connected to Christ, Compton noted. Each event is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. local time.

Members of the CP Missions Challenge steering committee are planning the events. The group, which includes 34 Kentucky Baptist leaders from across the state, is helping carry out the challenge and enlist the participation of other Kentucky Baptist churches.

The Cooperative Program is that plan which 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 much more.

Those Kentucky Baptists interested in more information about the Cooperative Program rally in their regions should contact that event's organizer listed below:

March 3, Owensboro, First Baptist Church. Contact: Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, (270) 684-2377.

March 5, Hopkinsville, Second Baptist Church. Contact: Pastor Larry Purcell, (270) 886-0291.

March 10, Paducah, Lone Oak First Baptist Church. Contact: Pastor Dan Summerlin, (270) 554-1441.

March 12, Louisville, Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Contact: Charles Barnes, member of Hurstbourne Baptist, (502) 565-4432.

March 17, Corbin, Central Baptist Church. Contact: Pastor Darrin Gaddis, (606) 528-6650.

March 19, Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church. Contact: Pastor Bill Henard, (859) 272-3441.

March 24, Ashland, Unity Baptist Church. Contact: Pastor Floyd Paris (606) 324-7157.

March 26, Independence, Hickory Grove Baptist Church. Contact: Pastor Will Langford, (859) 356-3162.

March 30, Bowling Green, Living Hope Baptist Church. Contact: Executive Pastor Scott Kilgore, (270) 843-9462.

March 31, Elizabethtown, Severns Valley Baptist Church. Contact: Gerald Murphy, director of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association, (270) 765-4023.

April 2, Pikeville, First Baptist Church. Contact: Pastor Paul Badgett, (606) 432-8113.

God's Plan for Sharing

God is at work, both in the hearts of those who know Him as well as those who have yet to know Him. The task we have been given as Christians is to share the gospel to help people connect with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The North American Mission Board is providing leadership to help us all do just that through a national evangelism emphasis called God's Plan for Sharing (GPS). The goal is to fulfill the Great Commission in North America by sharing Christ with everyone by 2020.

Along this journey are four biblical mileposts:

Praying—every church praying for lost people,

Engaging—every believer sharing as a trained witness,

Sowing—every lost person receiving a witness, and

Harvesting—every church celebrating every salvation result.

The first part of the GPS plan is for Southern Baptists to take the gospel across North America through a special sowing event in 2010. In Kentucky, plans have been developed to help associations and churches prepare for hand delivering a printed gospel message and an invitation to attend a Kentucky Baptist church on Easter Sunday to 1.5 million households next March.

Directors of missions will work with pastors in dividing each association into manageable geographic areas for each participating church. Each person returning a response card from the packet will receive a booklet, and a local participating church will receive information for following up.

This effort will be supported by a national media campaign that will run at the same time the gospel distribution is taking place. NAMB is producing materials for this media campaign that will use the slogan, "Find It Here."

The KBC will participate in funding this national media buy to make sure all areas of Kentucky are covered.

There's much to be done prior to next March. The preparation goals include Kentucky Baptists prayerwalking every road and street possible beginning in September and October of this year; participating in witness training; preparing the church for guests to make the very best first impression; preparing packets for distribution; and recruiting members to help distribute the packets in assigned areas. Five weeks of follow-up after Easter are also built in to the planning.

This will be a major coordinated effort among Kentucky Baptists and every church and association is needed if we are to distribute the gospel to 1.5 million homes. We estimate that it will take approximately 50,000 volunteers to accomplish this task.

Acts 5:42 tells us that the early disciples "never stopped" proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. One way they did this was by going house to house. I look forward to what God is going to do with His people through this incredible opportunity.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Do Kentucky Baptists need a stimulus package?

This past week, President Obama signed a massive \$787 billion stimulus measure to steer federal money toward health care initiatives, stabilizing the housing market and ailing auto industry, developing renewable energy sources, creating job opportunities, and increasing unemployment and food benefits for the poor. While benefits of the stimulus measure may or may not seem readily apparent in jumpstarting the nation's faltering economy, the need for providing a spiritual stimulus package to enhance the Kingdom impact of Kentucky Baptists is more evident.

In our ailing economy, ministry opportunities certainly have not disappeared. Rather, they have been amplified. More and more people around us seem to be hurting from the loss of employment, housing, adequate healthcare, affordable medical care and food. Now more than ever, many are searching for answers, for hope. We, as Christians, must anticipate divinely-appointed opportunities to provide the reason for true hope—not one that rests in our material prosperity but, rather, in storing up eternal treasures.

What ministry opportunities could be augmented if Kentucky Baptists boosted support of our churches by increasing giving or volunteering more of our time and talents? What Kingdom advances could be realized if we faithfully increased support of the Cooperative Program or participation in national or international missions? In essence, do Kentucky Baptist ministries need a stimulus package?

Posing these questions to a handful of Baptist leaders resulted in some intriguing, innovative and enhanced means for sharing our faith.

Following the recent ice storm, Baptist Men leaders had no problem coming up with suggestions to strengthen disaster relief. They are keenly aware of the need for more shower units, a lift for the kitchen trailer to assist in loading equipment, and more chainsaw workers. Coy Webb also cited costs for fuel, equipment, repairs, food and safety equipment. His dream list also included more crew chiefs for Kentucky Changers and project coordinators for Baptist Builders. "We are helping two churches with building projects, but we could easily do five or six," he challenged.

The Woman's Missionary Union is not short on ideas, either. Joy Bolton, who experienced a stimulus package through Kentucky Baptists' generous support of the Eliza Broadus offering, has been busy distributing a \$105,000 overage to underwrite various ministry projects and evangelism efforts. These include the upcoming Crossover Louisville campaign and various church/association crusades, dramas and outreach events.

"Everyone who gave to the Eliza Broadus offering is having a part in seeing the lost come to Christ through the evangelism efforts that have been and will be fund-

ed this year," Bolton said. "Please pray that God will bless and multiply these dollars as they are used to share the gospel across Kentucky."

Concerning stimulus package grants—if such a thing existed—Larry Baker suggested assisting two associations with strategic partnerships in Mexico, providing leadership training for pastors and church planters. In Kentucky, the number of High Impact churches started annually might be raised from three to five, he added.

Eric Allen pictured outfitting a van with two dental chairs and staffing it with volunteers. Churches and associations would use the vehicle to provide dental care for impoverished persons in their communities. And Scott Pittman would encourage more churches to partner with people groups somewhere in the world by providing funding for missions trips, Bibles and tracts, medical supplies and building materials.

Likewise, Keith Inman sees the importance of creating an endowment to mobilize college students for missions. Faced with rising tuition, families sometimes cannot afford to send children to serve on international missions projects. For many students, a missions experience at this juncture—while they are free from career, marital and child-rearing responsibilities—serves as a catalyst for finding God's purpose for their lives, he observed.

Retired ministers and their spouses or widows are often forced to live below poverty level because of inadequate retirement provisions. GuideStone provides assistance to many of these, but more help certainly would be welcomed, noted Don Spencer. And strengthening the state convention's matching benefits incentive would encourage more church employees to start preparing wisely now.

Expressing appreciation for what churches are currently doing to invest in Cooperative Program ministries, executive associate Billy Compton assured, "The KBC is presently prioritizing our ministries to operate within the resources we are given at this challenging economic time." He added, "As we anticipate the future, we want to keep the focus on the opportunities to minister to people in a difficult time."

"The KBC is committed to remaining faithful in meeting the needs of the mission field since these needs are still as great as ever," Compton stated. In reaching our budget goals, we could serve our missions causes without losing the ground we have gained in missions work statewide, nationally and internationally, he pointed out. While able to staff new strategic ministries, perhaps just as important, Kentucky Baptists would be able to enhance existing ministries that are already impacting lives for Christ everyday by seeking divinely-appointed opportunities to share the reason for true hope—even in difficult times.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Motto stirs imagination

My imagination was caught by the Recorder's new motto calling Kentucky Baptists to "shine like stars in the world."

I had just finished reading the January issue of Astronomy magazine with an article on the stars. I quickly asked myself what kind of star I might be?

According to astronomers, "to the most casual observer, the night sky gives the impression that it hasn't changed since time immemorial. A closer look, however, reveals the Milky Way Galaxy's ongoing cycles of cosmic death and rebirth."

"Of the approximately 6,000 stars visible to the naked eye on a dark night, most have significantly more mass than the sun, and these high-mass stars live fast and die young.

"Yet the vast majority of the Milky Way's estimated 400 billion stars are middle-aged or older and have less mass than the sun. These cool, reddish stars don't radiate much visible light."



Astronomers say to learn the details of the Milky Way star formation, they "need to expand their vision beyond the visible."

As a church today, what kind of stars are we? As a person in the pew, do we start fast and die young? Or, are we one of the middle-aged or older and have lost our zeal, not radiating much light? How far does our vision go?

My limited knowledge of astronomy has broadened my vision of what a great and awesome God we serve. The words of the psalmist come to mind, "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which

you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him."

Gladys Moss
Louisville

Downturn can bring good

Recently, I was reading a sermon by the late John Claypool, an Episcopal priest and former pastor at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.

In talking about God's generosity and humankind's need to be generous, these particular words from Claypool's sermon grabbed me: "I think we are never closer to the primal joy of existence than when we let the flow of grace come into us gratefully and move out through us generously. For it is when our blood stops circulating that our bodies get sick; it is when money is hoarded and does not move through the economy that a financial depression sets in; and it is when bodies

See Downturn can ... Page 13

WESTERN
Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
(USPS 679-380)

TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), London;
Skip Alexander (vice chairman),
Campbellsville;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Willis Polk, Lexington;
Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;
June Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Hopkinton;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

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

Western Recorder is published weekly 50 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. For general information, to give news tips, or to place an advertisement, call (502) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to:
Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes.

Finding ways to resolve parent/pre-teen conflict

By David Garrard

When children enter pre-teens years (defined here as grades 5 and 6), the parent/child relationship begins to change. Conflict often results as pre-teens push for more freedom and parents have to figure out how to respond. Pastoral counselor Wade Rowatt offers five suggestions for helping resolve these conflicts in ways that preserve and even strengthen the relationship.



Accept the problem. Work together to define the conflict clearly, making sure everyone is on the same page.

Brainstorm options. Anything goes during this phase of the conversation. No idea is too crazy. Think outside the box. Don't decide anything; just generate options.

Chose one option. Decide on a plan both parent and pre-teen can live with, remembering that both sides may have to compromise and give up something.

Do it! Restate your agreement and get busy acting on it. At this point, you can't back out, change your mind or complain. Both parties have to honor the commitment they have made to each other, and follow through on the decision.

Evaluate. Look back on the process and the solution. How did it go? Did it work?

Romans 12 encourages us to live in harmony and peace with one another. God can use these suggestions to accomplish that part of His will for pre-teens and parents.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

GCC members challenge Baptists: 'Dark day may be brightest day'

The following open letter to Southern Baptists was read by SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman during the opening session of the EC's Feb. 16-17 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Southern Baptists:

Our nation has experienced a sudden and precipitous economic decline. The presidents of your Southern Baptist Convention entities are keenly aware of our need to exercise wise stewardship during these difficult days. Southern Baptists have remained faithful in giving to Kingdom purposes despite the collapse in consumer confidence that grips our nation. We commend the generosity of countless numbers of men and women in the pews of our churches and humbly acknowledge their faith-filled obedience to the Lord. Even in the face of such sacrificial giving, our SBC entities are facing financial challenges of an unprecedented nature. We are working closely with our respective boards of trustees to bring our expenses in line with our available resources. We think this is the wise and prudent thing to do. At the same time, we remain confident that our God will continue to provide our every need according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus, Our Lord.

Financially, our nation is on its knees. Difficult circumstances, such as the current worldwide economic crisis, are often the platform on which God demonstrates His supernatural activity. What appears to many as a dark day may be the brightest day we have ever seen for reaching this generation for Christ.

Your Great Commission Council (GCC) is comprised of the presidents of our two mission boards, our six seminaries, LifeWay, GuideStone, the Ethics & Religious Liber-

ty Commission, the Executive Committee, and the executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union. Each member of the GCC uniformly believes that the Cooperative Program remains God's special gift to Southern Baptists for the fulfillment of His Kingdom purposes. Since its inception, the Cooperative Program has been a channel through which the Lord has blessed others. It provides consistent and dependable financial support for our worldwide missions and ministries.

The Cooperative Program exists because thousands of churches have pledged to work together for Kingdom causes. We are

Both individual Baptists and local churches have an opportunity to practice what Paul terms grace giving—giving that does not come from our abundance, but rather from God's abundance.

convinced that we can accomplish more together than we could ever do alone.

Both individual Baptists and local churches have an opportunity to practice what Paul terms grace giving—giving that does not come from our abundance, but rather from God's abundance. As individual Southern Baptists give their tithes and offerings through their local church, they enable their church to reach its community with the message and hope of Jesus Christ. As local churches forward a percentage of their receipts through the Cooperative Program, it enables them to support ministries that reach beyond their own Jerusalem. The miracle of the Cooperative Program is that it enables churches of every size and description to participate equally in the fulfillment of the Acts 1:8 mandate. As church-

es give through the Cooperative Program, they join with thousands of other Southern Baptist churches in reaching the lost.

Today, the GCC believes that the Southern Baptist Convention has an opportunity for cooperation that will be unparalleled in our Convention's history. With the decline of the dollar in the world's financial markets, our missionaries face a significant depreciation of their resources. There is an urgent need for Southern Baptists to be faithful in giving through the Cooperative Program for the cause of international and North American missions.

Our educational institutions are facing an unusual challenge. In addition to Cooperative Program funding, our seminaries depend on income generated from endowments. As the market has declined, endowment revenue has declined with it. Thus, they will receive smaller amounts from their endowment funds to help defray tuition costs to students. Once again, as we continue to give through the Cooperative Program, we have the opportunity to see God meet the needs of these men and women preparing themselves for service through our churches and around the world.

The GCC stands united in this endeavor—to assist churches in fulfilling Great Commission ministries through the Cooperative Program. We recognize and emphasize the essential unity of all our denominational work in the various state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

In order to raise the level of cooperation among the entities, the states conventions, and the churches of the Convention, we must commit ourselves afresh to our responsibility to seek first His Kingdom. One way we do this is by giving through the Co-

Churches should help families through tough times

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga.—Home foreclosures, auto repossessions, workforce cutbacks, bank collapses, 401(k) losses. As a comedian used to say—"Is that all that's troubling you cousin?" But no one is really laughing.

Current economic conditions and the lack of employment opportunities in our country now have created many needy families. Although two parents may be present in these families, the main breadwinner has lost his or her job.



Howard Dayton

What can churches and friends do for these folks who suddenly find themselves without enough income to pay current bills, let alone maintain their current living standard?

Of course, we could say that there are unemployment benefits and even welfare to help folks like this—but is that how those of us who are believers should respond to real needs?

Unfortunately, government welfare has developed many families who live in permanent poverty, and because of this some Christians either resent or are indifferent to the real poor.

Caring for the poor—the truly needy—is biblical and necessary. The fact that the government may have assumed that function does not cancel the responsibility of the church.

Besides, the motivation of government welfare is not necessarily love; rather, it is pity or guilt. With what

may be intended for good, government welfare systems trap people at the lowest economic level with indiscriminate handouts. To qualify for support, most recipients must show only that they are not working, not that they cannot work—and this system has produced generational welfare.

The Bible encourages us to provide for others out of love. It is interesting to see the contrasting objectives of biblical care and government welfare. The effects of sharing with

others in need, out of God's love, are threefold.

First, a sense of fellowship and belonging is created. "You are enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God. Through the proof of this service, they will glorify God for your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with others" (2 Corinthians 9:11-13).

Second, stronger family units are built up. "Now if anyone does not provide for his own relatives, and especially for his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8).

Third, a high standard for work is developed, and this prohibits laziness. "It is not that we don't have

the right, but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us. In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: 'If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat'" (2 Thessalonians 3:9-10).

Welfare was transferred from the church to the government because the church neglected the responsibility. It can be recovered, and once again the church must become the leader in caring about genuine personal needs. This is not an option from God; it is an imperative. "The one who gives to the poor will not be in need, but one who turns his eyes away will receive many curses" (Proverbs 28:27).

Committed Christians should encourage their church leaders to establish a benevolence ministry. A portion of every church's budget should be designated for needs in the fellowship, in the community and even in other areas of the country.

Each church should have a resource team to counsel families in need, to determine who does and does not qualify. There should be such an atmosphere of sharing and caring that members feel as free about sharing a financial burden as they would a physical problem.

These suggestions, based on biblical principles, not only inform us of what the church is capable of doing, but what the church must do.

Howard Dayton is co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries and current host of Crown's radio program, "Money Matters"

Do you really believe that everything belongs to God?

By Doug Strader

Stewardship is a very good word, and it is a descriptive word in the Christian community. Most Christians realize that stewardship in its Christian context has to do with more than one's finances.

For instance, as Christians we are to be good stewards of our time. Every person has the same amount of time in each day, and Christians have a responsibility to use our time wisely as the Holy Spirit leads each one. Time wasted can never be recovered.

Christians also are to be good stewards of our talents that God has given to us. We use our talents to help others, to minister to others, and to serve the Lord.

And most of us realize that God also expects His children to be good stewards of our finances. The Bible teaches that Christians are to give at least 10 percent of our income to the Lord, which is a tithe. In other words, a tithe is a minimum of what we should be giving regularly to the Lord through His church.

What is the basic meaning of the word 'steward?' To be a steward is simply to manage the affairs of another. For Christians that means that we are to manage the time, talents (spiritual gifts) and the resources that God entrusts to us. We talk about what we do with our time, our talents and our resources, but actually all of these things belong to God. He simply allows us to use them while we are living on earth.

David said in Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." This verse is forthright and clear. You and I do not really have anything that we can call our own, it all belongs to Him. If that is true, why do so many people have a difficult time practicing the biblical concept of tithing? Could it be that some of us do not really consider that everything in the world belongs to Him? Do we really believe that it belongs to us? How well are you managing what God has entrusted to you?

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



SBC Executive Committee delays vote on removal of Texas church

By Michael Foust

Nashville—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee unanimously agreed Feb. 17 to continue to study whether the convention should remain affiliated with Broadway Baptist Church, a historic Fort Worth, Texas, congregation that was involved last year in a controversy over whether homosexual couples should be pictured in a church directory.

The committee began studying the church's affiliation last year after a messenger at the SBC annual meeting made a motion that the convention declare Broadway Baptist not to be "in friendly cooperation" with the denomination. Article III of the SBC Constitution states that churches "which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior" are not in friendly cooperation.

The church voted last February to publish a directory without family portraits but with candid shots of members. Additionally, the pastor who presided over the controversy—Brett Younger—resigned from the church last June to take a position at McAfee School of Theology in Georgia. He left the church after a vote to oust him failed.

Church members, however, insisted the desire by some to remove Younger had less to do with the issue of homosexuality and more to do with a host of other issues, including his leadership and his support of a project that allowed homeless people to stay at the church at night.

The Executive Committee agreed that the study should continue and that "further inquiries and continued communications with the church be made," with the goal of "arriving at an appropriate report" to the convention at the June annual meeting in Louisville.

Three church members—interim pastor Charles Johnson, minister of congregation care Jorene Taylor Swift and denominational relations committee member Lyn Robbins—voluntarily appeared and asked members of the Bylaws Workgroup and the Administration Subcommittee, both of which considered the matter, not to recommend breaking the relationship.

Much of the discussion during the meetings focused on a Jan. 27 letter the church sent to the Executive Committee, which stated in part: "Broadway has never taken any church action to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior. Broadway Baptist Church considers itself to be in friend-



DISCUSSION Broadway Baptist Church's Lyn Robbins (left) talks to Executive Committee member Stephen Wilson, vice president of academic affairs at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield. The Executive Committee voted last week to continue studying whether the church is in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

ly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention and has every intention of remaining so." It further stated, "While we extend Christian hospitality to everyone—including homosexuals—we do not endorse, approve, or affirm homosexual behavior."

Johnson, who began serving as interim pastor last July, said he was "very heartened" and "encouraged" by discussions with committee members. He added that he came to the committee meeting in order to tell members the church does not endorse homosexuality and to urge them not to act while the church "is healing" from losing not only its pastor but some of its members following last year's controversies.

In other business, Executive Committee members approved a 2009-10 Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$204,385,592 for recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention during its June 23-24 annual meeting in Louisville.

The proposed budget maintains current allocations to the convention's ministries, including 50 percent of receipts to the International Mission Board and 22.79 percent to the North American Mission Board.

The SBC Operating Budget, encompassing the SBC annual meeting costs, the work of the convention between annual meetings and the Executive Committee, would receive 3.40 percent of the CP budget. (BP)

Hunt says financial turmoil can yield spiritual renewal

By Erin Roach

Nashville—In the midst of the nation's financial hardships, Southern Baptists have a prime opportunity to show unbelievers that what they have embraced is not fair-weather Christianity, Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt told the SBC Executive Committee.

"I thank God that what the Lord Jesus Christ has done in our lives will go the distance. The truth is ... it's not what's going to come against us that's going to make us or break us, it's what God has placed in us and what we choose to do with it," he said last week.

During a recent speech at the Georgia House of Representatives, Hunt, pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., recalled government officials lined up to ask him whether the Bible says anything pertaining to the financial difficulties Americans are facing.

Hunt said the Bible is the oldest collection of wisdom and called it the church's stimulus package.

"If we're looking for something from out there to help us, really what we're saying is that which we've received in here is not sufficient," he declared.

The first chapter of the Book of Job holds the answer for how believers are able to endure hard times, Hunt insisted. Satan asked whether Job feared God simply because God had put a hedge of protection around him, and Hunt suggested the same question could be asked of Southern Baptists and Americans.

"In other words, it's easy to

serve Him as long as we're in our fine Southern Baptist churches, our fine offices, wherever you may be serving, and we're being taken care of," he said.

But the true test comes when the sun is no longer shining down and the road is marked with suffering. That is when the world is watching to see how Christians will respond, Hunt explained. Southern Baptists need to ask themselves, "Will we accept good from God and not accept adversity?"

As the economic crisis has unfolded, Hunt said he has told individuals repeatedly that he believes God still is in control.

"God's still on His throne. He's still ruling. He's still reigning. There's no vacancy. So if that's the case, God's still in charge. He's allowing us to go through what we're going through," he noted.

"And in my estimation, if He were going to hit America anywhere to get our attention, the best place to begin is in the pocketbook," Hunt continued. "And if by taking us from recession to depression He could get us on our knees again and help us to realize a need for Him and bring revival—if He could do that and will do it, I'll be the first if He'd like to bankrupt me first."

"We're not just talking. This is something we've prayed through over and over again and just begin to say, 'God, whatever it takes in my lifetime,'" Hunt said. "But to really mean it, whatever it takes for God once again to wake this nation up to the fact of who He is in the name of Jesus, I pray He'll do it." (BP)



Johnny Hunt

Chapman: Show faith amid nation's financial downturn

By Mark Kelly

Nashville—America's financial crisis has created an unprecedented opportunity for Christians to live out their trust in God before a nation consumed with fear, Morris Chapman told members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville Feb. 16.

"Our nation has been brought to its knees financially. Now the question is, 'How shall we respond?'" asked Chapman, the committee's president. "So many in our generation have tried and tested many gods only to discover none of them has the answer to the emptiness in their hearts. If the financial collapse in the United States has reverberated to every nation on earth, could not the fresh wind of God's Spirit also reach every continent in the world?"

Financial crisis can give birth to spiritual awakening, but only if Christians are willing "to abandon all of self for all of Christ," he insisted.

"God's fresh wind can and will happen only when the church is ready to provide real spiritual leadership, to teach Kingdom values to the new-born in Christ, to do ministry, and to fulfill the Acts 1:8 imperative," Chapman said.

He also called on families and congregations alike to focus on the command of Christ to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Giving in to fear and drastically reducing missions giving would have severe repercussions around the world—both now and in eternity.

Southern Baptists must not allow themselves to focus inward when it is time to look out onto fields "white unto harvest," Chapman added. (BP)

WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNG ADULTS GONE?

essential church SEMINAR

BASED ON THE BOOK: **ESSENTIAL CHURCH?**
RECLAIMING A GENERATION OF DROPOUTS

MARCH 17, 2009 SEVERNS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
1100 RING ROAD ELIZABETHTOWN

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Featuring Sam Rainer, co-author of *Essential Church?*

Why do so many young adults leave the church, and what will it take to bring them back? Join us for a one-day seminar to explore the four solutions proposed in *Essential Church?* and discover how your church can put them into practice.

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.kybaptist.org/essential
\$25 per person
(includes lunch and materials)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.kybaptist.org/essential
(502) 489-3335 or
(866) 489-3335 (toll free in KY)
churchdevelopment@kybaptist.org

VBS continues as most effective evangelism tool

Nashville—Vacation Bible school continues to be Southern Baptists' most impressive form of evangelism. According to figures from 2007, one in 16 children ages 5-12 in America enrolled in a Southern Baptist church VBS program.

"The evangelism potential for VBS is unbelievable," said Ken Marler, network partnership specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources, who led sessions on engaging the entire church in VBS preparation and the importance of VBS follow-up during a VBS Preview event last month in Nashville.

"We enrolled more than 2.9 million people in VBS (in 2007) and about 2 million of those were ages 5-12," Marler pointed out. "When you realize that there are 32 million children in America who are between ages 5-12, it's staggering to think about one in 16 children in that age group was enrolled in a LifeWay VBS in a Southern Baptist church."

VBS typically accounts for about 25 percent of the professions of faith leading to baptisms in Southern Baptist churches.

NAMB gains in missionaries, church plants

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga.—As Southern Baptist North American Mission Board trustees looked toward the 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, they celebrated news that NAMB's missionary count topped 5,600 at the end of 2008 and Southern Baptist church plants increased 6 percent over 2007.

NAMB President Geoff Hammond highlighted the upcoming Annie Armstrong season during the trustees' Feb. 11 meeting at NAMB's offices in Alpharetta, Ga.

Citing the partners who promote the offering, with a goal of \$65 million, Hammond said, "We're grateful to Woman's Missionary Union, all the state conventions and local associations, but ultimately it's the local pastor who must challenge people to contribute."

This year's Annie Armstrong theme, "Sowing Together For Harvest," calls Southern Baptists to pray for, give to and ponder together to reach North America for Christ," he said.

Willie Jacobs, a national missionary in Memphis, Tenn., spoke to trustees about the challenges of his ministry amid the crime and violence in Memphis' inner city.

"In Memphis, 1 million people do not know Jesus as their personal Savior," Jacobs said. "We're challenged with going into places where people don't look like us, act like us or think like us. But they need the gospel. I'm glad God has chosen me to be part of it. Pray for me as we go into drug-infested areas. Remember that He loves the drug addict, the one on skid row, the prostitute and the homosexual."

Meanwhile, Hammond called for "a re-

newed urgency in North America about the gospel and the need to sow God's Word in North America. We have enough Southern Baptists to reach all the people of North America."

Much of the trustees meeting focused on GPS, the strategic evangelization initiative Hammond introduced at last year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

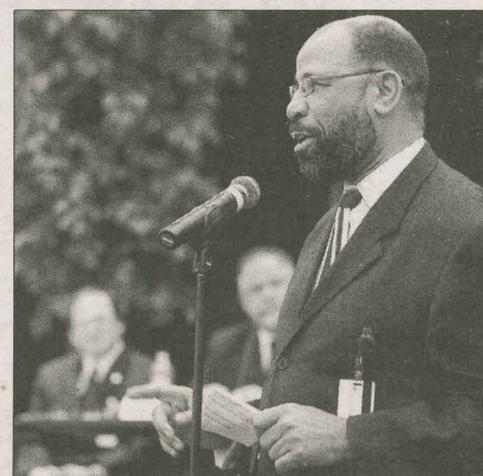
Earlier in February, NAMB announced plans to invest \$1.2 million in 2010 on a strategic media buy to implement GPS, including TV, radio, newspapers, outdoor media and the Internet. The media campaign will be coordinated with state convention partners.

Baptist associations in five states will begin piloting GPS materials later this year. Information obtained from the pilots will shape the final versions of the initial GPS resources to be made widely available in 2010.

In the first of several committee reports, NAMB's chaplaincy team reported that 2,875 NAMB-sponsored and endorsed chaplains are now serving in military and civilian roles. The number of serving chaplains should exceed 3,000 in 2009, trustees were told.

NAMB's sending missionaries team recorded a net gain of 212 long-term missionaries during 2008, bringing the total to more than 5,600. Trustees were told that 125 US/C2 missionaries now are serving in the field, the largest number ever. Also, an unprecedented 1,973 students served last year as summer and semester missionaries.

The board's church planting group reported that new church plants increased 6 percent in 2008—from 1,445 church plants to 1,538. Even so, more than 400 counties out of some 3,000 in the United States do not have a



INNER-CITY SERVANT Willie Jacobs, a national missionary in Memphis, Tenn., and one of NAMB's eight 2009 Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer missionaries, spoke to trustees during their Feb. 11 meeting in Alpharetta, Ga. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

Southern Baptist presence.

Carlos Ferrer, NAMB's chief financial officer, reported that the board's 2008 income—primarily from Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program gifts and the Annie Armstrong Offering—came in \$8.3 million below budget projections. However, the board finished the year \$457,066 ahead because of under-spending, larger than expected designated gifts and asset sales, including the former Radio and Television Commission building in Fort Worth, Texas.

As for 2009, NAMB team leaders have been told to limit spending to within 90 percent of their approved budget; a hiring slowdown also has been in place since January. (BP)

San Diego leaders share local needs while area churches put faith in action

By Meredith Day & MaryJo McNeill
SBC North American Mission Board

San Diego—To really understand the needs of a city, one must talk to the people who deal with those needs on a daily basis.

That is the idea behind a series of meetings between San Diego church leaders and city officials that began last October and will culminate in "Faith in Action Xtreme"—an extended period of service by churches to the community beginning this Easter.

Throughout 2008, 33 Southern Baptist churches in San Diego County participated in Faith in Action, an effort to serve their communities by meeting the needs of San Diegans. In a county-wide Faith in Action Sunday last April, many churches postponed morning services and went out to serve in local neighborhoods, gathering together in the evening to praise God for how He had worked.

Mike Carlisle, executive director of Vision San Diego, part of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities initiative, said Faith in Action Sunday "got us thinking, 'How do we expand on the efforts of these churches so that it becomes more than just a one-time

event? How can we build on the things that happened this year, looking toward a greater goal of true city transformation?"

The answer, Carlisle said, is Faith in Action Xtreme, an opportunity to mobilize local churches and volunteers from around the nation to assist in the areas San Diego officials have identified as some of the city's neediest.

"Our city and county leaders face these needs every day. They're our best resource for understanding how we can work together to impact San Diego," noted Vision San Diego's Sam Williams, who directs the Faith in Action Xtreme initiative.

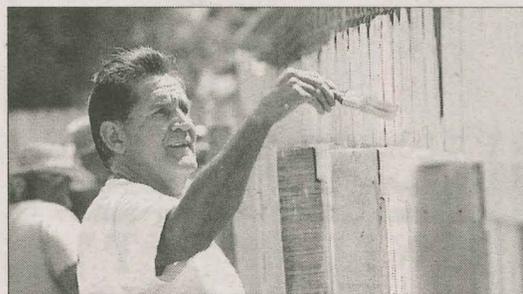
Looking toward the expanded emphasis on service, the San Diego Southern Baptist Association decided to seek opportunities to meet with county leaders in order to better understand local needs.

Last December, San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders told pastors and leaders that now, more than ever, churches have an opportunity to join civic leaders to ensure a healthy city.

Future meetings will include other government, law, business and education leaders. Each speaker is asked to answer these two questions: "What is your vision of a healthy San Diego?" and "What are three impossible problems that keep you from achieving that vision?"

"As our leaders share their vision for a healthy San Diego, we as local churches begin to understand how we can be part of the solution," Williams said. "And because we know a God who hears and answers prayer, we can intercede about the obstacles they share with us."

Specific Faith in Action Xtreme projects are in development now, and several areas have been identified where the needs of the city intersect with the purpose of the church. Those issues include underachieving school children; mentoring youth in the juvenile justice system; assisting children and families in the foster-care system; meeting the needs of military families; and assisting with elder care for more than 22,000 seniors in the social-services system. (BP)



ACTIVE FAITH A volunteer from Iglesia Bautista Broadway in Escondido, Calif., paints a fence at an apartment complex across the street from the church last April as part of the San Diego-area Faith in Action. The initiative has led to increased interactions between local churches and government officials. (BP photo courtesy of Vision San Diego)

MID-CONTINENT
UNIVERSITY

"Celebrating 60 years
of Christian education"

In honor of Mid-Continent University's 60th Anniversary,
a banquet will be held honoring the
James W. Cecil Baptist College of the Bible Alumni.

We invite all College of the Bible Alumni
to join us as we confer several
Doctor of Divinity Degrees and
Distinguished Service Awards.

Friday, the sixth day of March
Two thousand nine
six o'clock in the evening

Mid-Continent University
Cougar Center
99 Powell Road East
Mayfield, Kentucky

R.S.V.P

By phone: 270.247.8521 ext. 248

By email: ppember@midcontinent.edu

Graduate Theology Classes

- Classes meet one night a week
- Affordable • Convenient

1-800-735-0610

Course Schedule:

Main Campus *

1 University Drive
Campbellsville, KY 42718

March 23 — May 18

CHS553 Ministry of Proclamation
and Worship

March 24 — May 26

CHS521 New Testament History
and Interpretation II

CU-Louisville *

2300 Greene Way
Louisville, KY 40220

March 3 — April 21

CHS553 Ministry of Proclamation
and Worship

April 28 — June 16

CHS556 Christian Evangelism and
the Church

Elkhorn Baptist Association

1161 Red Mile Rd.,
Lexington, KY 40504

April 7 — May 26

CHS553 Ministry of Proclamation
and Worship

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association

3001 Riggs Avenue
Erlanger, KY 41018

April 7 — May 26

CHS553 Ministry of Proclamation
and Worship

Classes and dates are subject to change.
* Offers the complete Master of Theology degree.

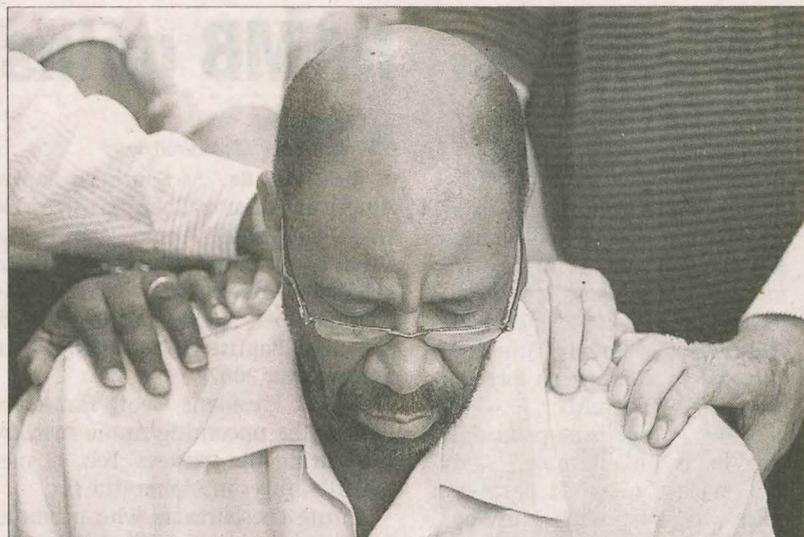
"The one night per week format fits nicely into my busy schedule as the pastor of a growing church. The one class at a time format gives me the opportunity to stay focused on my family, church and my studies. This is the way to 'do' school!"

Pastor Joel Carwile

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

WORSHIP ARTS
CONFERENCE 2009

"The Changing Face of Worship"
February 19-20, 2009
www.cuworshiparts.com



PRAYERFUL SUPPORT Fellow Southern Baptists at the Mid-South Pastors' Conference lay hands on and pray for Willie Jacobs, national missionary and regional coordinator of church planting for the four-state Memphis Delta Region. (NAMB photo by Justin Veneman)

Couple chooses missions rather than rocking chairs

Continued from page 1

Willie and Ozzie did not have to transfer to Memphis last July. They were quite happy and content in Columbus, Ohio, where Willie was serving as a church-planting strategist for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Before that, he spent 30 years as a full-time pastor in the Dallas area.

"For 40 years, we dreamed of the day when we'd become missionaries going to Africa," he recalled. "We came to Memphis because we sensed the lostness and spiritual climate of Memphis. We felt the Lord wanted us to come here and make an impact in new and innovative ways. This is a God-sized job here in Memphis when you look at the enormous responsibility we've been given as national missionaries."

Jacobs has launched a multi-pronged strategy for the Memphis area. He does his best to work alongside other predominantly African-American denominations—which are strong in Memphis—such as the Church of God in Christ and the National Baptist Convention, although "their concept of missions is quite different from ours as Southern Baptists," Jacobs acknowledged.

"One of the biggest challenges we face among Southern Baptist churches is to help people change their mindsets about how ministry is done," he added. "The churches need to learn new approaches in order to reach people with the gospel, and do it in such a way that's non-threatening. You have to build relationships."

"There's a real need for churches to realize that ministry takes place on the outside and that a lot of the needs of people are going unmet because church members and fellowships are not going out."

The greater Memphis area has a population of 1.2 million people, making it Tennessee's second largest metropolitan area behind Nashville. But with its 674,000 people, Memphis proper is Tennessee's largest city, the second largest in the South and the 18th largest in the U.S. About 61 percent of Memphians are

African-Americans, while 34 percent are Anglo. Another three percent are Hispanic. Jacobs said he knows of 55 different people groups in the Memphis area.

So, where do you begin if you're Willie and Ozzie Jacobs?

"We try to start out by finding a person of peace in the community to help us engage the community," he explained.

"We want to sow down the gospel, start Bible studies and raise up leaders. ... As our Bible study groups grow, we'll try to knit them

together to form churches."

Realizing they cannot possibly cover all of Memphis, the Jacobses concentrate on the inner-city neighborhoods of Binghamton and Klondike, the Frazier, Tenn., area north of Memphis, and Whitehaven in south Memphis.

"You've got different types of people in all areas that may not go inside a traditional church, but yet they will come to Bible studies with people in their own cultures," Jacobs noted.

Ministry to Memphis' apartment complexes is one of the Jacobses' top priorities.

"Multi-housing is one of the untapped, unreached people groups," he said. "It's among the U.S. apartment dwellers where you find the most single-parent homes, crime and drugs. We're finding that apartment managers welcome us to come in and start Bible studies because they are looking for help to offset the negatives and bring stability to their complexes."

The Jacobses work especially close with Bent Tree Apartments in Memphis, in an effort to create a network of apartment ministries throughout the area.

"One of our goals as we work in the apartment ministry is to go into other Memphis complexes with this model and replicate it over and over again," he pointed out. "When people's lives are changed through Jesus Christ, it changes the culture of people who live within the city. I think Memphis can be changed in a great way."

ANNIE
ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING*
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

New economic stimulus law will place rations on health care, evangelicals say

By Tom Strode

Washington—President Obama signed a massive economic stimulus bill Feb. 17 amid a range of protests about a move toward rationed health care, unwise and exorbitant expenditures, and religious discrimination.

Southern Baptists inside and outside of Congress were among those expressing opposition to the legislation.

The president and other supporters promoted the bill, which will cost an estimated \$787 billion over 10 years, as a necessary step in the effort to revitalize a dramatically faltering economy. They say it will create or preserve 3.5 million jobs.

Foes of the legislative package, however, said the new law falls short in its mission while it poses threats to Americans' liberties. Among the concerns raised were:

- It paves the way for a government-controlled medical system that will result in rationed health care.

- It provides too much spending in areas that will not immediately

stimulate the economy and increases the financial burden on future generations.

- It will discriminate against faith on college campuses by prohibiting religious worship or instruction in buildings renovated with stimulus funds.

Ethics leader Richard Land and Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., both Southern Baptists, issued warnings about the bill's health-care implications.

"To me there are a lot of things that are disturbing in this bill," noted Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, "but if I were to single out one thing that is most disturbing it would be the \$1.1 billion to create a superstructure of rationed health care to the sick and the elderly."

A member of New Community Church in Muskogee, Okla., Coburn called the provision "the most dangerous precedent for health care in this country we have ever seen."

The new law establishes a Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research, which

Land and Coburn insist will lead to health care being provided based on whether it is cost effective.

The new law also includes a section that raised concerns among religious liberty advocates. It makes money available for the renovation of university and college facilities but bars those buildings from being used for religious worship or instruction. One of the effects apparently would be to bar Bible studies and worship meetings by Christian and other religious student groups in facilities that have undergone repairs or modernization work underwritten by stimulus funds.

The American Center for Law and Justice promised before final passage it would challenge the controversial religious provision in federal court.

The president's signature to the bill came four days after the House of Representatives and Senate both approved a final, negotiated version. The 1,073-page measure was not finalized by negotiators from both chambers until late Feb. 12, but it still was voted on the next day. (BP)

Survey: Americans skeptical about end of world

Nashville—Despite many popular doomsday predictions, most Americans are not concerned that the end of the world will occur in their lifetimes, according to a new study by LifeWay Research.

Only 11 percent of those who participated in a survey on the topic said they agree with the statement, "I believe that the world will end in my lifetime," as reported in the LifeWay Research Insights newsletter Feb. 3.

"Many religions predict a time when the world will end, be recreated or experience some cataclysmic transition," noted Ed Stetzer,

president of LifeWay Research. "For others, that is not a religious issue but based on concerns from the environment to nuclear war. However, the belief that 'the end is near' is not that widespread."

The study found that Americans with higher incomes are less likely to believe the world will end soon: 71 percent of those making \$100,000 or more disagree that the world will end in their lifetimes. Meanwhile, 53 percent of those making \$25,000 or less disagree with the scenario, while 15 percent agree.

LifeWay Research found that 10 percent of married people agree that

the world will end in their lifetimes compared with 14 percent of singles and 13 percent of those living with their partners.

Older Americans are more skeptical than any other age group that the world will end before they die, LifeWay Research reported, noting that 71 percent of those 65 and older disagree with the idea.

Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 are more likely than any other group to agree that the world might end while they are still living. Only 50 percent of those surveyed disagree that the end of the world will come in their lifetimes. (BP)

NATIONAL NOTES

FBI probes food ministry—Angel Food Ministries, a Georgia organization known for its distribution of food to needy families, is under investigation by the FBI. A spokesman for the FBI in Atlanta, confirmed Feb. 13 that agents searched the ministry's headquarters near Monroe, Ga., but declined to give details of the investigation. According to tax forms posted on the York (Pa.) Daily Record Web site, Angel Food CEO Joseph Wingo's compensation increased from \$69,598 in 2005 to \$588,529 in 2006. It decreased to \$164,938 in 2007. Wingo's wife, Linda, with whom he co-founded the ministry in 1994, also saw similar changes in pay. In her role as vice president, her compensation rose from \$69,598 in 2005 to \$544,043 in 2006 and dropped to \$54,723 in 2007. The ministry sells boxes of food for \$30 that feed a family of four for about a week. They are distributed in dozens of states with the help of church volunteers.

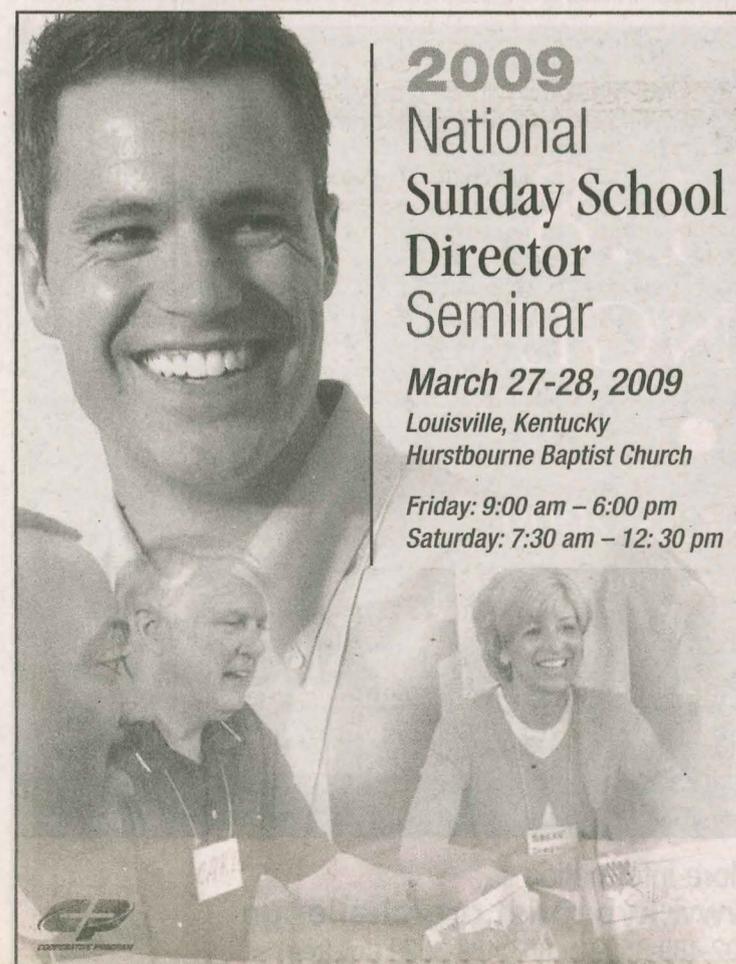
Ark. House passes bill allowing guns in church—The Arkansas House of Representatives approved a bill Feb. 11 that would allow people with concealed-weapon permits to bring their guns to church. The bill soon will go to the state Senate. If passed, it would amend the state's gun laws to remove "any church or other place of worship" from a list of places where firearms currently are banned. Proponents of the bill point to incidents like the 2007 shooting at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., where a gunman killed two and wounded three others before he was shot down by an armed security guard. Opponents say it flies in the face of the centuries-old tradition of the church as a "sanctuary" free from the fear of violence.

D.A. asks for help in persuading witnesses—New Orleans District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro has asked local religious leaders to encourage their congregants to reach out to prosecutors when they witness violent crimes. Cannizzaro asked clergy at a recent prayer breakfast at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to help forge an alliance with his office to help convince more witnesses to take the stand in criminal trials. Even if witnesses to crime are afraid, church leaders should encourage them to testify because "they care about their community," he said. Cannizzaro's remarks were met with applause, but some in attendance expressed skepticism. Local church figures said their neighbors do not trust the New Orleans Police Department, citing instances of corrupt officers and racial profiling.

Group boycotts over La. teaching rules—A national organization of scientists has informed Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal that it will not hold its annual convention in that state as long as the recently adopted science curriculum standards remain on the books. The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology told Jindal that its executive committee chose Salt Lake City for its 2011 convention over New Orleans "in large part" because of the science standards. Jindal signed the law last year, agreeing with its supporters that science teachers need wider latitude to use supplemental materials for lessons on topics such as evolution, global warming and cloning. Many science groups urged the governor to veto the bill. They cast the act as a back-door attempt to allow Judeo-Christian creation theology or intelligent design to be taught as part of science class.

Ministry sues for access to inmates—The Oklahoma Department of Corrections' refusal to allow a Christian ministry access to send Bibles, books and other religious materials to inmates has sparked a federal lawsuit. Wingspread Christian Ministries, headquartered in Prairie Grove, Ark., and operated by Illinois-based Evangelists for Christ Inc., filed the lawsuit Feb. 11. The lawsuit claims restrictions on prisoners' correspondence violate the First and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and Oklahoma's Religious Freedom Act. Wingspread sends similar religious materials to prisoners in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, New York and Texas but "has not encountered restrictions upon and impediments to its ministry similar to those encountered in Oklahoma."

Church protests memorial for crash victims—Members of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., protested two memorial services for the victims of Flight 3407, the commuter plane that crashed near Buffalo. The group picketed a morning community prayer service and an afternoon memorial service for human-rights activist Alison Des Forges. The group also protested outside the Florida funeral of the plane's captain, Marvin Renslow, last week. Westboro leaders said God "spared the lives of those in the plane that crashed into the river at New York City" as a warning, but caused the Buffalo crash when "Americans went right on sinning against God."



2009 National Sunday School Director Seminar

March 27-28, 2009

Louisville, Kentucky
Hurstbourne Baptist Church

Friday: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday: 7:30 am – 12:30 pm

The National Sunday School Director Seminar is highly energetic, intensely focused, quickly moving, and totally devoted to the Sunday School Director!

2009 NSSDS Training

General Session #1: The Purpose and Mission of the Sunday School

General Session #2: My Role in Leading Effective Sunday School Work

General Session #3: Blueprints for Growing Your Sunday School

General Session #4: Developing Life-Changing Bible Teaching

General Session #5: Building a Strategy for My Sunday School

Registration: \$49.95 per person

Register online at www.kybaptist.org/nssds



KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Sunday School Department

P.O. Box 43433 • Louisville, KY 40253-0433

502-489-3572 or 866-489-3572

www.kybaptist.org/nssds

Preview events ramp up excitement for upcoming VBS



VBS HEAD START Tania Marcum (left) and Kathy Brown (center), co-directors for this year's vacation Bible school at Central Baptist Church in Corbin, get personalized set-building guidelines at last month's VBS Preview at LifeWay in Nashville. (Photos by Kent Harville)

By Polly House
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—During a recent VBS Preview event, Jerry Wooley, VBS specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources, stated the obvious: VBS is fun. The children learn and many make professions of faith during the week—but that's only part of the potential, he insisted.

Wooley asked the crowd how many of them personally knew of families who were reached and brought to faith in Christ during a follow-up visit. Hands were raised all over the room.

"We have the numbers from 2007's VBS that tell us more than 88,000 people attending VBS made professions of faith," Wooley said. "What we don't have numbers for, but know to be true, is that in many cases moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents and friends of children came to know Jesus because of the child's participation in Bible school and the home visits that followed."

LifeWay hosted four VBS Preview events last month with about 3,300 people in attendance.

Effective follow-up does not happen without a plan, said LifeWay network partnership specialist Ken Marler, who led a session on the topic.

The first plan for follow-up is planning ahead, he explained.

"Involve the whole church in getting ready for VBS," he suggested. "Most churches will use just about every inch of space for VBS, and, yes, some of the classrooms will get messed up and something will get broken. But, if you let the old folks know that a group of first graders will be using their room for Bible school, and you give them the teachers' names and the names of each of the students and you ask these folks to pray for every one of those teachers and children by name, you'll be surprised how much buy-in they'll have."

He also noted that January and February are good months to start talking up VBS. "If you promote VBS you'll have a good crowd."

However, planning and promotion will be in vain if you do not finish the race with good follow-up, Marler added. Looking at the numbers requires VBS leaders to take the responsibility to keep up with the children following the week's event.

How to followup

Marler offered the following suggestions:

- Set goals for follow-up. Determine how many leaders should be involved, then set up teams. At each visit, have church and Sunday school information ready to give to each family.

- Include adult class leaders and children's department leaders. Before VBS even begins, enlist leaders to visit each child's home afterward. Not only should there be a plan for the children, but also bring along adults from an appropriate class to visit with the parents.

- Registration must be correct. Start pre-registration early. Fill out an information card for every child

who comes to VBS, even those who attend church regularly.

- Report VBS follow-up efforts to the congregation. From the pulpit, enthusiastically remind the congregation that VBS was a big success. Tell them how many children participated and how many families benefited from the follow-up.

- Establish a VBS prayer ministry. This is a ministry that can be active all year long, not just for the months leading up to VBS. Make a prayer calendar and distribute it to the entire church.

"The bottom line is this: VBS is inconvenient, it's hard work and it costs money," Marler said. "I don't think there is any person in this room who would say otherwise. It is hard, but I believe it is absolutely the most rewarding week in the church year."

For 2009, LifeWay offers two lines of VBS curriculum—"Boomerang Express: It All Comes Back to Jesus," set in the Australian Outback; and "Club VBS: Truth Trek," set at an archaeological dig site.

For more information, visit www.LifeWay.com/VBS, or search for LifeWay VBS on Facebook.

Tips for hosting VBS at a smaller-membership church

Nashville—A small church on a tight budget can host a tremendous vacation Bible school. All it takes is good planning and creativity.

Rhonda Vancleave, an editor in LifeWay's childhood ministry publishing area, led a session on "Using Boomerang Express for Smaller Membership Churches" during the VBS Preview event last month at LifeWay headquarters in Nashville. Vancleave shared VBS tips she learned as a pastor's wife in smaller churches. Conference participants also shared tips from their churches' successes.



Here are some of their ideas:

1. Co-op with other small churches in your area. Share decorations and supplies. Remember to coordinate your VBS dates so there is no overlap.

2. Take advantage of free VBS teacher/leader training from your local Baptist association. Training is one thing that sets LifeWay's VBS apart. Last year LifeWay trained 700 state workers, who trained 8,000 associational workers, who went on to train 80,000 church workers.

3. Ask church members to buy or donate a specific item. One church did an "Angel Tree"-type request. They put notes on a tree, asking for items like a VBS banner, name tags, etc. The key to this success is to offer a variety of prices so everyone has the opportunity to donate. Let them know your needs. You never know what someone may have stored away in the attic that could be shared for free.

4. Ask local businesses to sponsor some part of your VBS in exchange for publicity. One church had a local dairy donate ice cream for all the children. Another church got coupons for free kids' meals.

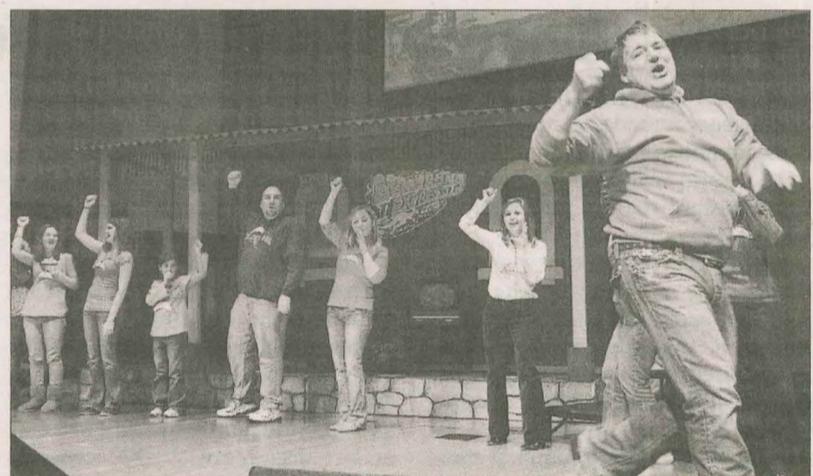
5. Use co-directors so you can spread out the responsibility. Have a pre-planning director, a VBS week director and a follow-up director. Spread it around so no one has to be overwhelmed.

6. Look at what you can realistically do. If you have a small church and most of the people have 9-to-5 jobs, plan an evening VBS when people can help. If you do not have someone who can do the themed snacks every night, just do them one night as a special treat.

7. Involve all age groups from the church. Enlist the senior-adult men to be parking lot and hall monitors. Enlist senior-adult ladies as VBS prayer partners by providing them with the names of each of the teachers and students. Ask them to pray by name for everyone. You may just find them to be your most ardent supporters.

8. If you are in an area with year-round school, you may need to make adjustments for when you offer VBS. Have it at night or during spring or fall break. You could even spread it out over five Saturdays.

9. Lengthen the VBS day. If most of the parents in your church have jobs and cannot manage transportation for their children for a three-hour morning VBS, extend the day. Offer a light lunch, followed by sports, crafts, rest time, field trips or even a scavenger hunt. This can be a great time to work on the VBS musical, too.



"ALL ABOARD!" Jeff Slaughter, local composer and vacation Bible school songwriter for the last several years, leads the audience in the theme song of Boomerang Express: It All Comes Back to Jesus during last month's VBS Preview at LifeWay headquarters.

Build momentum for missions in your church...

ACTS 1:8 CHALLENGE

● ● ● ●

SPRING CONFERENCES 2009

8:30 am – 3:15 pm (local time)

What is Acts 1:8?
The Acts 1:8 Challenge is an opportunity for Southern Baptist churches to declare their commitment to a comprehensive missions strategy in their community, state, continent and world. Join us at an Acts 1:8 Challenge conference near you to learn how your church can embrace the Acts 1:8 Challenge!

Dates & Locations

March 31 - Bowling Green
April 2 - Hazard
April 3 - Owenton
April 4 - Salem

Featuring speakers from the IMB, NAMB, and KBC.

FREE event!
Pre-register at www.kybaptist.org/challenge to reserve your place and complimentary lunch.



More Information
www.kybaptist.org/challenge
502-489-3529 or 866-489-3529 (toll free)



Summer is nearly here ...

As camp nears, Crossings staff will share their hearts

A chill still may be in the air, but summer is just a short time away.

In preparation for camp this year, we have numerous individuals working on seemingly hundreds of random tasks that are somehow all connected. While I can offer a certain perspective about the preparation for camp, my view is limited in that I am not involved in many of the details.

Therefore, over the next three months as we lead up to camp, some of our staff members will be writing this column to share their perspectives on what camp means to them.

Along with their remarks, you will see how God is working in their respective circumstances to first, sanctify them as believers, then secondly, empower them to carry out their work in this ministry.

As I have thought about doing such a series, my prayer always has been that God would speak through what is written to help each of you understand more about what happens with the Crossings ministry. The hope is that through your greater understanding, God would lead you to participate with

us through prayer.

This year is special in that Crossings is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. When I reflect on these very important and formative years, I am most humbled by how God has protected this ministry and provided what was needed in each and every circumstance.

There is no doubt that what has taken place must be credited to the Lord because no human effort could do what has been done.

In that spirit, I pray again that through the words of the Crossings staff, you will be encouraged and moved to pray for us and this ministry. Each and every year—

along with thousands of others—your prayers are needed more and more.

The specific areas that we ask for prayer are in the safety for our guests; clear understanding of the gospel as it is presented each and every day; and strength and protection for our staff.

I pray that as you hear from some new people over the coming weeks that you see more clearly how God is active through camps.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

Standing up for our children

Statewide events put focus on preventing child abuse

Jesus stood up for many people during his ministry on Earth—children, women, the poor, the sick, the outcasts, the powerless.

Christ's example of life-affirming love drives us at Sunrise Children's Services to stand up for kids in Kentucky who are victims of severe abuse and neglect. On March 28, you will have the opportunity to literally stand up for children whose suffering mostly goes unnoticed.

For the second consecutive year, we will be holding Take a Stand events across the state to raise money for Sunrise and spread awareness about the prevalence of child abuse.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and as a kickoff event, supporters of Sunrise will "take a stand" for two hours in Danville, Elizabethtown, Morehead, Louisville, Owensboro, Paducah, Pikeville and Somerset. The date is Saturday, March 28, and the time is 10 a.m.-noon.

Plan ahead now to bring your family, Sunday school class or church group to the event nearest you. A final Take a Stand event is scheduled for April 25 in Lexington.

In 1 Corinthians 15, the famous passage on the promise of our resurrection after death, Paul opens by writing: "Now, brothers,

I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand."

Because of the gospel, we stand up for Kentucky's children and hold to the promise that:

- They will find safety and comfort.
- They will have food, clothing and shelter.
- They will receive an education.
- They will have the opportunity to know Christ's love.
- They will realize their value as individuals.
- They will overcome the deep hurts left by those they trusted most.
- They will grow into healthy adults.

As many as 400 children find refuge each day at Sunrise. They are among the 7,000 in Kentucky in out-of-home care—results of the fact that a child is reportedly abused or neglected every 8.5 minutes. Can you spare two hours to take a stand for these kids?

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm," 1 Corinthians 15 concludes. "Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

For more information on Take a Stand, visit www.Sunrise.org or call (800) 456-1386.

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org

SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES



Bill Smithwick

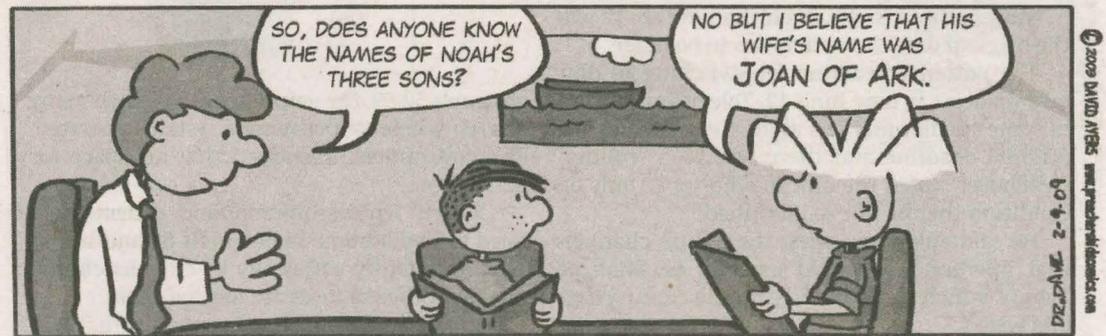
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



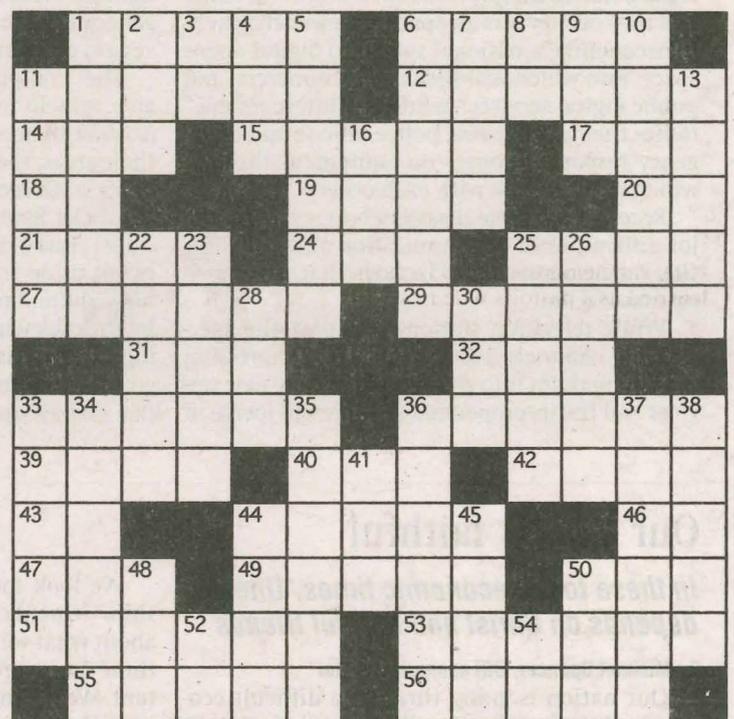
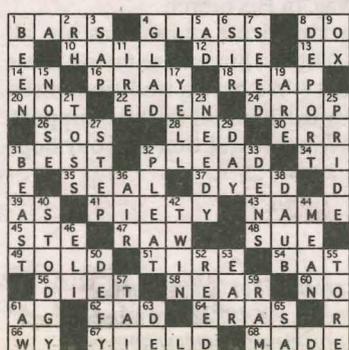
Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "But the very ____ of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30)
- 6 Throws a fit
- 11 Twilight
- 12 Changes the subject
- 14 California time (abbr.)
- 15 "Carry neither ____, nor scrip, nor shoes" (Luke 10:4)
- 17 A tree's blood
- 18 Buckeye bailiwick (abbr.)
- 19 "Prove me now ... if I will not ... ____ you out a blessing" (Malachi 3:10)
- 20 Note on the diatonic scale
- 21 "____ it, even to the foundation thereof" (Psalm 137:7)
- 24 "Go, sell the ____ and pay thy debt" (2 Kings 4:7)
- 25 One of Jezebel's gods
- 27 "The stone shall cry out ... and the beam out of the ____ shall answer it" (Habakkuk 2:11)
- 29 "And I was afraid, and went and hid thy ____ in the earth" (Matthew 25:25)
- 31 Long, long time
- 32 Thing, in legalese
- 33 Positions
- 36 Getaway destination
- 39 Adjective or adverb that is the equivalent of an exclamation mark
- 40 Take advantage of
- 42 Incite, with "on"
- 43 Printer's measure
- 44 A transparent body used to refract light

Last week's solution



- 46 Quadrant in D.C.
- 47 Conjunction
- 49 Eagle abode
- 50 "There was no room for them in the ____" (Luke 2:7)
- 51 Escargots
- 53 "David ____ before the Lord with all his might" (2 Samuel 6:14)
- 55 Touching, as a gesture
- 56 Member of church hierarchy

Down

- 1 Friend of David (2 Samuel 15:32)
- 2 "Go to the ____, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 3 Linking verb
- 4 Agent, slangily
- 5 Kin to comatose state
- 6 Outcome
- 7 To declare positively
- 8 Peachy place (abbr.)
- 9 Manuscript refiners (abbr.)
- 10 One who takes to the seas
- 11 "Be a ____!"
- 13 "We ... are as water ____ on the ground" (2 Samuel 14:14)
- 16 Like Louis XIV, par exemple

- 22 Libel, slang
- 23 Pioneer African American periodical
- 25 "My soul may ____ thee before I die" (Genesis 27:4)
- 26 Fabled author
- 28 "Be sober, and hope to the ____ for the grace" (1 Peter 1:13)
- 30 Linking verb
- 33 In Sverige, you may meet more than a few
- 34 "Two ____ shall there be in one board" (Exodus 26:17)
- 35 Most certain
- 36 Hang one's hat
- 37 Messenger
- 38 Fashion statement
- 41 Title of respect
- 44 "Behold a ____ horse: and his name ... was Death" (Revelation 6:8)
- 45 ____ ticket
- 48 Uncooked
- 50 Diamonds, slang
- 52 Oft-used abbr.
- 54 Bismarck bailiwick (abbr.)

FCC to churches: Don't throw out your wireless mics just yet

By Norman Jameson
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Washington—Churches: Do not throw out your wireless microphones—yet.

With the shift of the nation's broadcast communications from analog to digital, early indications were that wireless microphones might become outdated or even illegal.

A Federal Communications Commission official said Feb. 17 that rules still were being written to address those issues, even though Feb. 17 was the original date the switch was to be made.

The national deadline for switching to digital broadcast is now June 12. Television stations in some smaller markets made the switch by the original deadline and there will be a "rolling" switchover, noted the official who spoke only on condition that he not be identified.

He said rules governing the digital channels that microphones would use will be finalized "soon," which he defined as "in the coming days and weeks."

The background: Signals broadcast through the air occupy a specific band or channel. Digital signals can be compressed much more efficiently and they occupy less air space, or fewer channels. Consequently, a national switch to digital opens space, into which will slide new commercial and public digital services, including "interoperable" radios that will put fire, police, rescue and emergency response services on equipment through which they can talk with each other.

Recent large-scale disasters have exposed major difficulties in communication and coordination for response teams in ways that have proven catastrophic.

While television stations occupied the spectrum in channels 2-69, the digital compression is packing them into channels 2-51. Now new services and the interoperable systems will locate in



channels 52-69, the empty space in which many church wireless-microphone systems operated. The government auctioned that air space for \$20 billion.

Church wireless-microphone systems will need to find a home in channels 51 and below. That availability varies city by city, depending on what other services are located there.

It actually is not the microphones that will be out of date, but the transmitters that send the signals to the amplifier. Some can be reconfigured; others will be no good. Churches will generally have more flexibility if their sound-system equipment is new or high-end.

The equipment manufacturer should be able to help local-church audio crews, as well as assist them with what channels are vacant in their areas, the FCC official said.

In a December Western Recorder report, Kentucky Baptist Convention audio-video specialist Larry Brannin recommended churches set aside money in their budgets now for new equipment purchases in the future. "They might stick with what they've got, but start saving for it so that when the time comes they can go get what they need," he advised. (ABP)

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

GCC members challenge Baptists: 'Dark day may be brightest day'

Continued from page 5

operative Program to help reach our world for Christ. These difficult economic times provide Southern Baptists a marvelous opportunity to bear His light. As we all give sacrificially to His purposes, we as members of the GCC commit ourselves to you and the Lord to exercise the wisest stewardship possible of God's resources and to demonstrate our confidence in the sufficiency of Christ.

Hopefully, the recession will be short-lived. Regardless, we are committed to following biblical principles of stewardship and accountability that we believe will help us emerge from the recession with the strength necessary to continue the expansion of evangelism, church planting, theological education, missions at home and abroad, and the promotion of ethics and religious liberty that the Lord has entrusted to us. In all things we want to be found faithful, both to the Lord and to Southern Baptists. The economic challenges may be great—and they are—but our God is greater. He

is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think. Let us covenant together to trust in the Lord with all our heart, to pray fervently, to give willingly, and to look forward expectantly.

- Daniel Akin, chairman of the Great Commission Council and president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee
- Jerry Rankin, International Mission Board
- Geoff Hammond, North American Mission Board
- O.S. Hawkins, GuideStone Financial Resources
- Thom Rainer, LifeWay Christian Resources
- Richard Land, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
- Wanda Lee, Woman's Missionary Union
- Jeff Iorg, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Philip Roberts, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Charles Kelley Jr., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Albert Mohler Jr., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Paige Patterson, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Johnny Hunt, Southern Baptist Convention
- Randall James, SBC Executive Committee

Turn on the light of forgiveness, hope, direction & love in your life!

GLENN & CAROLE MOLLETTE

www.lightsource.com • www.oneplace.com • xm170 Radio

Our God is faithful

In these tough economic times, Oneida depends on Christ and faithful friends

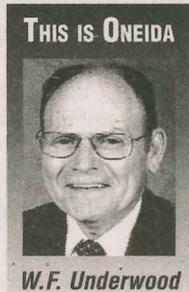
By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

Our nation is going through a difficult economic downturn and millions of Americans are feeling the effects. Ministries such as Oneida Baptist Institute are particularly vulnerable during times of economic trouble. Our school is on sound financial footing, but the economic environment has affected us and likely will continue to do so for months to come.

In these times, Christians look at the Scriptures and are told things that may sound a bit crazy to most people. We are told to rejoice in our difficulties. We are told that God delivers and protects His people, that He knows the economics of sparrows and flowers, and that we are much more valuable. We are told that the joy of the Lord is our strength, and we are invited to ask anything believing, and God will answer our prayers.

At OBI, we've trusted God through good times and bad for almost 110 years. Those years include depression and recession, war and disaster. God always has seen us through, not with a bailout but with His work done His way. So while we look at the same economy as other ministries, we have a different hope. What do we look forward to?

We look forward to our friends standing with us. Not with a multi-billion-dollar bailout, but with the same steady financial support we've always had from those who believe in what God is doing for young people at Oneida. We look forward to churches standing with us, continuing to help us carry out the Great Commission.



We look forward to "adventures in stewardship." Oneida never needs to be embarrassed about what we do with a dollar or a donation, but these days, stewardship will be even more important. We will make adjustments, but are not concerned about paying excessive salaries or popping up the "comfort zone" of administrators. We live and work together and share in stewardship. This challenge will give us an opportunity to continue to set the pace in that area.

We look forward to seeing how volunteers can continue to make a difference in what we do on this campus. They have brought donations, hours of skilled construction help and support in dozens of areas. I believe they will be with us through whatever the future holds.

We look forward to showing our students that OBI isn't about money or the American standard of living, but about the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

When times are hard, we can make Jesus look great by placing our hope in Him. Our staff will teach and love our students no matter what happens. As God sends us students, we will carry out His mission His way, in His power.

We are facing a difficult chapter, as are all Kentucky Baptist schools. But we are facing these days with confidence. We have a tradition of service, sacrifice, stewardship and faithful support. Most of all, we have a faithful God and our hope is in Him.

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

Friendly campus

Minnich enjoying life as a Clear Creek College student

Matthew Minnich is a 23-year-old freshman from Ohio. His experience with college life has been a pleasant surprise for him.

"I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home," Matt recalled. "My mom and dad always took me to church. I came to know the Lord as my Savior when I was 12 years old."

"When I first realized that God was calling me to some type of ministry, I fought it for a while," he said. "I was like a lot of the students that are here now; I had a good job and was doing all right by myself. The thought of college never really entered my mind. I got involved in some local ministry opportunities, but I knew God had more planned for me. I eventually realized that I needed to go to college somewhere and get the training I needed to be equipped for the ministry God called me to."

"I talked to my pastor and shared with him about God's call on my life and asked him what I should do. Clear Creek was one of the options he pointed me to. I began to pray ... and Clear Creek was where I felt God leading me." So what is college life like

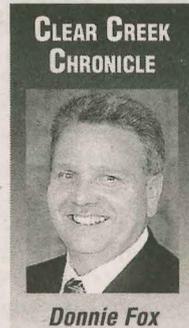
for someone who never really thought this was where he would end up?

"My experience at Clear Creek has been a pleasant surprise for me," Matt said. "I was surprised at how friendly the faculty and staff are. ... Everyone from the president on down is always willing to go out of their way to help you settle in once you get here."

"I am also thankful for the opportunity I now have to learn how to study God's Word and apply it to my own life and ministry," Matt added. "One of the great ways the college helps us to do this is a new class

that every incoming student now has to take called 'Spiritual Formation.' This class is helping me to learn how to deal with all the different aspects of my Christian life. It is teaching me how to keep things in perspective as I begin my time at college, and it keeps me focused on being a better Christian. That's the most important thing to me."

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



Baptists revving up ministry for bikers in Myrtle Beach

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Myrtle Beach, S.C.—Just like the famous Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, a similar gathering of a half-million bikers is held each year in South Carolina: Myrtle Beach Bike Week. And like Sturgis, some bikers arrive in Myrtle Beach with their tanks on empty physically and spiritually—yet they depart with a life changed by Jesus Christ.

Decked out in black leather, ZZ Top beards and tattoos, they roar into this beach resort town straddling shiny, expensive motorcycles to spend up to 10 days partying. The last thing they expect is to meet Jesus—but nearly 200 did during last year's rally.

While some ministry had been going on during each May's rally, Todd Wood, a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board resort missionary based in Myrtle Beach, wanted to have a greater impact and touch more lives.

"These bikers come here looking for a good time to party, but it gives us the opportunity as Southern Baptists to step up and share with them the real hope in life, and that's Jesus Christ," Wood said. "The only problem is that the rally is spread 40 miles up and down the coast. ... It's a big area to cover."

Wood—with support from the local Waccamaw Baptist Association,

the South Carolina Baptist Convention and Faith Riders groups in North and South Carolina—studied Christian outreach at the Sturgis motorcycle rallies.

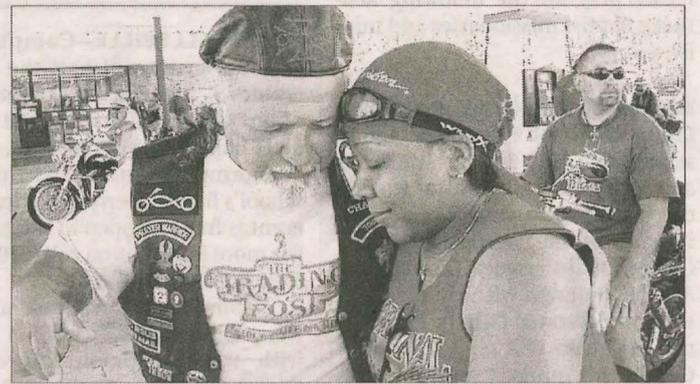
"We saw that in Sturgis, they were touching a lot of lives with three-minute testimonies," Wood said of a motorcycle giveaway that those who listen to one of the testimonies could enter. "So we took that and transitioned it into giving away free gasoline to bikers. We felt like if we could give every person that comes through our line \$10 worth of gas, we'd have three minutes to share our faith story with them."



REVVED UP Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionary Todd Wood visits with a biker during last year's Myrtle Beach Bike Week in South Carolina. Wood and fellow Christians shared Christ with more than 1,500 motorcycle enthusiasts during the rally. (NAMB photo)

So with a gasoline budget of \$10,000, Wood and about 100 volunteers turned a Citgo gas station on nearby U.S. 17 into a filling station for Jesus. Wood and his volunteers also handed out 2,500 free gift bags.

Wood already is working on this year's Myrtle Beach Bike Week. Instead of free gasoline, his Intracoastal Outreach ministry will be giving away a new \$12,000 Harley-Davidson motorcycle during the May 11-16 rally. They also will serve bikers 1,100 pounds of free barbecue. The attending bikers, of course, also will get a strong dose of the gospel. (BP)



SAVED Pastor Tony Wright (left) of The Wright Ministry in Christ, based in White Plains, Md., prays with a fellow biker to receive Christ during last year's Myrtle Beach Bike Week in South Carolina. (NAMB photo)

Nelson: Relying on pastors for everything limits ministry

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

Waco, Texas—A church that depends upon its pastor for ministry fails both the pastor and the laypeople, ministry strategist Alan Nelson recently told participants at The Next Big Idea conference at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

A litany of woes afflict the local church in America, noted Nelson, former executive editor of Rev magazine and founder of KidLead, a leadership training program for children age 10 to 13. He is author of "Me to We," a book on equipping laity for ministry.

On any given weekend, only 20 percent of Americans attend church, and that percentage is expected to be cut in half by 2050, Nelson said. Less than 15 percent of U.S. churches are growing, and less than 1 percent are growing because of evangelism.

"We have no reason to believe these trends will turn around," he lamented. "We're seeing a significant macro-exiting of the local church." On the local level, the pastor, staff and the "faithful few" are overworked, and as outreach becomes more difficult, spiritual maturity is lacking.

The cause is what Nelson calls "pastor-centric ministry syndrome"—extreme dependence upon pastors to do the work of the church.

The solution is for pastors to focus on equipping church members to do ministry, he explained. To illustrate, he reported that in healthy churches, 93 percent of members are "mobilized in some form of ministry service," while the number drops to 11 percent in unhealthy congregations.

"The Bible teaches ministry in context of togetherness," with pastors and laity serving alongside each other, he noted.

Scripture shows Moses, Jesus and Paul all trained others to minister and delegated significant responsibility to them, he added.

"Jesus knew that if he got sucked into the minutiae of ministry, he could not do God's will," Nelson said, pointing to the numerous times Jesus either pulled away, leaving responsibilities to the disciples, or hand-picked Peter, James and John for mentoring.

Unfortunately, the church drifted away from shared ministry to pastor-centered ministry, Nelson said. One reason is economics—churches structure their staff sizes proportionate to their congregational size, so that they can afford to pay ministers to do their ministry for them, he insisted.

Another reason is social and psychological, he added, noting: "Ministry feeds the ego. (Pastors) think, 'No one can provide the quality of care we do.' So, we give in to unrealistic expectations and unhealthy co-dependence between pastor and congregation."

Fortunately, recent church trends have tilted toward equipping laity for ministry, he said. Reasons range from the complexity of ministry; to the strong desire for laypeople to serve others; to the rise of education and information, which empowers laity to take on ministry that earlier generations would not have attempted.

Benefits of the trend include lay "ownership" of the church's responsibilities, increased use of spiritual gifts, and "the synergistic effect builds unity and momentum, diminishing criticism and consumerism," he said.

For this to work in a church, not only must the pastor embrace the value of equipping laity, but a "partner" must join with the pastor to advocate the value in the church, he said. (ABP)

Downturn can bring good

Continued from page 4

of water are stagnant that they cannot sustain much life. These examples suggest to me that the true richness of being made in the image of God can thrive only in a spirit of generosity."

Our country's faltering economy is affecting everyone. If economic hard times cause us to ex-

amine our values and priorities related to accumulating wealth, we might become more compassionate toward neighbors who are suffering with us.

When we all begin to work together for the common good, the economy will eventually improve. We must make sure we never return to harboring the greed that got us into a serious economic mess. It will take generous Amer-

icans from all economic levels to turn the economy around. Can we imitate God's generosity toward us by being generous to others?

A downturn in the economy is not all bad in the short run if it causes us as individuals and as a nation to adopt a more generous spirit. I believe good things sometimes come out of bad situations.

Paul Whiteley Sr.
Louisville

Start a new Sunday School class or small group...

Launch One Tour

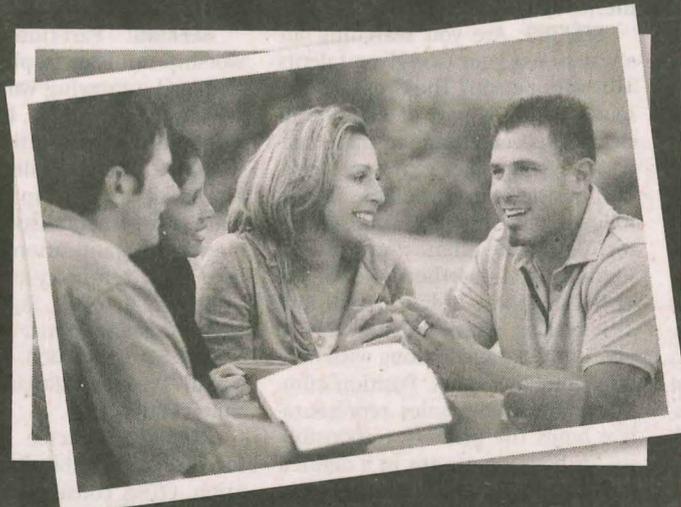
March-April, 2009 ★ 6:30-8:45 p.m.

- ★ Elizabethtown — March 12
- ★ Crittenden — March 23
- ★ Lexington — March 24
- ★ Owensboro — March 26
- ★ Murray — April 21
- ★ Somerset — April 23

Join us for a Launch One event near you, where you'll learn...

- ★ the importance of starting new classes and small groups
- ★ essential steps for starting classes/groups that multiply
- ★ keys for training an apprentice
- ★ why off-site groups are needed

Just \$10 per person. Maximum \$50 per church.



For details, visit www.kybaptist.org/launch or call 502-489-3572 or 866-489-3572 (toll free).

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Mission Service Corps missionary Linda Webb of Princeton. Linda serves with Hell is Real Ministries as a minister to students at the job corps campuses, and works with inmates at the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex through the AWANA program with children and their incarcerated fathers. Pray that the caregivers will see the hand of God in this ministry and that lives of children will be positively influenced. Pray that churches will accept and minister to the children and families of inmates.

Hope Pregnancy Care Center in Morehead. Suzanne Meadows directs this ministry to expectant mothers that provides free testing, counseling, parenting classes, abstinence education and a sexual integrity program. It also provides a Christian support group for fathers. Pray that workers will show the unconditional love of Christ to hurting mothers and families. Pray that they will be effective in guiding mothers to make wise choices involving their lives and those of their unborn children.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will host the Elizabethtown Area Sacred Community Choir Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., at the Ransdell Chapel. The performance, titled "Honoring Baptists," is part of the school's Baptist Heritage Series. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call (270) 403-5528 or (270) 765-7663.

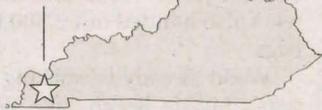
Saloma Church will hold a joint worship service March 1, 11 a.m., with Pleasant Union Church in Campbellsville, a National Baptist congregation. Pleasant Union Pastor **Michael Caldwell** will bring the message and the church's choir will provide special music. A potluck fellowship meal will follow the worship service. **John Chowning** is pastor of Saloma Church.

■ **PADUCAH**—Immanuel Church ordained **Mike Walker** as a deacon Feb. 22. **Jamie Broome** is pastor.

■ **PINEVILLE**—Clear Creek Baptist Bible College will host its annual Lacy-Lykins Lectures on marriage, family and interpersonal relationships Feb. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Feb. 27 9-11:45 a.m., at the campus chapel.

Spotlight on ...

Melber



Melber Church will hold Friends and Family Day March 1, 10:30 a.m., with a fellowship lunch at noon. **No Other Name** will provide special music. **Jeff Cruse** is pastor.

Gary Nunn, director of discipleship ministries at Northbrook Church in Cullman, Ala., and a 1990 Clear Creek graduate, will be the featured speaker. For more information, call (606) 337-3196.

■ **SHARPSBURG**—Sharpsburg Church recently called **Donnie Lamb** as pastor. He recently was ordained to the gospel ministry at Flemingsburg Church.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Lighthouse Church recently called **Tyre Denney** as interim pastor.

Welcome
Mt. Washington First Baptist Church
Church Newsletter Plan
Paul Chitwood, pastor



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

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 State Vacation Bible School Clinic-East, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 7 Handbell Ring and Share-East, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 7 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes; Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset; Boyce College, Louisville; First Baptist Church, Richmond; Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green; Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 7 Hispanic Evangelism Conference and Hispanic Women's Event, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 12 Launch One, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

- 13-14 Creative Ministries Festival, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 14 RA Congress Region 2, Nortonville Baptist Church.
- 14 State Vacation Bible School Clinic-West, Second Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 14 Handbell Ring and Share-West, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 14 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville; First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 14 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Boyce College, Louisville; Erlanger Baptist Church; First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; First Baptist Church, London; First Baptist Church, Madisonville; First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 19 Launch One, Daviess-McLean Baptist Association Office, Owensboro.
- 20-21 Region 5 Disaster Relief Recertification and Training, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Williamstown.
- 21 RA Congress Region 4, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 21 RA Congress Region 8, First Baptist Church, Russell.
- 21 RA Congress Region 6, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
- 21 Regional Keyboard Festival-West, First Baptist Church, Murray.

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

AVAILABLE: Senior pastor seeks interim/pulpit supply in small church within 65-mile radius of Louisville. (502) 543-8558.

FREE: 10 pews, 20 feet long, like new. (270) 866-6495.

SEEKING: Educational director with strong emphasis on children and families for Stithton Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky. Stithton is a growing church with a strong outreach to military families at neighboring Fort Knox. Send resumé to: pastorgc@stithton.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister/director of family ministries for Cecilia Baptist Church. The minister to families will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive ministry for birth to 12th grade by means of strong relationships, solid theological content and the use of role models. The family minister will promote and work within the purpose and vision of Cecilia Baptist Church. Please send resumé on or before March 31 to Personnel Committee, Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 E Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724; or e-mail your resumé to cecilia@ceciliabaptistchurch.com.

SEEKING: God-called individual to serve as pastor of students and discipleship in an established and growing church. This position requires a passion for souls and vision to guide the church to grow in knowledge and application of God's Word, as well as a willingness to pour one's life into students by shepherding them to a deeper relationship with Christ. Also requires a gifted communicator to work in multi-staff setting, preferably holding or pursuing accredited seminary degree. Send resumé, photo and/or DVD to: Search Committee, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 5664 Hwy 56, Owensboro KY 42301; or contact by e-mail at pastor@pgbchurch.com.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Russell Springs First Baptist Church. Interested brethren may send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 1477, Russell Springs, KY 42642, Attn: Pastor Search Committee. Inquiries may call (270) 585-3116.

SEEKING: Student minister (grades 7-12) for Dripping Spring Baptist Church near Russellville. Send resumé or questions to salvis@wildblue.net; or DSBC Search Committee, 1255 Cedar Grove Road, Olmstead, KY 42265.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Springfield Baptist Church (located between Louisville and Lexington). Prefer mature, visionary leader with a passion for evangelism who will become a member of our community and help us keep pace with its changing needs. A loving spirit with strong leadership and communication skills a must. Please submit resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Springfield Baptist Church, PO Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069.

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 search@greatbridgebaptist.org. Please submit by April 30.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an advertisement:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit www.WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

SEEKING: Foster parents to care for abandoned and neglected children in Kentucky. Great reimbursement for your time and energy, paid days off and a great support team to help you be the best foster parent you can be. Please contact us if you would like to earn a good income and make a difference in a child's life. (859) 971-2585.

SEEKING: Are you searching for a way to use your God-given talents as a sales person? The Creation Museum, which is part of Answers in Genesis, is searching for three successful group sales representatives. The positions are available in the following territories: 1) Ohio, which includes Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Northern Kentucky; 2) Indianapolis, Indiana area; and 3) Kentucky, which includes Louisville and Lexington, along with handling our bus tours. Position summary: The group sales representative holds the primary responsibility for booking groups in a defined territory for Creation Museum visits. This person has heavy contact and influence with all AiG audiences, including churches, schools and area community groups. The position pays salary plus commission. To learn more about us and to read the full job description, please visit www.creationmuseum.org.

SEEKING: Pastor for Siloam Baptist Church in Glasgow, Ky. Parsonage furnished (four bedrooms, two baths) located across the road from the church. Church has 300-plus members, with 100-plus in Sunday school. Interested pastors please send resumé and non-returnable tape or CD to Siloam Baptist Church, 517 Siloam Road, Glasgow, KY 42141. For questions, call (270) 646-8128 or 646-0079.

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: Part-time, energetic worship minister to plan; organize and lead a growing worship ministry toward a dynamic, blended worship style that will cultivate genuine worship. Responsibilities: weekly leadership of worship choir, praise team, instrumentalists and seasonal events. Qualifications: college degree with seminary-level training, preferably in music. Submit resumé to Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4300 S. Hwy 53, Crestwood, KY 40014; or e-mail Darlene@BBCLife.org. Deadline is March 15.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association. OTBA consists of 22 churches in the two counties; for more information about OTBA, please visit our Web site at www.OTBA-KY.com. Please e-mail resumé by March 15, 2009, to DOMSearch@otba-ky.com; or mail resumé to: OTBA DOM Search Team, 4901 South Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

SEEKING: Southern Baptist pastor for Corinth Baptist, 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: 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.

SEEKING: Pianist for Central Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. Responsible for three Sunday services, Wednesday evening prayer meeting and worship choir rehearsal. Pay based on experience. Send resumé to Central Baptist Church, 829 High Street, Paris, KY 40361, Attn: Rev. Matthew Crook; or e-mail to matcb@bellsouth.net. For more information, call (859) 987-3951.

SEEKING: Associational missionary for Savannah Baptist Association in southeast Georgia. This metro association consists of 78 churches and five primary associational ministries in three counties. Please send all information by April 1, 2009, to SBA Search Committee Chairman, Rev. Marty Youngblood, at 121 Mercer Road, Savannah, GA 31411; or e-mail to aasubcm@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for growing church. Primary duties include leading choir, congregational singing, coordinate music program and prepare seasonal cantatas. Please send resumé, references and DVD, if available, to: Minister of Music Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, 2022 Verona-Mudlick Road, Verona, KY 41092; or email to nbbc2003@aol.com.

'Trailblazer hospital'

Volunteer doctors, medical students sustain Baptist Medical Centre's physical, spiritual mission

By Emily Peters
SBC International Mission Board

Nalerigu, Ghana—Villagers line up outside the Baptist Medical Centre in northern Ghana as soon as the sun peeks over the mountains of this mud-hut town.

A baby sweating with malaria fever, a woman with a cough that could be tuberculosis, a farmer bitten by a cobra in the fields, hypertension, hernias, tumors—these are just a few of the ailments among the 600 patients waiting on the outpatient porch.

"Looks like it's going to be another long day," said missionary doctor George Faile III, one of only two doctors on staff at the hospital that was founded 50 years ago by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Faile said the hospital could use more hands to help cover the patient load.

According to the World Health Organization, the United States has about one doctor for every 400 people. Ghana has about one doctor for every 6,600 people. Even then, the Ghanaian doctors tend to stay in the more-developed areas of the country instead of villages such as Nalerigu.

The medical center regularly recruits doctors, residents and fourth-year medical students to volunteer as little as two weeks or as long as a year. Nearly 200 came in 2008, but the hospital needs even more.

"They really help us manage the load," Faile said. "Even though a lot of them are students or residents, they are able to help us see patients in clinics and take calls at night. They also do rounds and some of the minor procedures."

The IMB offers a Medical Receptor pro-



TOO FEW George Faile III, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary, and volunteer medical student Heidi Haun perform a cesarean section at the Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana. Faile is planning to retire soon. He prays more missionary doctors will be called to serve at the hospital. (IMB photo)

gram for medical residents and fourth-year medical students who want to offer their services overseas.

The program covers nearly all costs for those who are active in a Southern Baptist church and agree to serve eight to 12 weeks.

That sounded perfect to Heidi Haun, a member of First Baptist Church of Seminole, Fla., and a fourth-year surgical student who is considering a call to missions. Before she headed to Ghana, she attended a Baptist Global Medical Alliance conference sponsored by the IMB.

The gathering offers Southern Baptist medical professionals an opportunity to discuss becoming volunteers with medical missionaries from all over the world.

"I thought that if I am planning on pursuing a career in medical missions, this was a great way to get my feet wet and to reconfirm my passion," said Haun, who came to Ghana for 12 weeks with her husband and child.

During her stint at the hospital, Haun treated snakebites that would have resulted in death without antivenom. She cleaned abdomens perforated by advanced typhoid. When she diagnosed patients with terminal cancer, she shared about eternal hope in Christ.

She said moments like those helped confirm God's calling upon her life.

"I remember walking back to my house from the hospital one night and thinking, 'I could feel at home here.'"

That blend of medical and spiritual treatment is a unique draw to the hospital.

"We're unlimited in how we can approach patients spiritually," said Earl Hewitt, the other doctor on staff at the hospital.

"In the States, you might not be able to present the gospel," he continued. "That might be considered infringing on patients' rights. Here, we are free to (talk about Jesus), and we do it as often as we can."

Haun said she enjoyed praying with patients before every surgery. Julie Myhren, a fourth-year pharmacy student who attends Oak Grove Baptist Church in Bel Air, Md., was invited to lead the daily devotional for hospital staff and patients. Myhren volunteered for 12 weeks at the Ghana hospital.

And William Prine, who has been practicing medicine in Clarksville, Tenn., for 34 years, had a unique opportunity to share Christ during his two weeks in Nalerigu.

A patient who had broken his leg weeks before—and did not seek medical attention—finally came to the doctor when infection set in.

Prine, who attends First Baptist Church of Clarksville, noticed the man needed blood. Prine's blood type was a match.

He gave his own blood and took the opportunity to tell the man about Christ, the ultimate blood donor.

"I began talking to the man by acknowledging that I had given him blood to prolong his physical life," Prine said. "I then told him I wanted to tell him about the blood Jesus had shed for him."

The man prayed the sinner's prayer and received Jesus as Lord and Savior. The next day, he asked Prine for a Bible.

"I have never felt so in the presence of God as during my time in Nalerigu," Prine said. "I want to see more volunteers there. They need two other doctors there 52 weeks of the year."

The Baptist Medical Centre always is in need of short-term doctors, residents and fourth-year medical students of various specialties to help treat patients. For more information, e-mail mamprusi_hmt@yahoo.com. (BP)

Through hospital, Haile family set ministry roots deep in West Africa

By Emily Peters
SBC International Mission Board

Nalerigu, Ghana—George Faile III was just 8 years old when he began tagging along as his father treated patients at Ghana's Baptist Medical Centre 50 years ago.

Young Faile saw countless patients with malaria or snakebites. But instead of seeking professional medical help, many villagers in Nalerigu visited spirit doctors who treated ailments with herbal remedies, libations and skin-cutting rituals.

Today, Faile—who serves as medical superintendent of the hospital his father helped start with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board—has seen things change medically and spiritually. People are more willing to seek access to modern medicine. Through the years, medical missionaries have started more than 70 churches and continue to bring news of the true Healer, Jesus Christ.

That ministry is why Ghanaians turned out to celebrate the hospital's 50th anniversary last fall. Villagers from all over northern Ghana converged for a weeklong celebration that culminated in a grand outdoor event that drew 3,000 people.

"I have seen Baptist medical facilities all over the world," IMB Executive Vice President Clyde Meador said. "I don't know of another that has served in a more challenging place and yet has made such an impact on the community. I give thanks to God who has made it all possible."

And that impact runs deep in an area where there's only one paved road and most people live in mud huts.

Medically, infant mortality rates in northern Ghana continue to decline as

mothers receive prenatal and postnatal care. Public health education prevents measles and meningitis epidemics.

About 85 percent of tuberculosis patients recover fully, thanks to a secluded village on hospital grounds where patients stay with their families to complete their six-month treatments.

That tuberculosis recovery rate is at least 10 percent higher than the average for Ghana and higher than nearly every other country in Africa, according to the World Health Organization.

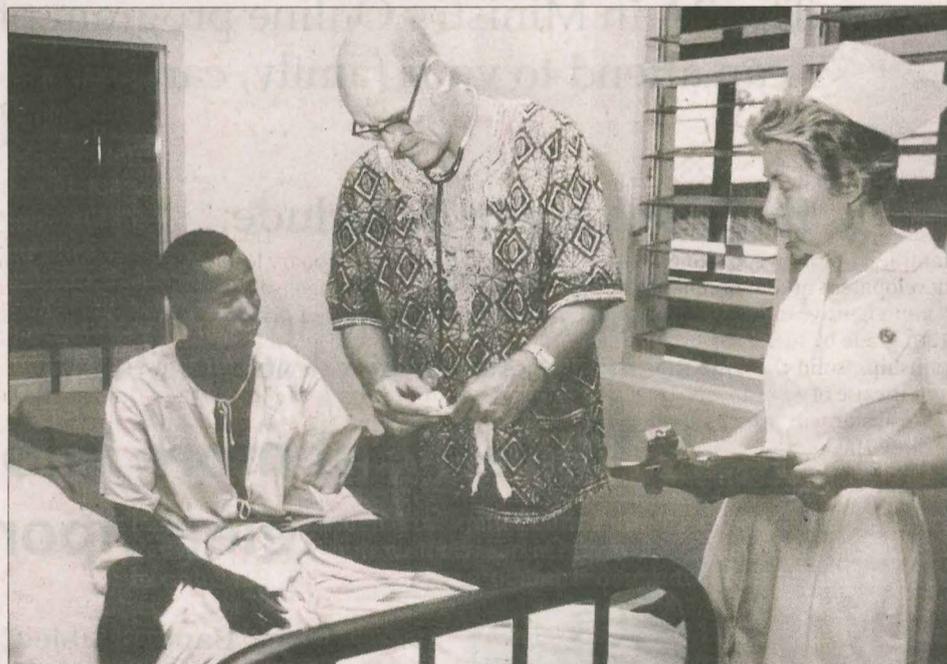
Spiritually, missionaries and medical staff have brought countless people to faith in Christ and paved the way for other Christian groups to start working in the area. To continue the medical center's spiritual impact, U.S. churches have made long-term commitments to return regularly to areas around the hospital that still are unreached with the gospel.

Economically, Nalerigu has flourished. Faile witnessed the arrival of electricity, telephones, cars and motorcycles. He has watched the town swell from 3,000 to more than 10,000 people, evidence of development he does not see in other villages nearby.

And government officials praise the hospital for employing more than 200 Ghanaians.

"This hospital has made a huge contribution to the human resource base of this region," said a Ghana government official who spoke at the anniversary ceremony. Baptist Medical Centre "is regarded as a trailblazer that has set the pace for other health care providers in the region."

Public health nurse Florence Wuni has



PIONEERS The late George Faile Jr., who founded Ghana's Baptist Medical Centre with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, and nurse Willie Mae Berry were two former missionaries honored during the hospital's 50th anniversary celebration last fall. (IMB photo)

been a staff member for nearly 35 years. But that's not the only connection she has to the hospital. As a child, she received treatment for eye infections. As an adult, she gave birth to five children at the hospital. She also gave her life to Jesus at a church started by hospital staff.

The hospital "is a part of all of us," she said. "It has enlightened people to health. It has brought the Word of God. It has changed so much here."

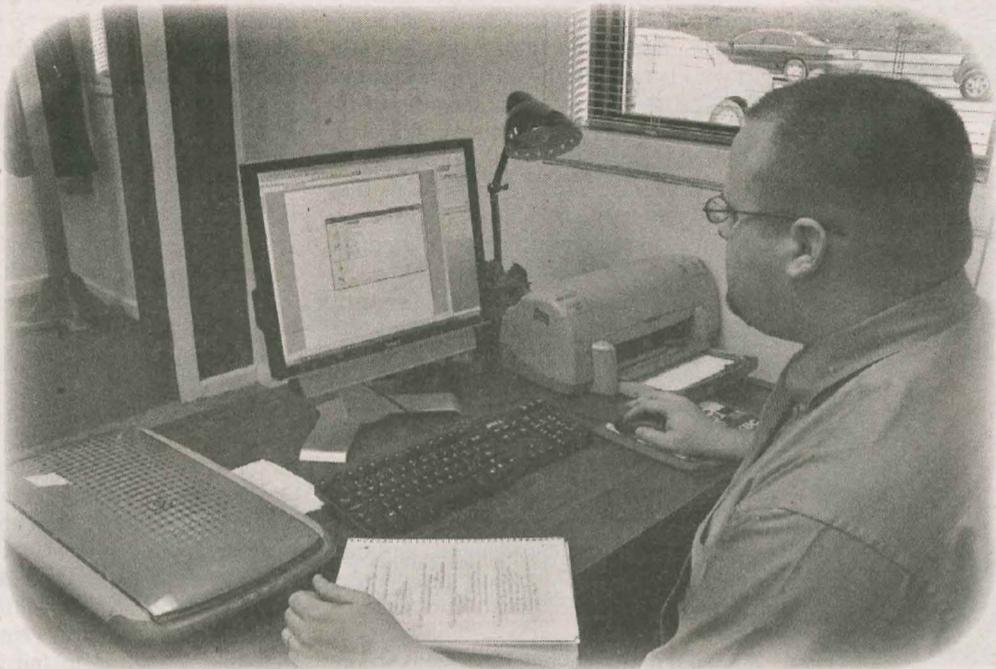
A handful of current and former mis-

sionaries who have helped keep that record intact came back to celebrate the hospital's anniversary.

Among them was IMB worker Cherry Faile, daughter of the hospital's founder and sister of George Faile. She spent 16 years developing Jesus-centered public health programs in Nalerigu before moving to serve in Niger.

The missionaries pray more doctors will come because George Faile plans to retire soon; the work is not yet finished. (BP)

Clear Creek now offers a Bachelor's Degree online!



- 100% Online
- 130 Credit Hours Program
- The BA in Ministry can be completed in four years
- Certification and Associates graduates are welcome and encouraged to enroll

Starting January 2009, CCBBC began offering the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry - Online Program - designed to prepare ministers to lead and develop their ministry skills while fulfilling their Christian calling to service.

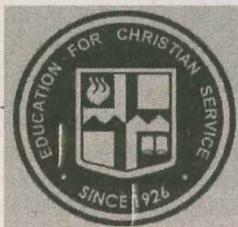
Students can expect the same quality education online as they would receive on campus. Our goal is to provide all the necessary tools for our students to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the Bible and Christian theology.

The BA in Ministry Online program offers flexibility and convenience so you can attend to your family, career and social commitments while furthering your education.

Programs available include:

Certificate in Bible	Associate of Arts in Christian Service
Associate of Arts in Ministry	Bachelor of Arts in Bi-Vocational Ministry
Associate of Arts in Bi-Vocational Ministry	Bachelor of Arts in Christian Service

To request more information please visit,
www.elearnportal.com/ccbbc



Clear Creek Baptist Bible College exists to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service.
A.B.H.E. and S.A.C.S. accredited

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

300 Clear Creek Road

Pineville, Kentucky 40977-9754

Dr. Donnie Fox, President

Phone: 606-337-3196

Fax: 606-337-2372

Internet: www.ccbbc.edu

E-Mail: distanceeducation@ccbbc.edu