

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

# WESTERN Recorder

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Celebrating God's ultimate sacrifice



### Ky. Baptists urged to serve at state Evangelism Conference

Lexington—When believers wonder if they are being asked to sacrifice too much for the cause of Christ, they must remember that God loves a paradox.

That was the message Robert Smith brought to kick off last week's Evangelism Conference at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

"When God gets ready to promote, he demotes," said Smith, preaching professor at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Referencing the story of the Apostle Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch from Acts 8:26-40, Smith said God instructed Philip to "leave a thriving work" in Antioch for the benefit, seemingly, of only one man.

Believers must be willing to go anywhere, no matter how humble the setting, he noted. He pointed out that Philip was walking on the Gaza Road as the Ethiopian was riding in a chariot and reading from a scroll, signs that he was a man of influence in his home country.

Pastors sometimes must go where there are "splinters in the seats, no air conditioning and everybody's in the choir," the professor added. If only three people are there "that's three more people than I deserve to preach to," he declared.

Even as he interpreted the writings of Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, Philip was "preaching Christ. ... That is the key to his proclamation," Smith said. "Every passage must be put in the larger context of the Bible that will reveal the life, the work, the necessity of Christ," Smith insisted.

"The Bible isn't ultimately about the plan of salvation. It's about the Man of salvation."

But preaching salvation requires full and complete surrender, according to Florida pastor Hayes Wicker.

Not yielding to Jesus Christ "is the most dangerous decision that you can ever make," noted Wicker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Naples, Fla.

Describing ministry as a "full-contact sport," Wick-

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**PRAISING HIM** ■ Top: Kentucky Baptists join in a time of praise and worship at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. Family gospel trio The Specks led the special music time during this year's event. ■ Left: Junior Hill delivers his message to Kentucky Baptists. The evangelist was one of 11 presenters at the conference, speaking on a number of evangelism topics under the theme, "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Share God's Gift." The event also included several breakout sessions and a women's event. (Photos by Drew Nichter)

## NAMB missionary called to serve less-glamorous Miami

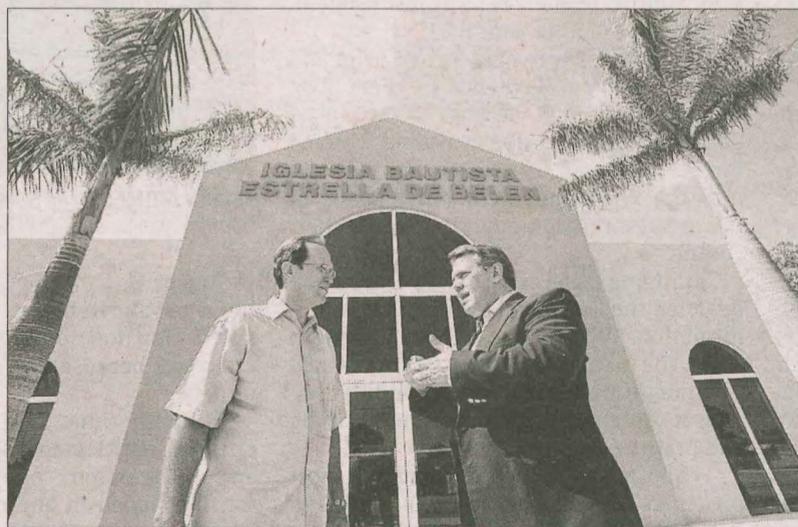
By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

Miami, Fla.—There is a less glamorous side to Miami you will never see depicted on "CSI: Miami." Sure, there is the flaunted wealth, the beachfront homes, the flashy cars, the fast boats and exciting life in the fast lane for the celebrities and superstar athletes who live here.

But Miami is a city of paradoxical extremes. While the city has been ranked the third-richest in the United States, it also has the third most residents living below the federal poverty line of all U.S. cities.

The son of Cuban immigrants, Southern Baptist missionary Al Fernandez, 50, said he loves Miami like only a man born and raised there could. As a native, he witnessed the start of the huge influx of Cubans, Latinos and other Hispanics into Miami in the early 1960s.

Fernandez's parents already were planting churches in the Miami area when Cubans began flooding into the city to escape the Marxist dictatorship of Fidel Castro. Fernandez accepted Christ when he was only 6



**RIGHT AT HOME** North American Mission Board missionary Al Fernandez (left) talks with colleague Javier Sotolongo, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Estrella De Belen (Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church) in Hialeah, Fla. (NAMB photo by Greg Schneider)

years old, and felt called to the ministry at 15.

"But it took me 15 more years to let go and to allow God to work in my life," he recalled. "I've been here all my life, grew up Southern Baptist and feel this is the place God has

called me. I feel uniquely gifted to work here."

Director of the Florida Baptist Convention's Urban Impact Ministries, Fernandez is one of some 5,500 missionaries in the United States. Canada and their territories

supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. He is among the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer this week. This year's theme is "Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest." The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal is \$65 million, 100 percent of which benefits missionaries like Fernandez.

"Urban Impact is a ministry that was established three years ago," Fernandez noted. "We felt there was a need to establish a stronger Southern Baptist presence in South Florida. We felt we really needed to have an impact on our churches, pastors and associations in a complex urban setting like Miami."

He said his work depends on a close partnership among three South Florida associations: Palm Lake Association in the West Palm Beach area; Gulf Stream Baptist Association just north of Miami; and Miami Baptist Association in the city's metro area. Fernandez has

□ See Miami native feels ... Page 8

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Mar. 4.

# Convention leaders remind pastors ministry is not easy

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Lexington—An Alabama evangelist and two denominational agency leaders delivered messages during last week's Evangelism Conference. The three were among 11 keynote speakers for the event held at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala., offered some indispensable lessons for becoming effective men and women of God, drawn from the epistles of Paul.

First, Christians have a call that must never be disregarded, Hill said. "You are not in ministry because you wanted to be, but because God chose you," he reminded pastors.

Claiming that he was "the most unlikely person to be called into ministry" because in high school he was considered "a nerd and a dork," Hill marveled that "God in his sovereign, wondrous grace chose me."

He spotlighted some qualities that he said he believes God looks for in a preacher: not necessarily very wise, possessing no power to do mighty works, and not being of noble birth or stature.

Recalling that Scripture says that God has "chosen the baser things of the world and things that are despised," he cited a reference in a concordance that defines the term as "to bring to naught; less than one."

One does not have to be a math genius to figure out what that means, he said. "If you are less than one, what are you? You are a 'zero'."

"Why in the world would God do that?" he asked, referring to his own calling. "I'm a zero that just happened to get filled with the Holy Spirit. If you are a zero to start with, you have got enough sense to know who did it all and give Him the glory."

Hill also urged Christians to be ready to



Dan Garland



Thomas Hammond

endure hardships and heartaches for the gospel. "God didn't call us to a picnic, but to a battle," he asserted. "Have you noticed we are developing a whining, complaining, comfort-demanding generation? We've got to appease them in order to get them to church."

God called us to the hardship of serving Jesus Christ, and it's never going to be easy, he said.

Noting that Paul warned Timothy that his crown in eternity could become defiled, Hill warned that if the race of life is not run well, the crown might be lost. He challenged pastors: "Guard your thoughts, guard your motives, guard your intent. Be a good soldier for Jesus."

## Heart for lost people

Asking the question, "Why is it that 75 percent of Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining?" Dan Garland suggested church leaders must look inward for the answer, not outward.

A longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor, Garland now directs LifeWay Christian Resources' pastoral ministries and church consulting department.

He referred to David Olson's book, "The

American Church in Crisis," which studied 70,000 U.S. evangelical churches to pinpoint the reasons for decline. Olson examined 10 external factors related to a church's surroundings, and found that only one had an impact on a congregation's growth or decline. The data suggests "the problems are inside and not outside the church," Garland noted.

Pointing to Ephesians 2:1-10, Garland indicated that too many Christians have forgotten what it means to need Jesus Christ. Paul explains in the passage that, apart from Christ, everyone is dead.

"Until we are convinced that the world is dead in their sins, we'll never have a passion to share with them the life that comes in Jesus Christ," Garland said. He added that not only are some Christians dead, but their churches are as well.

Recalling his own past wrapped up in "an ever-tightening spiral of self-destruction," Garland said he is not proud of his earlier life, but "it's a stark reminder of the sweetness of salvation. ... God has used it in my life to remind me of how lost feels."

Emphasizing Ephesians 2:4, he said the "whole gospel is wrapped up" in that passage's first two words: "But God."

"That conjunction changes everything," Garland said. "You were dead, but you've been made alive. ... We're transported from death to life."

He urged pastors who are leading dead or dying churches to surrender to God's grace and remember what it was like to be lost.

"Whatever your struggle is, you bring it to the cross of Christ. You bring it to the 'But God' who is rich in mercy."

Thomas Hammond, church evangelism director for the North American Mission Board, reminded pastors: "Your role is to

equip every part, every person, every aspect (of your church) to do their share" in glean- ing a spiritual harvest.

"Look what happens," Hammond emphasized. "Growth is evidence that equip- ping is taking place."

Explaining that the word "equip" comes from a medical term meaning to mend what is broken, Hammond said pastors could "literally be used by God to mend people and then prepare them to serve God in the world."

Hammond highlighted several ways pas- tors can equip others and make a greater impact on their communities:

■ Equip people to pray for the lost. "If God has given us access to His throne, to His power, and we are not using it, what's wrong with us?" he asked. "A prayer-less church is a powerless church."

■ Teach people how to effectively share their faith with the lost. "Do you know what is the most effective way of getting people to come to church?" he asked. "A friend or family member inviting them," he replied, citing a recent survey that indicated that as many as a third of the people who do not attend said they would come if someone took the time to invite them.

■ Teach people that their lives matter. Hammond said he was convinced that "the average Southern Baptist doesn't believe God can use them or that they can make a difference." The reason many believe this is that most have never been involved in doing ministry and have not had an actual experience of serving God, he explained.

Observing that one can watch exercise programs on television all day long, but still not lose a single pound, Hammond challenged: "It's the same with sharing our faith. We don't change until we do it."

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

## Conference encourages Ky. Baptists to remember Christ's sacrifice

Continued from page 1

er said that too many pastors today lack pas- sion. He pointed to Paul as an example of a passionate preacher. The message of Paul's letter to the Romans in chapter 12 exhorts Christians to "listen up" and "lay it down," Wicker noted.

Wicker lamented the fact that "man is the rebel in this universe" and our "hang- ups" and "pet sins" keep us from completely surrendering to God. But he acknowl- edged, "Any small surrender is a great vic- tory."

"There must be a constant willingness in two directions: To do the last things God told you to do, and the next thing," Wick- er said.

That willingness can make a pastor more effective and, in turn, the church. And according to Kevin Hamm, effective, "missional" churches are those that expe- rience difficult times, share good news, ac- knowledge God's power and demonstrate evidence of changed lives.

The former pastor of Valley View Church in Louisville, shared that missional church- es have members with heart and authentic- ity. Hamm now is pastor of Gardendale First Baptist Church in Alabama.

There are churches where "a lot of peo- ple show up but it's a dead church," he said. Activity, not numbers, provides a clearer picture of a church's character.

Referencing Acts 11:19, he noted that a time of growth in the early church co- incided with a time of persecution. Today, there is "a mighty revival in those countries where the faith is underground," Hamm said. "God moves during difficult times."

A missional church focuses on the gos- pel and shares it as "good news," he contin-

ued. "Quit lifting up your music, your pas- tor, your staff. ... Lift up Jesus."

In his address, David Burton asked, "When we say the word 'Lord,' what are some other words you use?" Audience re- sponses included master, boss, savior, re- deemer, king, controller and obedience.

Then Burton, evangelism director for the Florida Baptist Convention, pointing to the account of Peter and John healing a lame man in Acts 3, prompted, "Is He your boss, your controller? Is Jesus just resident, or is he president in your life?"

Acts 3 is a picture of two guys, Peter and John, practicing obedience in their lives, Burton maintained. Because of their fears and prejudices, he noted, people walking by this lame man for 40 years on their way into the synagogue were missing one of the greatest mission opportunities in their community.

Slumping down on the platform, Burton depicted the lame man's miraculous trans- formation. "When Peter extended his right hand, the man didn't have to learn to walk. God taught him," he declared, adding that he is next depicted as running and leaping and praising God.

While he said there is nothing that most preachers would rather teach than tools to help people lead others to Christ, Burton cautioned, "When we do that our people see right through us. ... And the reason we lose authority and boldness, and our bap- tisms are going down, is because we have ... allowed something else to get in the way," he lamented.

Burton challenged those present to seize the opportunity to stand in their communi- ties and show they are different. "Show you are a man of God," he urged.



FAMILY MOMENT The Specks perform lead a time of praise and worship during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in Lexington. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

And being a man of God requires becom- ing a servant to others, David Wheeler in- sisted. "You don't do acts of service, you are a servant, because that's who Christ made us to be."

Through time, Christians have devel- oped an "entitlement mentality in the pew and in the pulpit," noted Wheeler, profes- sor of evangelism and church planting at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va. "We think we actually de- serve the grace of God."

Wheeler pointed to the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet in John 13 as the greatest example of His service.

The "very Creator bowed down before the created and He washed their feet. Who are we to say we would do any less?" Wheel- er asked.

Wheeler shared an emotional story of

the time he ministered to a family strug- gling with the impending death of a new- born child. He recalled that he did not want to sit at the hospital for hours with the fam- ily as they each held the baby before remov- ing him from life support. "I had every rea- son in the world to say I didn't want to be there," he said. "The church has been doing that for years. ... (We) will not make a differ- ence in this culture until we're willing to inconvenience ourselves."

Holding up a towel, Wheeler declared, "Next to the gospel itself ... the greatest tool we have to ... reach lost people is the towel." Throwing the towel on the altar, he asked: "Who's going to pick it up? ... Because that's what it's all about. It's about washing feet."

Compiled from reporting by Editor Todd Deaton, News Director Drew Nichter and Partnerships Editor Dannah Prather

## Caner to pastors: 'We've been watching'

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Lexington**—As a former Muslim and a brand-new Christian, a young Ergun Caner, recently graduated from high school, enrolled at Cumberland College in Williamsburg.

Later realizing he was being called by God to preach, Caner recalled visiting dozens of Eastern Kentucky churches to hear how it was done.

Years later, standing before pastors at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, the seminary president urged those preachers to keep preaching, because "we are watching you."

Caner, who became Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary's president in 2005, pointed to the story of Stephen in Acts 6 as an example of how pastors should preach.

In his sermon, Stephen preached against the temple in Jerusalem. As soon as he finished, Stephen's accusers dragged him outside the city gates and stoned him to death. Caner said all pastors should follow Stephen's lead.

"In a very real sense, every man in this room is called to preach as if he was preaching his last sermon," he declared.

Caner compared Stephen's plight to that of pastors in today's culture, one which has become "Christophobic," he said. "Why in a culture that hates us, do we allow them to silence us? Stephen didn't.

"I want us to see if perhaps there should be some Stephens in this room."

Caner said that all too often, pas-

tors are more concerned about becoming popular or hurting people's feelings than preaching the "unfiltered, undiluted, unfettered Word of God." He explained that "if you look people in the eye and still talk about sin, you will go against the current of culture."

Several hands went up in the sanctuary when Caner asked how many pastors had been fired? "Wear it like a badge," he proclaimed. "If everybody likes what you're preaching, you aren't doing your job."

Caner also pointed out that the number of believers in Jerusalem in Stephen's day numbered as many as 20,000—yet none came to his defense. Caner said if churches want to change the culture around them, it has to come from the pew and the pulpit.

"Your pastor is willing to stand but he needs to know, do you have his back?" Caner asked. "Will you stand with him and defend him? Because what he's standing for is truth."

Stephen's fate reminds ministers that "sometimes you have to stand alone," Caner explained. "Can you stand for Christ if no one stands with you, including your friends?"

Even though he was forced to face his accusers with no one at his side, Stephen remained because "some things are worth defending," Caner noted. "Stephen decided that the consequence was not nearly as big as the conviction for which he stood."

Referring to a study which showed that 56 percent of evangelical college students believe there is another way to heaven than Jesus,



Ergun Caner

Caner challenged pastors from the generation before his to keep preaching truth in order to save the generation coming up.

"We have to keep fighting. We have to keep sending. Like Stephen, the stones will come, but truth is immortal. ... Truth is unkillable," Caner urged.

He reminded pastors who are discouraged when they see few results from their efforts that after Stephen had been killed, the witnesses laid their robes at the feet of a man named Saul, who later became Paul.

"For those of you who lament the next generation, I want to tell you what your faithfulness means: Like Saul, ... we've been watching you," Caner said. "You may not notice, but there may be a Saul watching you this Sunday. ... You can't quit, we need you."

## York: Post-moderns need 'heart connection'

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

**Lexington**—"There is no question that culture is changing. In the span of my life time, it is radically different," a Frankfort pastor affirmed last week during the Evangelism Conference. The key, he said, to sharing Christ in a post-modern culture is "to determine those things that are eternal in nature and principle, and to separate those from those things that are transient—the things that change."

Basing his message on the parable of the sower in Mark 4, Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church, highlighted four levels of receptivity to the gospel: absolute rejection; glad reception that is soon snuffed out by problems; apparent reception that fails to produce real change; and reception that is confirmed through multiplication.

"The biblical view of salvation is there is root, a shoot and fruit," he affirmed. "If there is genuine salvation, it does produce (spiritual) fruit."

Explaining that a basic tenet of post-modernism is there is no central hierarchy or organizing principle, York noted, "The way we most often hear this is that post-modernism says there is no absolute truth."

What makes someone who holds to a post-modern worldview receptive to the gospel? he inquired.

York used a short video clip of an avowed atheist to spotlight a poignant remark: "How much do you



Hershael York

have to hate someone to not tell them? If eternal life is possible, and you believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that someone is going to hell, how much do you have to hate them to not proselytize them?"

Pointing out that it was a good man whom he could sense genuinely cared who was able to open the atheist to a gospel discussion, York observed, "So often we Christians try to get to a person's heart through their mind. We think if we just dump the facts on them ... that somehow those facts will penetrate their hearts."

Though the facts of the gospel are essential; "I tell you we've got it exactly backward," he said. "Jesus always made a heart connection first. It is through the heart that the mind is reached," he countered.

The church does not need to be intimidated by a post-modern culture because men were just as lost in the first century as they are in the 21st century, he declared. "Do we honestly think we have it tougher than Paul and the apostles had it?" he asked. "I don't know about you,

but no one in my church has been stoned yet. We might have a few doors closed in our face, but no one is throwing rocks at us."

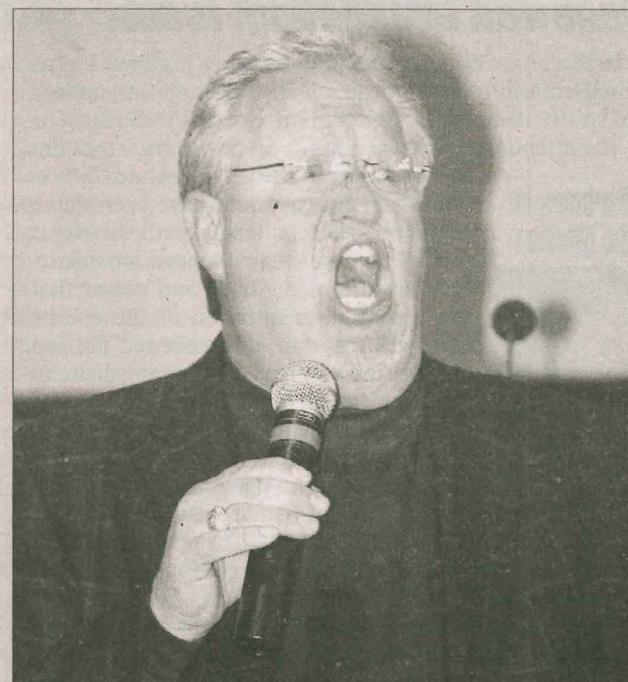
In every culture, people still are going to respond to the gospel message with one of those four levels of receptivity, he observed.

"I don't mean to suggest that a post-modern culture with aversion to absolute or propositional truth ... doesn't present a great challenge to us," York acknowledged. "But I am suggesting that what we need is not greater technology. What we need is a renewed commitment to the gospel and to the saving power of Jesus Christ."

Urging believers to get busy witnessing, York observed, "The more we sit back in the farmyard, talking about how tough it is to be out there sowing the seed, the less seed gets sown."

In a post-modern culture, there are some who think the church must lower the standards of gospel to effectively reach people, York observed. "Listen to me: Jesus can never be your best friend, until he deals with your sin," he corrected. "You don't need a best friend; you need a Savior who will save you from your sin."

Underscoring the need to get back to the basics, York urged, "All we need to reach our world is a bloody cross and an empty tomb, and men and women who will go and tell the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ."



**HAVING A LAUGH** Dennis Swanberg, "America's minister of encouragement," entertains the crowd at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. The Christian comedian also shared the main principles from his new book, "The Man Code." (Photo by Dannah Prather)

## Comedian Swanberg breaks down 'Man Code' for pastors

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Lexington**—Dennis Swanberg, known to many as "America's minister of encouragement," closed last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference with waves of laughter and a special message for Christian men.

The former pastor and host of the cable television program, Swan's Place, delighted Kentucky Baptists with his spot-on celebrity impressions and stories from his own life.

"You better learn how to laugh in ministry or you'll go nuts," said Swanberg, who lives in West Monroe, La., and draws about 1 million viewers to his variety show.

Among the stories about difficult church members, never-ending hospital visitations and hazardous baptisms, Swanberg advised pastors and other church leaders to stay focused on Christ and His mission.

"Don't you lose your joy of who you are and what God's called you to do," Swanberg said.

Christian men, especially pastors and ministers, "spend a lot of time hiding the fact that we're real," he noted. For Christian men to be authentic even as they pursue the high calling of sharing the gospel, Swanberg suggested they focus on five numbers.

He began with one. "Every man needs a one-on-one with God."

The next number is three. "You need three close buddies. ... Most men in this room do not have three close friends," Swanberg said, adding that "preachers don't need other preachers," in their circle of three. "You need laymen ... someone who'll show up on your porch when no one else will."

The number 12 represents a wider, more diverse circle of friends. "You don't tell everything to the whole bunch," Swanberg recommended. "If it's heavy, you take it to your three."

The number 120 represents men in the church. Pastors "need to take the extra time to have yourself a small group," Swanberg said. An ongoing small-group ministry for men will create an atmosphere in the church "where they will want to come to you" for assistance.

A strong small group also teaches men "how to rally around the pastor," he said.

He also encouraged pastors to try activities that will bring them into contact with men of the church but in a non-church setting. "If your men hunt, buy a gun. If they golf, you golf," he suggested.

The final number, 3,000, is the number of men saved at Pentecost. It represents all the people a Christian man might influence over the course of his life. "Men were on the cutting edge of" Pentecost, Swanberg pointed out.

The 1, 3, 12, 120 and 3,000 "formula" is developed in Swanberg's latest book, "The Man Code." The book has about 140 pages, Swanberg noted. "You could put it on the tank of a toilet and in three days time he'll have that read," he said.

## Renewed evangelism focus

If the State Evangelism Conference is a gauge for renewed commitment to evangelism, the large attendance and spiritual energy at the event are exciting indicators.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The attendance was the best in recent history. I thought the aftermath of the ice storm and the economic downturn would have been deterrents, but the challenge of these events seemed to have created a need for spiritual renewal. It is my hope and prayer that the incredible inspiration of the conference will translate into renewed passion for servant ministry and evangelism in communities all over Kentucky.

I think all who were present recognized that God had chosen to bless His people through the conference. The theme, "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Share God's Gift," selected by Ross Bauscher, evangelism growth team leader, was obviously one that God could bless.

The opening message by Robert Smith was an indication of the anointing of the Holy Spirit that was to come. Someone stated that it was good that he preached from the steps of the platform, rather than from behind the wooden pulpit, or it could have been consumed.

Several speakers challenged participants to consider ministry/servant evangelism in their communities as a means of providing genuine help for persons in need and building relationships for sharing the gospel. Individuals and families were encouraged to consider ministries.

Thomas Hammond, director, personal evangelism, North American Mission Board, shared a dramatic experience of relating to resistant neighbors who have now become believers.

Speakers also referenced the fact that God often works through challenging experiences such as the economic crisis to get our attention and to meet spiritual needs.

Dan Garland, former KBC evangelism growth team leader and now director of pastoral ministries and church consulting, LifeWay, stated that only one external factor impacted church growth, and that is population growth, according to recent research. All other factors were internal such as structures, processes, expectations and elements of church. Reading from Eph. 2:1-10, Garland stated that the church must be clear about the nature of salvation, which never changes. But the alive church always changes to communicate the gospel.

Kevin Hamm, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gardendale, Ala., described in Acts 8 how God shows up in difficult times. Revival and growth of the early church came during a great persecution of believers. The stage is being set today.

Kentucky Baptists have an incredible opportunity to share the gospel through ministry and servant evangelism during CrossOver Louisville 2009 and during "God's Plan for Sharing, Find It Here" emphasis in 2010. I pray that you will plan now to participate, and seek God's blessings as you share God's gift of salvation and love with all people.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## 'Learn to laugh again'

Southern Baptist humorist Dennis Swanburg, who has acquired the moniker "America's minister of encouragement," offered some sound advice sprinkled with his unique wit to those attending this year's State Evangelism Conference at Lexington's Porter Memorial Baptist Church. "Don't you lose your joy of who you are and what God's called you to do," Swanburg urged. "You might need to lighten up a little bit. Learn to laugh again."

What a delight to see Kentucky Baptist ministers of all types and stripes—pastors, evangelists, directors of missions, youth leaders, convention employees and their spouses—having joyous fits of "holy laughter" together. It was a refreshing note for a great evangelism conference to end on. People headed back to their cars and places of ministry with broad smiles on their faces and renewed vigor in their steps.

Swanburg's hilarious stories of dealing with difficult church members, unrealistic expectations of hospital visits, and baptismal mishaps allowed church folk to laugh at themselves a little—all the while being reminded of the necessity of keeping the focus on Jesus and remaining steadfast in doing His work.

The fervent zeal of a Robert Smith, the servant mentality of a Thomas Hammond, the firm conviction of a Ergun Caner, the humility of a Junior Hill, the heartfelt encouragement of a Kevin Hamm, and the intellectual appeals of a Hershael York, for example, are all admirable evangelistic qualities. Yet one of the most attractive and inviting means of sharing the gospel with nonbelievers is to allow them to see and experience Christians reveling in "the joy of the Lord."

Scripture is replete with the call for the faithful to be joyful.

Joy is the proper response of a godly person in expressing the earnest desire to see God at work in one's life. The psalmist instructs, "My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I, whom you have redeemed" (Psalm 71:23). Likewise, the psalmist asserts, "Happy are the people who know the joyful shout; LORD, they walk in the light of Your presence" (Psalm 89:15).

Joy is a testimony of God's faithful love and of our confidence in his sovereign power. When Saul sent his agents to kill him, David declared that in spite of his difficulties and fear, "I will sing of Your strength and will joyfully proclaim Your faithful love in the morning. For You have been a stronghold for me, a refuge in my day of trouble" (Psalm 59:16).

Joy is an act of service and worship. "Serve the LORD

with gladness: come before Him with joyful songs," Psalm 100:2 urges. The psalmist rejoices, "Our mouths were filled with laughter then, and our tongues with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them' (Psalm 126:2-3). And yet another hymn instructs, "Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love Your salvation continually say, 'God is great!' (Psalm 70:4).

### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Finally, the joy of the Lord brings healing, renewal and security to those who are oppressed, forlorn, world weary or anxious about an uncertain future. The wisdom of Solomon observes, "A joyful heart makes a face cheerful, but a sad heart produces a broken spirit" (Proverbs 15:13), and he counsels, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." The psalmist adds, "Therefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also rests securely" (Psalm 16:9).

In Nehemiah, when the scrolls of Moses were read by Ezra following the rebuilding of the walls surrounding Jerusalem in only 52 days—an incredible feat considering the obstacles, ridicule and many plots faced by the builders—the people displayed a contrite heart, confessed their waywardness, and exhibited a spirit of revival. As the people wept when they heard afresh the Word of God, Ezra and Nehemiah assured, "... for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." And a feast was soon proclaimed to celebrate their recommitment.

Writing in the Broadman Bible Commentary, Emmett Willard Hamrick astutely observes: "The religion proclaimed by the Bible is never a burden to be borne, but an opportunity for genuine joy and spiritual fulfillment. When the writer said the joy of the Lord is your strength he was expressing a profound truth for all generations."

Indeed, the joy of the Lord is our strength for it provides a powerful witness to unbelievers whenever Christians laugh together, rejoice, and genuinely express love and acceptance. Then people will more readily listen to the gospel message we want them so desperately to hear. They begin to sense the transforming power of God's love and the hope and joy that His salvation brings into our lives, and they want to know how they can experience this for themselves. Then, we can effectively share Jesus.

So, lighten up a little bit and learn to laugh again, for "this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

## Annie Armstrong now on facebook

By Jami Becher

Alpharetta, Ga.—"The future lies all before," Southern Baptist missions champion Annie Armstrong said near the turn of the 20th century. "Shall it only be a slight advance upon what we usually do? Ought it not to be a bound, a leap forward, to altitudes of endeavor and success undreamed of before?"

Annie now is in a world she never dreamed of when the North American Mission Board established a page for her on the social networking website Facebook.

Armstrong, one of Southern Baptists' greatest advocates for missions, was the first corresponding secretary for Woman's Missionary Union. Whether she was doing hands-on work in her home city of Baltimore or traveling to the mission field throughout the Southeast and West to see firsthand the work that needed to be accomplished, Armstrong was passionate about making connections with missionaries and pastors, observing their needs and rallying Southern Baptists to meet them.

Miss Annie's passion for missions and her habit of using any means possible to communicate missionary needs leave little doubt that she would have taken advantage of the technology available today to raise awareness of North America's desperate need for the love of Christ. That's the reason NAMB's communications team recently established a Facebook page for her.

"We want to let people know she was a real person who had passion for missions and evangelism," said Debbie Sills, NAMB promotions consultant. "Her 'friends'—those who are part of her Facebook network—are missions advocates who share that passion."

You can find Annie's page by searching for Annie Armstrong at www.facebook.com. There you will learn more about her life and connect with missionaries, pastors and staff, and laypeople passionate

about impacting their world for Christ. Friends of Annie also get updates about North American missionaries and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

"Annie's Facebook page has been a great tool for missions education," Sills said. "Through her page we are able to point people to the Facebook pages of our missionaries. We route them to news from the North American Mission Board at www.namb.net, we post things about the Week of Prayer for North American Missions," which is this week and is on the Web at www.anniearmstrong.com.

Armstrong has approximately 1,700 friends and adds five to 15 new friends per day.

"It's great to see people interacting with the page," Sills said. "It's one more way we hope to keep the mission cause in front of Southern Baptists."

Becher is editorial assistant for *On Mission* magazine.



## WESTERN Recorder

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

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## Allow God to guide through grief

By Valerie Vincent

**Q: My husband recently died, and I am struggling to find my way. It was a good marriage for 38 years. Sometimes my grief is so intense, I don't feel like I can breathe. What do I do?**

The loss of a spouse is one of the most difficult to bear. Give yourself permission to grieve as you need to—at your pace and not your family's or friends'.



Respect your own ideas that may help you grieve and heal, such as purchasing a plant, framing a picture, or writing your marriage story. It is very important to remember. Scripture is filled with events God designed for his people to remember.

Stay connected with others. God consistently uses community and family to bring about healing.

Experience God in new ways as you grieve. It may be reading the psalms, praying in a room that holds special memories, or talking out loud to God as you walk in a place where you and your spouse spent time. God is faithful. Know without a doubt Christ is present with you in your grief and has compassion for you.

Ask God to help you grieve—to fully give your heart, mind, and body into grief. Holding back will not bring the healing needed. The Old Testament presents this full expression of grief. To hide or ignore such intense feelings may cause you great harm. Choose a safe place and safe people to express your grief.

Consider Job 7:11 "Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul."

Consider Psalm 31:9-10 "Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief, my soul and my body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away."

Allow God to guide you in attending to and expressing your grief. As you do so, God is faithful to bring healing. Be patient. Have compassion on yourself as you receive God's compassion for you.

*Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.*

## Economic challenges bring God's opportunities

By Stephen Davis

The economic news in the media continues to be a somber message. Reports of job losses add to the concerns. What are churches to do during these uncertain times?

Most importantly, trust God. After all, He "owns the cattle on a thousand hills." Also, the Bible says, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm 20:7). Isaiah 12:2 states, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

Often we say, "I will not fear. I will choose to trust in God." But the key is to trust God first, and then fear is handled. Having said that, let me offer a few suggestions for church committees that feel budget cuts may be inevitable:

- Pray. This must be the first knee-jerk reaction to a crisis for a Christian, not the last. If you don't pray first, you will make decisions based on human impulses, secular influence and rationale, instead of having the "wisdom that comes from above."

- Seek your pastor's input. He deals with the everyday operations of the church more closely than anyone. He may have some suggestions on where some decreases in the budget could be made.

- Prioritize. Not everything is No. 1, and no one church can meet ev-

ery need. Honestly evaluate what contributes to the growth and health of the church. Refuse to protect "sacred cows" that aren't producing. Send them to market!

- Look everywhere else before deciding to cut salaries and benefits. Too often committees think that the only place to cut is in the personnel budget, but that is not the case. Instead, take a look at how you can save on utilities, maintenance expenses, office supplies, etc. If you have a position that has become vacant, consider delaying replacement for a while until you get a better gauge on how the receipts for the year are coming in. Always evaluate a vacant position before replacing.

- Make a commitment to live within your means. It is not wise stewardship to say at the end of the year, "We received more than last year, but we didn't reach our budget." Confidence in stewardship grows when God's leaders are fiscally responsible and end each year in the black.

- Utilize more volunteers. One of the church's most untapped resources is volunteers. Instead of having a mentality that the church must pay for everything, why not give people an opportunity to be involved? Volunteers can take care of landscaping, mowing, leaf and snow removal, cleaning facilities, making building repairs, and so on. People really do want to use their gifts, so let them.

- Help your people. When church

members lose their jobs, form a morning prayer group. Invite them to come to the church. There is encouragement in knowing that you are not the only one in this situation, and a lot of times helping them network with each other can stimulate ideas. Offer assistance from the church office in preparing resumes and making copies. Give them access to utilize a church computer for job searches.

- Find new resources. This is really about the business of "Kingdom" work. These are times that can actually help us. Rather than complaining about what we do not have, give thanks for what we do have. It's an opportunity to set priorities and recommit to core, "Kingdom" values. The greatest resources churches have are people resources—reached and un-reached. This will be an unprecedented opportunity to offer hope to hurting people. After all, if 80 percent of the people in our state do not attend any Christian church on any given Sunday, you can see that we have a large reservoir of untapped resources.

This is the opportune time to do what we have committed to do—prayer walk every street and road in our state, knock on every door and offer prayer support, share your testimony and watch God work as He opens the door to leading thousands to Jesus. Then when we come out on the other side, we'll truly say, "God deserves all the praise and glory!" (BP)

*Davis is executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.*



Stephen Davis

## Interim periods bring ministry challenges

By Joe Ball

I had the privilege this past month to speak at two churches that are in an interim period: Post Oak in Russellville has an interim pastor, and Melbourne Heights in Louisville is in an interim youth period. The time with an interim brings its challenges.

I asked a few others to share the lessons they learned during interim periods that they experienced. Some of the comments refer to their time with interim pastors, others with interim youth ministers, but I think the lessons can apply to both situations.

Jeff Perry, minister to students at Burlington Baptist Church in Burlington, said, "Getting through the interim period really forces you to check your mindset. I will have to admit that when we had staff departures, I wondered if it would be a case of everyone pulling at me or everyone pulling together."

"I have to say that I am blessed to be surrounded by a church family that went right to work, making sure that the mission of the church was still clearly defined and moving forward," Perry affirmed.

Steve Coleman, minister to youth at First Baptist Church of Richmond, who went through an interim period while he was in Hopkinsville said, "In the interim period, it is my recommendation that you communicate. The pastor

that left had his own way of doing things, and the interim coming in will do things another way. What worked as far as communicating before may not be the way the interim will want it done."

"Learn how to discuss things, such as personnel matters, church issues, work hours, what is going on in staff meetings and absences," Coleman continued. "Make sure you communicate. In fact, have the mantra, 'You cannot over communicate!'"

Perry added, "One thing that I think every staff person should do when faced with a time of transition is find someone in the church that can be your advisor and sounding board. Such a person can keep you from biting off more than you can chew."

He also suggested, "Make sure that you are open and listening to the lay leadership of your church. Their input is priceless, and their help is the thing that keeps you from losing it. In my time of transition, I was always mindful to say thank you to the entire church for the way we pulled together."

Coleman advised, "Ask questions and follow up with assignments and requests. Be a resource for the interim and help him as he is in this transition time."

"Keep in focus your calling and why you are there. It is imperative that you focus on what you are called to do and not what oth-

ers have projected on you," he emphasized.

"Be you. Be the person that God has called you to be, and be obedient to the ministry that God has given you to do," Coleman urged.

Tree Akers, minister to students at Northside Baptist Church of Elizabethtown said, "There are a few things that are beneficial for a church that is in an interim youth minister phase, or has no youth minister. There is a great resource called the 'Ideas Library,' which has creative games, skits, mission opportunities, lessons, etc. This has been a huge help to youth ministry volunteer leaders who are 'covering' in the interim timeframe."

Akers also recommended establishing a network with churches in the area that have a full-time youth minister. "You might be able to get some ideas from them, as well as connect with some events that they are doing," he explained.

Finally, Akers urged, "Pray! Pray! Pray!"

Perry noted, "Remember that Christ taught the disciples so they could serve in His absence. Make sure that you are equipping and training the people of the church how to serve for you never know when you will need them."

*Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## No tears for things

By Jeremy White

I recently spoke at a church about a biblical view of managing money. In my humble, but accurate opinion, I thought the message was rather good. However, one of those in attendance that day stated a truth more powerfully and succinctly than I did.



After my teaching, she waited to greet me. She earnestly held my hand as she shook it and said, "It has taken me about 60 years to learn that I do not need to cry over anything that does not have life."

She went on to explain that her house had recently burned down. No one died or was hurt from the blaze, but she lost most of her things. Generous church members, family, and a bit of insurance helped her replace the replaceable stuff.

Don't cry over things. Mmm. I think that is a perspective that God would like us to embrace. Do we anguish over an acquaintance who does not have a relationship with Jesus Christ as much as we anguish over a decline in value of our retirement plan?

Do we get angry when someone scrapes our car in the parking lot but do not show any emotion over the killing of babies in the womb? Do we have as much motivation and discipline to study God's word as we do to work long and hard for a large-screen TV?

Think of the energy, time, and focus we place on things: buying them, transporting them, displaying them, dusting them, insuring them, storing them, using them, securing them, moving them, bequeathing them, discarding them.

Jesus does not say material stuff is sinful, but He certainly minimizes things. He told a would-be follower that He does not have a home or a place to lay His head like animals. Although we are not told for certain, I do not get the impression Jesus went around Capernaum or Jerusalem with several U-haul-donkeys and a lot of baggage.

Jesus said our lives do not consist in the abundance of our possessions. Seek first the Kingdom mindset of loving God and loving people. Weep about what breaks God's heart.

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



**SINGING A NEW SONG** Singer/songwriter Michael O'Brien and his wife, Heidi, share their testimonies of how God helped them overcome struggles in their lives and marriage during the women's event at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in Lexington. Michael shared how Christ helped him defeat the issue of lust in his life, while Heidi shared her past experiences with bipolar disorder. (KBC photos by Kristie Randolph)

## Women's event features couple's testimony of redemption & love

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Forgiveness and repentance are critical for healing when Christians are dealing with difficult issues such as lust and mental illness, according to Michael and Heidi O'Brien, a couple that has battled both experiences in the past.

Michael O'Brien, singer/songwriter and former lead singer for Newsong, and his wife, Heidi, spoke to more than 60 participants at the women's event during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference.

Early in their marriage, Michael confessed his battle with lust and pornography to Heidi. Having now been married 19 years, the couple told participants that forgiveness was key in their journey through that difficult season.

"If we are followers of Christ, we are to forgive," Heidi explained. "I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to turn towards Michael, and in doing that, I was receiving healing for my broken heart."

By dealing directly with his sin and with the help of Christian counseling, Michael experienced victory in his life.

"I've had a lot of victory. God is good. God is powerful," he said. "I'm no longer living that kind of life—and it tastes good."

One of the ways women can help men fight lust, Michael noted, is to dress modestly. Another way is for wives to respect and encourage their husbands, Heidi said.

When asked by Heidi if the battle against lust ever goes away, Michael explained that "guys are visual, and I can't change that. What I can change is my behavior. God has a way for us to work through these things. The temptation is always there, but as you walk with God, things get better."

Following the morning session with her husband, Heidi detailed her own struggle with bipolar disorder and anxiety during a breakout session.

After reading an excerpt from her book, "Blankets, Tea and Crazy People," Heidi recalled being diagnosed with bipolar disorder right after the birth of her fourth child. "I felt like under my skin was a lunatic," she said, adding that her struggle was so great she had to send her baby to live with her sister during the recovery period.

Though she now is medication-free, her treatment during that time included prescriptions, counseling and a new understanding of herself and God.

"God had me get very quiet and had to teach me how to live," she recalled. "I really live very differently now. I celebrate how I'm wired, and I need to

get this message out."

While acknowledging that Michael's confession to lust contributed to her developing mental illness, Heidi acknowledged there were other factors in her life that impacted her wellbeing. She noted that many of her family members do not deal well with stressful situations. Also contributing was dysfunction and sexual abuse she experienced during her childhood and teenage years.



Wanda Taylor Smith

Though she was raised in a Christian home, Heidi had "a lot of wrong thoughts about God and a lot of wrong thoughts about me" that stemmed from her family life. As one of six children, Heidi often was sent away to live in her grandparents' home, where the sexual abuse took place.

Heidi referred to herself as "performance-driven and a rule-keeper," which led to a legal view of God and salvation.

"It took me a long time to grasp that I needed a Savior. I thought I wasn't under the wrath of God because I was a good girl," she said. "When things weren't going right, I'd get angry at God. There were accusations in my heart that He was unjust."

The foundation for Heidi's recovery came when she realized the depth of her sin and found true repentance. When asked how others can help those struggling with mental illness, Heidi encouraged participants to recommend counseling help and to "speak words of faith and love, and to stand in the gap for people by prayer."

### Keeping "fit"

Kentucky Baptist women also participated in a women's health session featuring registered nurse Wanda Taylor Smith. Smith's husband, Robert, is preaching professor at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and was a featured speaker at the Evangelism Conference.

Titled, "Fit for the Fight," Smith's session included reasons why women should be concerned with their health, as well as practical ways to live a healthier lifestyle.

"These are not just our bodies—we have been bought with a price," noted Smith, who encouraged women to consider if they are "fit for spiritual warfare, and fit for divine fellowship."

According to Smith, all women can pursue fitness and health even though it will look different for each person.

"All fit means is that you have the flexibility, strength and endurance to take care of your daily responsibilities," she noted. "Women tend to be caregivers, but we are the last ones to receive care. We need to be prepared to take care of others."

## Sam Rainer to lead KBC's Essential Church Seminar

Elizabethtown—Churches leaders who are trying to reach young adults are urged to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Essential Church Seminar March 17 at Severns Valley Church in Elizabethtown.

Seminar topics are based on concepts, "Essential Church? Reclaiming a Generation of Drop-outs," designed to help churches reach out to young adults. Sam Rainer, the book's co-author, will lead the seminar.



Sam Rainer

"One of the greatest challenges Kentucky Baptists face is the need to more effectively reach young adults," noted Alan Witham, KBC's church development team leader. "The seminar will aim to give Kentucky Baptists a foundation for doing church in such a way that church becomes essential to all people, and particularly young adults."

The event will feature a main teaching session with Rainer, as well as breakout sessions that will focus on the four solutions proposed in the book: simplify, deepen, expect and multiply.

Breakout session leaders include Dan Garland, director of pastoral ministries and church consulting for LifeWay Christian Resources; Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research;

Mike Rice, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Ashland; and Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

According to Witham, the KBC's church development team is looking for additional ways to help churches apply the concepts after the event.

"I'm encouraged by the hope that comes out of the book. It's not a doom-and-gloom situation. (Rainer) points out that many young adults come back to the church," Witham said.

Sponsored by the KBC's church development team, the event will run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost to register for the event is \$25 per person, which includes lunch and all seminar materials.

For more information or to register, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/Essential](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Essential), or call (502) 489-3335, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3335.

**HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION**  
A Service celebrating 150 Years of Hymns at Southern Seminary

**Tuesday, March 17th at 7:30 PM**  
**Alumni Chapel**

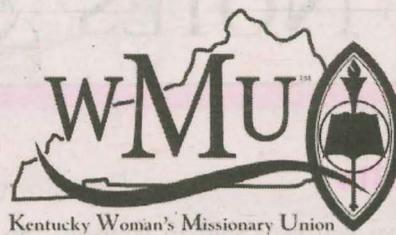
The service will highlight the contributions of Southern Seminary's faculty to hymnody and hymn-singing from the Seminary's founding to the present. During the service you will hear historic as well as modern hymns in a variety of musical styles. Help celebrate 150 years of beautiful hymns at one of the oldest and most prestigious theological schools in the world.

**FEATURING:**  
Aletheia and Jubilate  
The Boyce Chorale  
The Seminary Choir  
Dr. Nathan Platt  
Dr. Sandra Turner on organ

*Hustad*  
*McElrath*

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# KENTUCKY NOTES



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## Live with Urgency

Sowing Together for Harvest

2008 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions  
National Goal: \$65 million

Three out of four people in North America live without a personal relationship with Christ.

Your North American missionaries are sowing in the fields of the USA, Canada and territories, living with urgency to share Christ.

Kentucky Baptists gave \$1,970,430.21 in 2007-08, the largest amount ever.

Spring 2009

# GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

## Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church, Richmond

March 27-28, 2009

### Friday 10 a.m. - Gifts of Grace

Theme Interpretation - Sandy Wisdom-Martin  
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries

Missionaries: Jonathan Barron, Campus Minister, EKV; Dr. Geoffrey Hammond, NAMB

### Friday 7 p.m. - Called by Grace

Theme Interpretation - Sandy Wisdom-Martin  
Greetings: Dr. Bill Mackey, KBC  
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries

Called to Kentucky - Teresa Parrett & Panel  
Called to Tanzania - Charles & Carolyn Dixon

### Friday Noon - Lunch with a Missionary

Box lunch by reservation.  
Choose a missions speaker during lunch.

### Saturday 7 a.m.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Breakfast, FBC  
Richmond (reservation needed)

### Friday 1:30 p.m. - Responding to Grace

Theme Interpretation - Sandy Wisdom-Martin  
Eliza Broadus Offering Emphasis: Greg & Alice Whitetree, Freeda Harris Baptist Center  
KY WMU Business Session  
Installation of 2009-2010 Officers & Board

### Saturday 9 a.m. - Embracing Grace

Theme Interpretation - Sandy Wisdom-Martin  
Special Feature: Embracing Grace Through Community Outreach, Kristy Carr  
Missionary: Dwayne Waldrup, Bluegrass Cowboy Church

### Friday 3 p.m. - Acting on Grace

Ministry Projects in the Community & at the Church

Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries

Korea WMU Partnership: Soonsil Back  
Closing: Korean Musicians

Music Leader - Emily Christian & Sue Ellen Ballard

Prelude will begin 10 minutes before each session

All times listed are in Eastern Time

## A Personal Word

2009 is a significant year for me. I am in my 10th year with Kentucky WMU and will celebrate that anniversary September 1. But the 2009 Annual Meeting will be my 10th meeting with you. Dreaming of what these meetings will be and the impact they can have is a process of which I never tire. Each year we prayerfully seek God's direction, asking, "What outcomes do we want to see from the meeting?" We don't simply seek a great meeting, but the outcomes because we had the meeting. We dream that these outcomes will be felt across Kentucky and around the world.



Joy Bolton  
Executive  
Director-Treasurer

The 2009 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting begins Friday, March 27, at FBC Richmond. We will focus on "God's Amazing Grace" in each session. Our special guest will be Dr. Geoffrey Hammond, president of the North American Mission Board. Dr. Hammond has become a friend to WMU, and we are pleased to welcome him to Kentucky.

On Friday, you are invited to have lunch with a missionary. Make a reservation for a boxed lunch. This is always a special time to meet and talk with our program guests. After the afternoon session, we will spread out over a two-mile area to participate in hands-on ministries in the community. Several projects also will take place at the church. You are invited to bring items for local ministries. Please refer to the Annual Meeting information mailed in January or download a copy from our web site (www.kywmu.org).

The Kentucky WMU partnership with Korea WMU has been extended through 2010. We are thrilled to have Soonsil Back, a member of the Korea Baptist WMU staff and recent graduate of SBTS, working in our office through March. We will have a special send-off for Soonsil during the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting. She will return to Korea Baptist WMU staff in April.

In addition to our Annual Meeting, the National WMU Annual Meeting will be June 21-22 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. We are gearing up to host WMU friends from across the country. The Southern Baptist Convention meetings will follow, and we will join in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

World Missions Unlimited, our training for WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders, will be July 17-18 in Winchester and July 24-25 in Madisonville. Mark your calendar for this vital training, which helps both new and experienced leaders prepare for the new church year.

Above all, thank you for your response to the 2008-09 Eliza Broadus Offering. During these difficult economic times, your faithful giving has continued, and we have again exceeded the million-dollar mark for the offering. Watch for progress reports on our web site. Gifts for the 2008-09 Eliza Broadus Offering will be received through August 31.

### First Baptist Church

425 Eastern Bypass  
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www.firstbaptistnet.com  
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### Directions:

- From I-75, take Exit 87.
- Turn toward Eastern Kentucky University campus.
- Turn left at light No. 3 (St. George Street) from the ByPass. Immediately, turn right onto Leighway.
- Proceed up Leighway and then turn left into the church driveway (next to Wendy's).

## Churchwide



2009. Can you believe we are into the third month of the year? We are halfway through our year of being "Called to Love." Many of us are preparing to do spring cleaning. We are making plans to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. We are dreaming of spring break or summer vacation.

As we approach spring, there are some things you should put on your "to do" list along with spring cleaning:

- Annual Meeting March 27-28 at First Baptist Church in Richmond. Bring the whole group for a wonderful weekend with missionaries, music, fellowship, personal commitment and service for our Lord.
- State Associational Leadership Training for you who serve on the associational WMU leadership team. This training is essential for planning and preparing your association for 2009-2010.
- Missions Celebration in Louisville June 21-22. Again, bring a busload. What an extraordinary opportunity to meet with others from around the United States. Kentucky ministries will be highlighted at this national WMU event.

- Pray for the Baptist Nursing Fellowship as they prepare for the first BNF missions trip to the Spirit Nation Reservation in North Dakota this summer.
- Make sure you include in your plans to attend World Missions Unlimited. Not only you, but also the entire leadership team. This year a track has been added for your pastor. Encourage him to attend. Pay his way. Let him know how important it is for him as he assists you in leading your church in missions education and missions leadership.

"Called to Love" is a responsibility we all share. As WMU Director, you keep it out there in front of your church. Thank you for all you do to keep missions and mission education alive in your church. You are a blessing.

Blessings today and always!  
Wanda Walker

## Adults

Have you ever said to yourself, "So and so has everything. What can I get him/her for a gift?" Does that person subscribe to **Missions Mosaic**? Think about your adult friends, church leaders and co-workers. As a subscriber, you know how you enjoy the world at your fingertips. This is a gift that will last a lifetime.



Speaking of **Missions Mosaic**, this spring will include a new look, feel and name for Round Table Book Club: "Shades of REAd". Each month will feature creative and interactive ideas for reading groups.

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[www.mymissionfulfilled.com](http://www.mymissionfulfilled.com)  
[www.mymissionfulfilled.com](http://www.mymissionfulfilled.com)

Do you get the idea this is a big deal? It is! Groups are forming as a result of this web site. Who would have ever thought that would happen? My Mission Fulfilled is a fresh, new and successful approach to involve people who do not have time for meetings and want to be in the know!

Peace, Joy and Blessings!  
Wanda Walker

## Youth

Congratulations to Brandie Hagerman of Living Hope Baptist Church in Hartford and Savannah Hines of South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville for their selections as National WMU Top Teens! This is an honor that few receive.



Exalt 2009 is just around the corner. Your girls will be encouraged to be transformed at Exalt in Corbin, April 17-18. Wini Moran will be the speaker, and Shelby Crawford

the music leader. The event takes place at the same time and same place as 4:GO for the guys. A special feature for both events is a Christian magic show by David Garrard. Information has been sent to all Acteens and Youth on Mission leaders. This year, you can register online at [www.kybaptist.org/exalt4go](http://www.kybaptist.org/exalt4go).

Involve your youth at the national WMU meeting in Louisville, June 21-22. It will be a great opportunity for your youth to be inspired by missionaries and meet national WMU leaders. See information in this insert.

Summer is fast approaching. Your girls can head for a European Excursion at Cedar Crest June 22-26. This week of camp will feature the opportunity to do hands-on missions. Your girls may want to head to Jonathan Creek for Acteens Splash June 26-27. This overnight will challenge the girls to look at their lives from the "inside/out."



LaRaine Rice

## Preschool & Children

### Preschool:

"Will you read me a book?" How many times have you been asked that question as a parent, grandparent, teacher or friend of a preschooler? Adults can play a vital role in how preschoolers respond to books. As we read to young children, feelings of warmth, acceptance and a foundation for the love of books and reading are created. National WMU has produced a number of books that will give preschoolers stories to treasure. Check out the details, as well as other available resources, at [www.wmystore.com](http://www.wmystore.com).



The national WMU Preschool Resource Team wants your opinion about the Mission Friends curriculum materials before they redesign the materials to reduce costs. Go to [www.missionfriends.com](http://www.missionfriends.com) to complete the survey. The survey is also in the Spring 2009 issue of *Start*.

The survey requires about 5 minutes to complete. Take the survey and see what you may have the opportunity to receive.

Remember, preschoolers are worth it!

### Children:

Not only was Feb. 14 Valentine's Day, but it marked a significant day across Kentucky and throughout North America as thousands of children participated in the second annual Children's Ministry Day! This special day, sponsored by national WMU, was an opportunity for children in churches with or without Girls in Action (GA) or Children in Action to participate in hands-on missions. Children in Kentucky participated in a variety of healthcare ministry projects that related to the theme "Loving Hearts." Through these projects, Children's Ministry Day enabled children to grow spiritually as



they stepped beyond their comfort zone to minister to others and share their faith through hands-on missions.

Visit [www.childrensmissions.com](http://www.childrensmissions.com) and share your Children's Ministry Day story and read about others' experiences in Kentucky and across the United States. Report your church's participation by March 14, 2009. This will be our way of finding out what churches have done in Kentucky as well as obtain an approximate number of children who participated in our state.

Don't forget camp. Two state camps, Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore) and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for all girls. In addition, a special Express Week is offered for boys and girls at Cedar Crest. More information can be found on page 3 of this insert.

Brenda Price



### New WMU Starts

Welcome to the following new WMU groups, started September 2008 to January 2009:

Mission Friends	Liberty, Palestine, Reid Village, Russellville Second, Sunnyside
Girls in Action	Patesville
Children in Action	Liberty, Marion, Milton, Oakland, Sunnyside
Acteens	Liberty, Patesville, Pleasant Hill, Salem
Women on Mission	Ohio Valley, Shiloh
Adults on Mission	Watson Lane

## President's Perspective

"God's Amazing Grace" is the theme for our annual meeting in Richmond, March 27-28. I hope you are planning to be there. We have a great program planned. Hopefully you will take part in one of the ministry projects planned on Friday afternoon. Watch for information, and be sure to sign up for the project you



**Pat Reaves**  
Kentucky WMU  
President

want to do. Let's work together and make a difference in Richmond. Make your travel plans, and I'll see you there!

In January, I went to Birmingham for the national WMU Executive Board meeting. We

heard reports on the WMU budget, and things are going to be hard for a while. Wanda Lee and her staff have worked hard to balance their budget. It required a lot of cuts and sacrifices, but the staff is willing to work with what they have. A lot of WMU's funding comes from materials that WMU publishes. Subscriptions are down. I would ask you to think about what you could do to encourage folks to subscribe to the materials. *Missions Mosaic* is a great magazine and would make a good gift to someone who loves missions. Of course, some of the funding comes from investments, and we all know what has happened there. Pray for Wanda and her staff as they continue to work so we all have the best resources available. Another way you can help is to give a donation directly to the WMU Foundation Vision Fund. For \$34 you can provide an hour of WMU ministries. Naturally, they will accept more than \$34! For more information, visit [www.wmufoundation.com](http://www.wmufoundation.com).

Our Kentucky WMU staff joined me in Birmingham. One thing we did while there was invite all the other states to Louisville for the national WMU meeting in June. Oh, you would have been proud of our invitation! The invitation was interactive, with great prizes (even a car), funny, informative and lead by "Miss Price is Right." Even our Korean friend, Soonsil Back, took part. Who knows, maybe you will get to see it in Richmond.

Thanks for all your hard work for Lottie. Don't forget it is time for Annie. Did you know you can buy life-size posters of both Lottie and Annie? You can find them on the web sites of the IMB and NAMB. They make a great addition to your promotion for the offerings.

I appreciate all of you. If you need me for anything, just give me a call.

Love God. Love Others.  
Working together,  
Pat

## Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

Sept. 1—Nov. 30, 2008

The following people were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the first quarter of the 2008-09 fiscal year. Thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone.

We also continue to receive gifts for the 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign for the Heritage Fund. This campaign began at the 2007 Annual Meeting to enlist 1000 donors (individuals or groups) to give \$1,000 between 2007-2010. Please note the pledge gifts in our report each quarter, which also may be given in honor or memory of someone.

### In Honor of:

Jo Pelham  
Arlene Miller  
Betty Williams Chandler  
Donna Dye  
Renea Houston & ladies  
of FBC Georgetown

### Donor:

FBC Hopkinsville  
Sandra Duguid\*  
Carol Russ\*  
Marilyn & William Lamkin\*  
Irma Woodrow

### In Memory Of:

Ralph Simpson  
Paul Briscoe  
Louise Hayes Williams  
June Lair  
Norma Feltner  
Freda Castlen  
  
Evelyn Wilson  
Frances Stovall Springs  
Freda Castlen

### Donor:

Loretta Simpson  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Webb  
Carol Russ\*  
FBC London WMU  
FBC London WMU  
Podge & Estella Brashear and  
Lone Pine WMU  
Georgetown Baptist WMU  
Maribeth & Horace Hambrick  
Three Forks Baptist Assoc.\*

\* Toward pledge

**1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign Contributions** (includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments, and other campaign gifts):

- Jo Pelham
- Mary Lou Crutcher
- Parkway Baptist Women
- Dry Ridge Women on Mission Night Group
- Dry Ridge Day Baptist Women Group
- Cheryl Hatfield
- Kentucky WMU Staff
- Twyla Sheffield
- Mary Williams Circle, Bethel Baptist
- Westport Road BC WMU
- Bill & Charmaine Nichols
- FBC Barlow Women on Mission Group

- Charles & Patty Renfrow
- Oakland Avenue Baptist Church
- Ruthe B. Sphar
- Joy Bolton
- Crestwood Baptist Church WMU

### 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign Update

As of 1/31/09:  
Total # participants: 90  
(Includes individuals, groups, pledges & one-time gifts)  
Total gifts to date: \$73,362.67

## MISSIONS CAMP

Don't miss this summer's variety of camping events in two locations! Registration forms are being accepted in the Kentucky WMU office. Please contact the WMU office or visit our website ([www.kywmu.org](http://www.kywmu.org)) for registration materials.

### CEDARCREST

Get your passports ready for a European Excursion! Learn about the cultures and missions in Europe. Each group of 1-7 children attending Girls in Action, Express and Acteens camp needs to be accompanied by a church chaperone.

#### Girls in Action Camps \$178\*

June 15-19  
girls, grades 3-6  
  
June 22-26  
girls, grades 3-6

#### Express Camps \$92\*

June 29-July 1 or  
July 1-July 3  
girls & boys, grades 3-6

#### Mother-Daughter Overnights \$50\*

June 19-20  
grades 1-3 & moms  
  
June 26-27  
grades 1-3 & moms

#### Acteens Camp \$178\*

June 22-26  
girls, grades 6-10

\*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 15, 2009. Rates are per person.

## Calendar

### March

1-8 Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
6-7 Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Workshop, SBTS, Louisville  
7 Hispanic WMU Event, Parkland BC, Louisville  
13-14 Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Workshop, First BC, Bowling Green  
26 Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting, Richmond  
27-28 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, First BC, Richmond  
28 Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting, First BC, Richmond

### April

17-18 Exalt & 4:GO, Central BC, Corbin  
24-25 KY WMU Resource Team Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville

### May

7-10 National BNF Meeting, Sieverville, Tenn.  
16 KY WMU State Associational Leadership Training (SALT), Baptist Building, Louisville

### June

15-19 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest  
19-20 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest  
21 BNF Summer Meeting  
21-22 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, St. Matthews BC, Louisville  
22-26 GA/Acteens Camp grades 1-3 and 6-10, Cedar Crest  
23-24 Southern Baptist Convention, Louisville  
26-27 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest  
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Jonathan Creek  
GA Overnight, grades 4-6, Jonathan Creek  
Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, Jonathan Creek  
29-July 1 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Boys and Girls, Grades 3-6, Cedar Crest

### July

1-3 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Boys and Girls, Grades 3-6, Cedar Crest

### JONATHAN CREEK

All events June 26-27

**Mother-Daughter Overnight** \$36\*\*  
grades 1-3 and moms

**GA Overnight** \$42\*\*  
grades 4-6 and their chaperones

**Acteens Splash** \$48\*\*  
grades 7-10 and their chaperones

\*\*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 23, 2009. Rates are per person.

### CAMP STAFF NEEDED

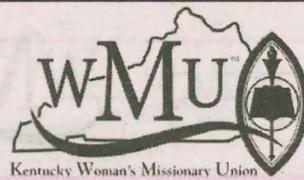
Applications for **summer staff** at Cedar Crest will be accepted until all positions are filled. Positions include: Fellowship Leader, Worship Leader, Crafts Leader, Missions Leader, Lifeguard, Technology Assistant, Recreation Leader, Nature Leader and Kitchen Coordinator. Staff members are high school juniors and seniors and college students.

**Medical volunteers** also are needed for each week of camp.

Please contact the WMU office for applications.

For more information contact Stacy Nall, (502) 489-3454, toll free at (866) 489-3534, [Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org](mailto:Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org).

# KENTUCKY NOTES



A quarterly publication of  
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

## Metamorphosis

### 4:GO EXALT

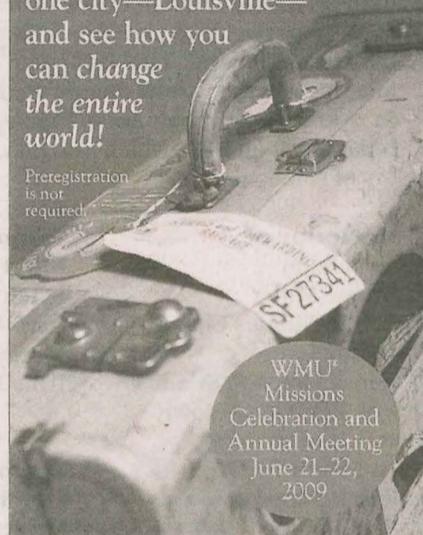
Two events.  
One location.  
One weekend.

April 17-18, 2009  
Central Baptist Church  
Corbin, Kentucky

## CHANGE A LIFE CHANGE THE WORLD™

Journey this summer to just one city—Louisville—and see how you can change the entire world!

Preregistration is not required.



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- Participate in interactive breakout sessions, relevant for where you are
- Dialogue with international and North American field personnel
- Enjoy a unique Kentucky Missions Fair
- And much, much more!



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St. Matthews Baptist Church  
3515 Grandview Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky

VISIT [WWW.WMU.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.WMU.COM/EVENTS) FOR UPDATES ON THIS FREE MISSIONS EVENT.

**BOXED LUNCH, MONDAY, JUNE 22, 11:15 a.m.**  
Preregistration for the Monday boxed lunch is required.  
Please keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete all applicable information and enclose payment for number of meals requested.

# of box lunches requested @ \$8.00 each      Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Meal reservations are due June 10.  
Mail to: Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569  
Tickets for reserved lunches on Monday may be picked up at the Annual Meeting.  
Visit the lunch ticket table in the lobby of St. Matthews Baptist Church.



## Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting

Sunday, June 21, 4 p.m.

This meeting will be held during the national WMU Missions Celebration.  
For more information, refer to the May BNF newsletter or contact Wanda Walker at the WMU office.



## World Missions Unlimited 2009

Are you a church or associational missions leader? Plan to attend this special event designed just for you!

July 17-18, Central Baptist Church, Winchester

July 24-25 First Baptist Church, Madisonville

(Friday 6:30-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

How can you become a better missions leader in your church and/or association? Attend workshops for basic training and strengthening leadership skills at World Missions Unlimited. Workshops are offered for church leaders of all WMU organizations and Baptist Men on Mission (formerly Brotherhood) organizations. Sessions focusing on preschool, children, youth and adult areas will be available for leaders. Both days will feature numerous workshops on areas of special interest.

A special training track is designed for associational WMU leaders. Associational leaders are encouraged to attend both days to receive the full benefit of this training.

New this year is a workshop for pastors, including ideas for missions involvement from a pastor's perspective.

Cost: \$20 if registered by June 26

\$25 if registered by July 10

\$30 if registered after July 10

(includes Sat. lunch, resources\*)

Registration materials will be mailed to all church/associational WMU leaders in early May. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU.

\* Those attending WMU conferences will receive a WMU Year Book.

\* Participants in Baptist Men on Mission workshops (Baptist Men, RA, Challengers) will receive appropriate resources.

## Proposed Changes to Kentucky WMU Bylaws

The following amendments were submitted to the Executive Board of Kentucky WMU during their October 24-26, 2008, meeting and were approved for consideration by the members of Kentucky WMU at the 2009 Annual Meeting. These amendments to our Bylaws are needed to keep our Bylaws in compliance with requirements of national WMU Bylaws.

Proposed changes will be voted on during the Friday afternoon business session.

### Bylaws, Part 1

Insert a new Article I - Membership and Voting. (Renumber remaining articles.)

### Proposed new Article I: Membership and Voting

Section 1: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is comprised of the membership of WMU organizations in Kentucky Baptist Churches.

Section 2: Only members of local church WMU organizations may vote at meetings of Kentucky WMU.

### Current Article I then becomes Article II - Officers.

### Proposed new sections, insert between current sections 4 & 5:

Section 5: Each Kentucky WMU officer shall be a member of WMU in a local church and elected at the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting.

Section 6: In the event the office of president becomes vacant between Annual Meetings, or for any reason the president is unable to serve, the Vice President shall fill the office of President until the next Annual Meeting. This provision shall be stated verbally at the time of the election of the Vice-President.

(Current Section 5 becomes Section 7)

## Every adult has a will

### Dying without proper will is risky for those left behind

If you are 18 years old or older and a resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, you have a last will and testament. The crucial issue is whether you or the commonwealth has dictated your last will and testament.

Unless you have a written document that clearly states your intentions regarding the disposition of your assets at death and decisions regarding the guardianship of minor children, those most important decisions will be made by the commonwealth in accordance with the interstate succession statutes, which most likely will not be in accordance with your wishes had you documented them in a last will and testament. What a tragedy that could be for those individuals and charities you love.

A last will and testament is the cornerstone of any estate plan. Properly prepared, it will ensure your wishes are carried out after you die. With a properly prepared will you can:

- Name the executor of your choosing to administer your estate.
- Make specific bequests to individuals and ministries of your choosing.

- Create trusts for special-needs beneficiaries, including minor children.

- Name a guardian(s) of your choosing for your minor children.

Kentucky Baptist Foundation Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine recommends you review your estate-planning documents at least every three to five years, or after major life changes, as in:

- Marital status.
- Birth of a child or grandchild.
- Relocation from one state to another.
- Significant change in the ownership or value of assets.
- Retirement.
- Receipt of an inheritance.

Statistically, 60 percent of people die without a will, and 70 percent of those with wills have not updated them. If you have not exercised the privilege of having your own will, or need to update one, don't wait! Call Valentine toll free for a confidential consultation session. There is no cost or obligation. The cost already has been paid by the collective giving of Kentucky Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program.

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

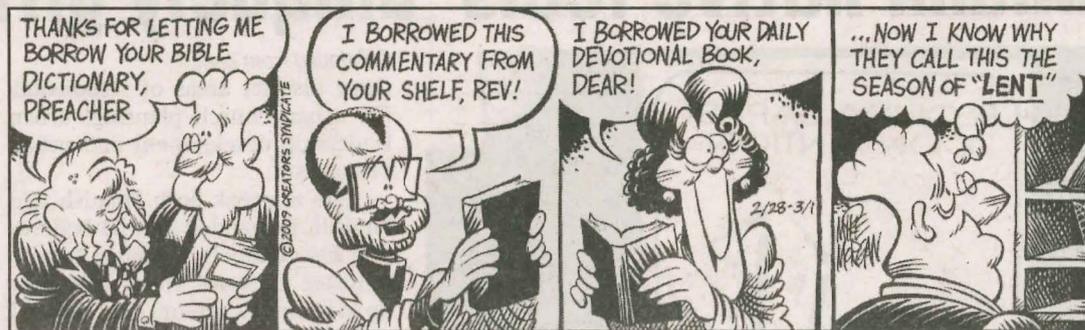
### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 "\_\_\_ no man any thing, but to love one another" (Romans 13:8)
- 4 "His enemy came and sowed tares among the \_\_\_" (Matthew 13:25)
- 9 Greek letter
- 12 Benign skin tumor
- 13 "Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to \_\_\_" (James 4:9)
- 15 United \_\_\_
- 17 "Woe to them that are at \_\_\_ in Zion" (Amos 6:1)
- 18 Actor Buttons
- 19 "Ye shall no more give the people \_\_\_ to make brick" (Exodus 5:7)
- 22 Lets go
- 24 Article
- 25 Explorer Johnson
- 28 Preposition
- 29 Warns, ominously
- 31 Exclamations of disappointment
- 32 "Another angel came ... having a golden \_\_\_" (Revelation 8:3)
- 34 Rouses, sometimes repeatedly
- 36 Entertaining troops is org.'s forte
- 37 One or the other
- 39 Half an em
- 40 Compass pt.
- 41 By means of
- 42 Acclaimed TV miniseries
- 44 Religion that has a claim in Jerusalem
- 46 Tribe of Israel
- 47 My Name Is \_\_\_ (W. Saroyan novel)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15		16						17		
	18			19		20	21			
22			23		24			25	26	27
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32		33				34		35		
36			37		38					39
40			41				42		43	
			44				45		46	
47	48	49			50		51			52
53				54	55					56
57				58						59

- 50 "He shall give thee the \_\_\_ of thine heart." (Psalm 37:4)
- 53 Those who trust in the Lord find this (Proverbs 16:20)
- 56 Continent (abbr.)
- 57 One that builds hills
- 58 "Shall I go and call to thee a \_\_\_ of the Hebrew women?" (Exodus 2:7)
- 59 Within (prefix)
- 14 "What thing is this? what \_\_\_ doctrine is this?" (Mark 1:27)
- 16 Creative impulses
- 20 Where Saul abode: in Gibeah under a tree in \_\_\_ (1 Samuel 22:6)
- 21 Solution
- 22 Zero in on
- 23 Gets some shut-eye
- 25 "An angel of the Lord ... sat under an \_\_\_" (Judges 6:11)
- 26 "This roll ... was in my mouth as honey for \_\_\_" (Ezekiel 3:3)
- 27 Organizations (abbr.)
- 30 Israeli politician Sharon
- 33 Not "in a little while"
- 35 Son of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 38 \_\_\_ Vic's (former restaurant chain)
- 43 Rower
- 44 Mischievous one
- 45 Army repast
- 47 Exclamation of discovery
- 48 Bled, as madras might
- 49 Likely to
- 51 Compass pt.
- 52 \_\_\_ Paulo
- 54 Preposition
- 55 Greek letter

### Down

- 1 "His \_\_\_ received him not" (John 1:11)
- 2 "Much study is a \_\_\_ of the flesh" (Ecclesiastes 12:12)
- 3 "\_\_\_ into his gates with thanks-giving" (Psalm 100:4)
- 4 Reporter's question
- 5 Brooding bunch
- 6 \_\_\_ of Eden (J. Steinbeck novel)
- 7 Madison, for one (abbr.)
- 8 Note on the diatonic scale
- 9 Orange pekoe, for one
- 10 "With the jaw of an \_\_\_ ... have I slain a thousand men" (Judges 15:16)
- 11 "He shall be a vessel ... meet for the master's \_\_\_" (2 Timothy 2:21)

### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

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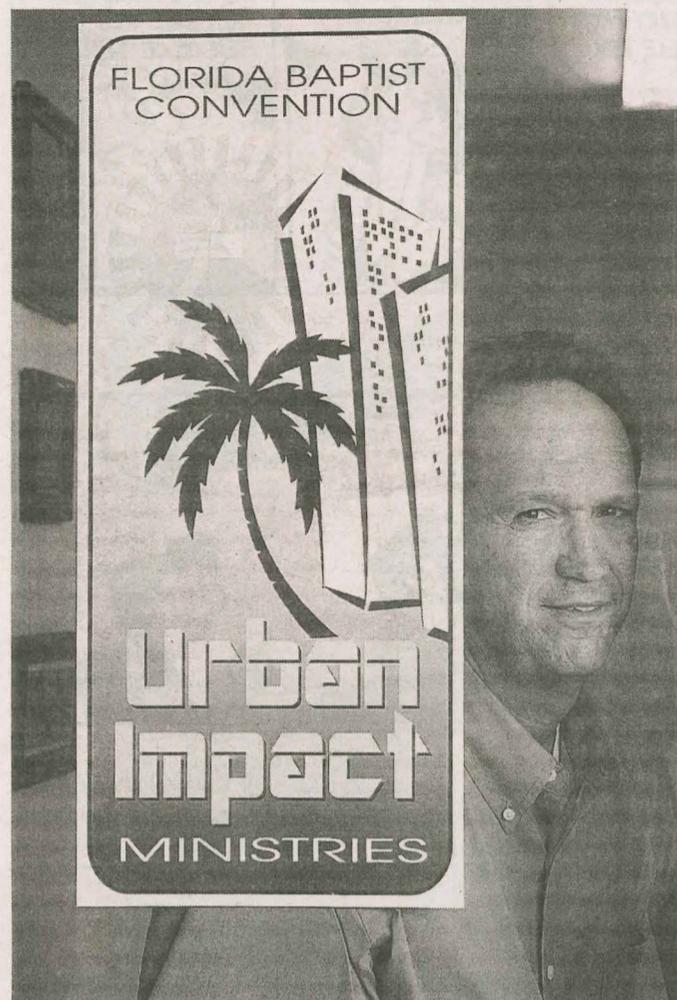
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# Miami native feels 'uniquely gifted' to serve hometown



**URBAN RENEWAL** Miami native and NAMB missionary Al Fernandez is director of the Florida Baptist Convention's "Urban Impact Ministries" in Miami. He is one of some 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. He is among the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer this week. This year's theme is "Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest." The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal is \$65 million. (NAMB photo by Greg Schneider)

Continued from page 1

three distinct areas of responsibility: urban church planting, urban leadership development and urban evangelism.

Able to speak both Spanish and English, Fernandez said he believes God has uniquely equipped him to minister in South Florida. "I grew up in Spanish-speaking churches so I understand the context. I've also pastored in English-speaking churches. It's like God has allowed me to be a bridge across the different cultures and nationalities in Miami. Like the Apostle Paul said, I believe I am all things to all people."

Miami has the largest Spanish-speaking population in the Western Hemisphere outside of Latin America. Miamians who use Spanish as their first language make up 67 percent of the population. One might think that would make Fernandez's job easier, but language does not tell the whole story.

"The No. 1 challenge is Miami's diversity and multi-culturalism," he stressed, adding that not all Hispanics are alike because they come to Miami from different nations. "Hispanics from different countries may all speak Spanish but still have different customs, traditions and cultures."

That makes developing a sense of harmony more difficult, Fernandez noted. "We need a sense of unity and cooperation within our churches and associations. And we need each other because it doesn't matter how large a church is in Miami, no one church can reach all the people in this environment."

Another reason for Miami-area

churches to come together—especially amid the nation's economic recession—is money and resources, according to Fernandez.

"South Florida is a very expensive place to live, and many of our pastors and churches are struggling," he said. "Miami is a city of 'haves' and 'have-nots.' You see the entertainers and the athletes who live here, yet you've got average people who have to work hard every day in their jobs just to survive. These dynamics make it hard to minister here."

Gary Johnson, executive director for Miami Baptist Association, explained that Miami's high property costs also translate into the small number of Southern Baptist churches who own their facilities.

"Only one-third of our churches own their own property," he pointed out. "A third of our churches are less than 10 years old. Many have to rent from another church, or meet in warehouses or in store fronts."

Johnson said Miami Association is comprised of some 300 churches and missions. About 100 are English-speaking, 100 speak Spanish and 100 speak Creole (Haitian). The remainder consists of Chinese, Russian and Portuguese. Seventy percent do not use English as their primary language.

Two thirds of the local pastors, Johnson noted, are bivocational, so churches tend to be small. "The average size church in Miami-Dade is 45 members ... and they don't have a lot of money. It takes all their money just to pay the rent."

"Al's strength is that he's from here and people in Miami tend to trust someone who's from here," Johnson added. "When Al comes to a church or visits a group of pastors, he's already earned their respect and the right to be there."

Fernandez said he believes Miami's continued Hispanic population and culture growth foreshadows the way the United States will appear in the future.

"What you see in Miami today is what you're going to see in the rest of this nation in the next 20 years. No matter where you live, it's coming," he explained.

"We need to realize that the Apostle Paul used a strategy calling for him to stop in big cities because that's where the most bang for the buck is, where you get the best results," Fernandez said. "I think as Southern Baptists, we need to change our strategies and understand that in the future, we need to know how to minister and be effective in these large urban settings."

But while Fernandez said Southern Baptists have historically been good at reaching rural to mid-size areas, "Baptists have not been as effective in the large urban areas."

When asked how valuable the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is to his work, Fernandez said he could not even describe the worth.

"The reality of these ministries is that they cost money. And one size ministry does not fit all. We need a lot of resources to do the work of the Lord in South Florida."



## The economy and the ice storm

### Only Jesus Christ is properly equipped to help us weather life's many storms

I have given a lot of thought to the recent ice and wind storms and the world, national and our state's economies.

Days before the February storm hit, forecasters were warning about a potentially severe winter storm. Many people began to make preparations in case it was bad. Others took a more passive approach, thinking it likely was going to be just another storm.

I am sure those who made an honest effort to prepare for the worst began to think, during the ice storm and power outages, they should have done more. Those who made little or no preparation likely were thinking they should have paid more attention to the forecast.

People who were without power for two or three weeks may have thought the storm would never end. It did, and everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, just when things began to improve, there was the terrible wind storm. One storm right after the other.

Like meteorologists, economists had warned for years—especially in '05 and '06—that our economy was overdue for a big "storm." I believed the potential for a severe economic storm was there, though some economists insisted that the warnings were exaggerated and flawed.

The first economic storm hit in the fall of 2007; it was serious but not crippling. Many believed that what happened was pretty serious, like the ice storm. However, when the second economic storm hit last fall, people began to realize just how serious it was. But, like the ice

storm, for some it was too late to take the necessary precautions.

Those who took the weather warnings seriously were able to endure the harsh conditions much better than those who made few preparations. I am sure that even those who made an honest effort to prepare vowed to do better next time.

Those who made little or no preparations are likely to be more alert when the next warning is issued.

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Those of us who bear leadership responsibility for preparing for all types of life storms are dealing with the reality that, prepared or not, the storm is here. We all are hurting, but I fear for those who did not take the warnings seriously and now are trying to adjust to the current conditions.

When one is caught up in the turmoil of the storm, it is difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The feeling of helplessness can be terrifying. Sadly, we too often put our trust in things and fail to trust God.

As difficult as things are now—and they may get much worse—God's balance sheet has not been affected. He does not own any stocks, bonds or CDs, but He still is the owner of the cattle on a thousand hills. All that is and ever has been still is His. He has promised to meet our needs and we know that He takes care of His children.

That does not mean we will be exempt from the storm's effects, but we are assured that He will provide. We are deeply thankful for all of our friends who have allowed Him to use their gifts to help us through the storm.

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

## The power of the Holy Spirit

### A lesson in obedience for this Bible college president

We always are teaching our students here at Clear Creek about the importance of being obedient to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. I recently was reminded of how important that is.

I traveled to Florida and had an invitation to preach at First Baptist Church of Minneola where alumnus Don Knight is pastor. As I prepared my message, there was an overwhelming sense that a major part of it needed to relate to someone who did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Although the message was initially geared toward discipleship for the local church member, God also began to give me some clear points that would relate to someone who needed to know Him.

I preached that message and shared with excitement the application points God had given me. I finished and turned the invitation time over to the pastor. I went back to my seat and began to pray for someone who may need to respond to God's call on their life. I began to sense that someone was standing beside me. I looked up and there was an elderly man who was standing halfway up the aisle, star-

ing at the altar like he knew that was where he needed to be. I could tell he was struggling with whether to go on, so I prayed for him to be obedient to God's call.

The next thing I knew he headed for the pastor who was standing at the altar. After the invitation time ended, the pastor shared that the man had confessed his sin and invited Jesus Christ to be his Savior.

After the service, the pastor shared with me that the man's son was a new Christian who had been praying for his father's salvation. The father recently had begun attending church and was asking questions about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I still remember the tears flowing down that son's face as he stood before the congregation with his father, praising the Lord for what He had done in his father's life.

That Sunday was a valuable reminder to me that God desires for us to be obedient to Him. When we are willing to do just that, great things can and will take place in our lives—and God is glorified.

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](http://www.ccbcc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccbcc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbcc.edu)

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Kentuckians lead way at NAMB's largest commissioning service

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

Rincon, Ga.—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board conducted the largest commissioning service in its history when 144 missionaries and chaplains were sent forth Feb. 22 at First Baptist Church of Rincon, Ga.

The 136 missionaries and eight chaplains filed into the sanctuary to the tune of "Victory in Jesus" amid bright-colored flags representing the places they will serve. Most were husband-and-wife teams from 29 state Southern Baptist Conventions, the Canadian National Baptist Convention and the Convention of Southern Baptist Churches in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

With nine being commissioned, the Kentucky Baptist Convention led the way in the number of new Kentucky-based chaplains and missionaries. The Georgia Baptist Convention was second with eight, followed by the Alabama Baptist State Convention with six.

Among the Kentucky contingent: Charlie Edmonds, who serves as pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Hazard and is the first African American pastor to plant a Hispanic church east of the Mississippi River.

Another missionary commissioned was Lon Vining, who, with his wife, Amanda, and four chil-

dren, serves in Montreal as a church planter and student-ministry advocate.

"Montreal is the most spiritually lost city in North America," said Vining, an Arkansas native. "With a population of 3.5 million, only 0.5 percent of the people there are evangelical Christians."

Ashley Emmert, a single 22-year-old fresh out of Baylor University and a native of Georgetown, Texas, has just moved to the Bronx where she is part of Graffiti 2, a ministry in which she conducts after-school programs for first- through third graders, a program for women in nearby Bronx apartments and a ministry for teens.

Then there was Carlos Whitley, who is serving in the U.S. Army as a chaplain to the 92D Engineering Battalion at Fort Stewart, Ga. Whitley, who expects to be deployed to the Middle East next year, and his wife, Pilar, have a 3-year-old son, Carlos Jr.

"When you're a pastor, you have to work extra hard to go visit your people," Whitley said. "But when you're a chaplain, the commander says go and you get your boots on the ground and go be with your soldiers. It's a great ministry."

Before an audience of about 1,000 people, NAMB President Geoff Hammond told the missionaries that it is with "a tear in my eye that I know

we are sending you out into the most difficult economic situation we've ever sent missionaries to in the last 60 years. I know how hard you have worked, the sacrifices you and your families have made."

Hammond said missionaries are just as affected by economic hardships as other Americans.

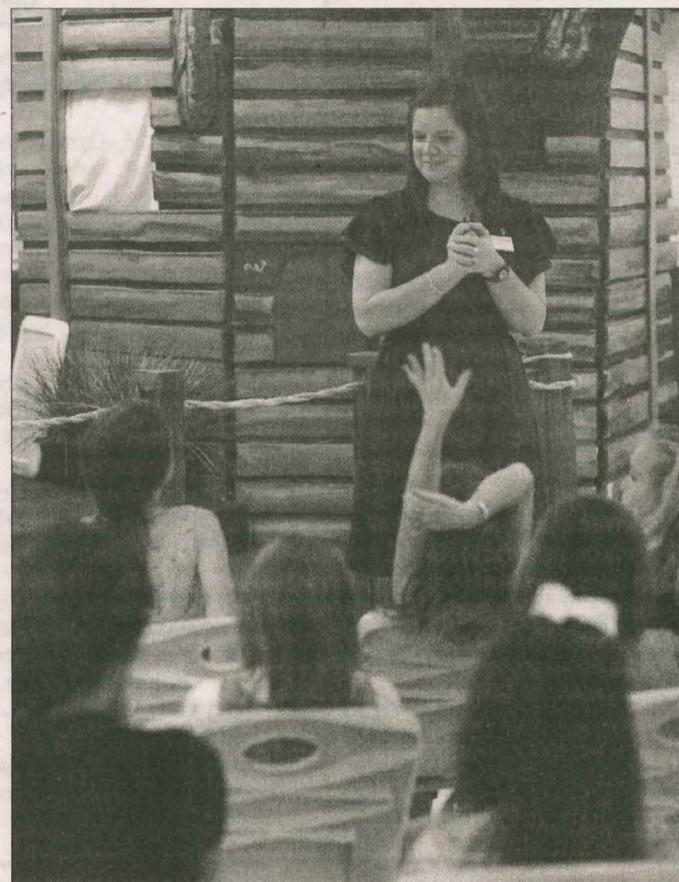
"One in nine homes in the United States is vacant," Hammond said. "Housing prices have dropped. Five million people are unemployed. Many of these are Baptists, and we pray for them."

"But ironically, it's in these tough times that people become the most desperate for God and when our missionaries will have the most opportunities to share Christ," he noted.

Using Matthew 6:25-33 as his text, Hammond advised the missionaries not to worry about "all these things" Jesus mentioned in the Scripture.

"I know your 401Ks are not what they used to be. ... But if Jesus were here tonight, He would say, 'Don't worry about all these things.' To worry about all these things is to be unworthy of the Savior you follow."

"Remember what Jesus said, 'But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you,'" Hammond added. "If you don't believe that, you might as well just put your Bible away." (BP)



**NEW TEACHER** New North American Mission Board missionary Ashley Emmert, who will minister in Bronx, New York, speaks to a Sunday school class of children at First Baptist Church of Rincon, Ga., site of NAMB's largest-ever missionary/chaplain commissioning service on Feb. 22. (Photo by John Swain)

## Hunt announces theme for Louisville SBC

Louisville—Registration for messengers and local hotels is open for the June 23-24 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

SBC President Johnny Hunt has selected "Love Loud—Actions Speak Louder Than Words" as the theme for this year.

Hunt, pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church of Woodstock, told Baptist Press he hopes the LoveLoud emphasis will "challenge our denomination to demonstrate to our communities, our country and around the world the difference Jesus



Johnny Hunt

Christ makes in our lives and in our churches."

"This world has heard much from the church about who we are and what we believe. Too often they don't see the church as being a different entity than others in their communities."

"The church simply has to become more of a force to penetrate the darkness that is increasing in our world," Hunt insisted.

The annual meeting is being held in Louisville in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. (For a list of SBTs sesquicen-

tenial events, visit [www.sbt.edu/About/Sesquicentennial](http://www.sbt.edu/About/Sesquicentennial).)

Churches can register their messengers online at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) to avoid waiting at the counter upon arrival at the convention. By registering online, the SBC Web site gives a church a messenger-reference number form to be printed out and presented at the SBC registration booth in exchange for a name tag and a set of ballots. A church-authorized representative must complete all online registrations.

The traditional registration method also is available for those churches that are unable to access the online registration. Registration cards are available at state convention offices. (BP)

## 2008 was busy year for SBC disaster relief

Alpharetta, Ga.—Southern Baptist disaster relief staff and volunteers had barely closed the books on 2008's myriad of natural disasters when January's devastating ice storms across America's midsection kicked 2009 into gear.

Highlighted by Hurricane Gustav in Louisiana and Hurricane Ike in Texas, Southern Baptist volunteers in 2008 also were dispatched for food preparation, clean-up, chaplaincy and other ministry in response to tornadoes in the South and Midwest, 500-year floods in the Midwest, a Nevada earthquake, winter ice storms in Kentucky and Missouri and wildfires in California and Utah.

"We were every bit as busy in 2008 as we were in 2007," said Terry Henderson, disaster relief operations consultant for the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta,

Ga. Henderson said NAMB's disaster operations center—in partnership with state conventions—responded to 13 multi-state disasters last year.

Unique to 2008: the widespread scale flooding across numerous Midwest states. Henderson said 2005 continues to be the benchmark year for SBC disaster relief work because of the large number of hurricanes that year, including Katrina.

At the close of each year, Henderson and his team at NAMB collect disaster relief statistics from each of the state conventions also responding to disasters. According to their report, more than 83,000 trained Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers responded to some 50 disaster "incidents" during 2008 and chalked up the following statistics:

- 119,000 "volunteer days" worked.
- 7.9 million meals prepared for

disaster victims, responders and volunteer workers.

- 9,300 chainsaw jobs completed following floods, severe storms, tornadoes and ice storms.
  - 2,427 mud-out jobs completed in the wake of floods and storms.
  - 171 repair jobs.
  - 295 roofing jobs.
  - 90,500 showers provided via SBC shower units.
  - 34,000 loads of laundry washed.
  - 247,000 gallons of water purified.
  - Child care provided for nearly 1,200 children.
  - Almost 21,000 ministry contacts, including 3,500 gospel presentations and 436 professions of faith.
- More than 5 million of the nearly 8 million meals prepared and distributed came on the heels of just two catastrophes, Hurricanes Gustav in Louisiana and Ike in Texas. (BP)

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**BGCT authorizes use of reserve funds**—The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board has granted the state convention's treasurer permission to tap up to \$2.5 million in emergency-reserve funds this year. Chief Financial Officer Jill Larsen reported Texas Cooperative Program receipts in January totaled only \$4.3 million—78.9 percent of budget requirements. According to board policies, Larsen said, the emergency funds are set aside from previous years' receipts for use in times of severe economic disruption or depression.

**BWC online registration opens**—The Baptist World Alliance is now receiving registrations online for the 20th Baptist World Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 2010, via the Baptist World Congress Web site, [www.BWAcongress2010.org](http://www.BWAcongress2010.org). Online registration closes June 30, 2010. The congress, the major international gathering of Baptists which is held every five years, is expected to have a projected 15,000 people in attendance July 28-Aug. 1.

**Graham organization trims staff**—The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is reducing its staff by 10 percent, laying off 55 employees, according to a report in the Charlotte Observer. A BGEA spokesman, Ken Barun, confirmed that donor gifts have been "relatively flat" while sales of books and other products have declined, as has interest income from the organization's endowment. The organization's budget is being pared by 15 percent, back to \$84 million, through the layoffs and other reductions in expenses.

**CBF cuts spending by 20 percent**—As of this week, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship began operating on a contingency spending plan that cuts staff salaries by 1 percent and reduces funding for theology schools and other CBF partner organizations by 30 percent. The plan, adopted by the CBF advisory council and reported to the full CBF Coordinating Council Feb. 19-20, saves \$5.5 million over the next 19 months.

**Missouri convention seeks review**—The Missouri Baptist Convention has filed a motion seeking review of an adverse ruling by a Kansas City appeals court or, alternatively, transfer of the case to the Missouri Supreme Court. The Feb. 17 motion for rehearing challenges a Feb. 3 decision by a three-judge appeals panel declaring that the convention cannot legally prevent the breakaway of Windermere Baptist Conference Center because of the contents of a charter filed by the former executive director in 2000.

## FEATURED EVENTS

Campbellsville University will host a forum titled, "Contemporary China: Its Growing Military and Economic Power," March 5, 5 p.m., at the school's Student Union Building.

Featured speakers include Carey Cavanaugh, director of the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, and a professor of diplomacy and conflict resolution; Robert Farley, assistant professor of international security at the Patterson School; and Max Wise, assistant professor of political science at Campbellsville University, who will serve as moderator.

The forum is part of Campbellsville's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy series which focuses on facilitating public policy study and issues debate, while encouraging the involvement of Christian leaders in the public and civic arenas.

The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, call John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external affairs, at (270) 789-5520.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BAGDAD**—Christiansburg Church recently called **Herbert Slaughter** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will host the Campbellsville University orchestra March 12, 8 p.m., as it presents a Concerto Series Concert featuring performances by students and faculty. The concert is free. For more information, contact Campbellsville's School of Music at (270) 789-5237.

■ **COXS CREEK**—River View Church ordained **Joe Coulter** and **Rick Milburn** as deacons Feb. 22. Chad Morrow is pastor.

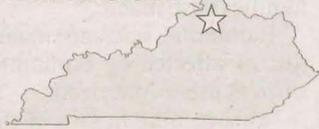
■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church celebrated **Virginia Alice Nowlin Deboe's** 90th birthday Feb. 22. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church recently called **Bill Langley** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Harvest Church in Watauga, Texas. Langley and his wife, Sheri, have two children.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Baptist Seminary of Kentucky will hold a day of recognition for **E. Glenn Hinson** by kick-

### Spotlight on ...

#### Williamstown



Williamstown Church will celebrate longtime member **Frances Stanley's** 90th birthday with a reception in her honor March 5. She has been the church's pianist for nearly 70 years. **Darrell Morgan** is pastor.

ing off a lecture series in his honor March 6 at the Mary Anne Sanders Chapel on the Lexington Theological Seminary campus. The longtime seminary professor will deliver a lecture in both the afternoon and evening sessions. Hinson has been a professor with the seminary since its 2002 inception. For more information, call (866) 420-9297.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Blandville Church recently called **David Lee** as pastor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.

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

**AVAILABLE:** Ordained, all-Bible, UK student for pulpit supply within two hours of Lexington. Josh Cason, (859) 327-7400.

**FOR RENT:** Longboat Key, 2BR/BA condo, May 23-30, 2009. Sleeps 6; 200' from Gulf, off Sarasota. (502) 244-0478. Cheryl.Doty@KyBaptist.org.

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

**NEEDED:** Immediately. Live-in caregiver for 56-y/o Louisville female. Free room and board. East end house. (502) 425-3491.

**SEEKING:** Full-time, Christ-centered worship arts minister for First Baptist Church, Hodgenville. Master's degree and experience in worship arts-related church required. More info at [www.fbc.hodgenville.org](http://www.fbc.hodgenville.org). Mail resumé to 730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or e-mail to [sally@fbchodgenville.org](mailto:sally@fbchodgenville.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Premium Baptist Church, Whitesburg, Ky. For more info, call (606) 633-7941.

**SEEKING:** Experienced, full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Desloge, Mo., a conservative Southern Baptist church. Send resumé and CD/DVD (if available) of recent sermon to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 411 N Harding, Desloge, MO 63601. E-mail contact may be made at [fbaptist@charter.net](mailto:fbaptist@charter.net), attention line: Pastor Search.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for Audubon Baptist Church. Responsible for blended style congregational worship and choir direction. Only mailed resumés will be accepted; mail to Linda Owen, 3205 Broeck Pointe Circle, Louisville, KY 40241. All resumés must be post-marked by May 18, 2009.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational minister of music for Rineyville Baptist Church for its two morning worship services (blended). This position also will include work with the adult choir and other musical groups/talent. Please send resumé to: Rineyville Baptist Church, 5629 Rineyville Road, Rineyville, KY 40162; or e-mail to [rbc01@windstream.net](mailto:rbc01@windstream.net), Attn: Mitch Ash.

**SEEKING:** Staff and kitchen help for 2009 summer program for Boone's Creek Baptist Association camp. Contact office for application at (859) 744-0037. Application must be received by April 1, 2009.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth pastor committed to passionately lead youth on Sunday and Wednesday nights at contemporary Baptist church. Please contact David Thomas, New Hope Community Church, [dtgolfer41@kvnet.org](mailto:dtgolfer41@kvnet.org); or by phone at (270) 304-1824.

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

**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:** 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:** 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 resumés 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](mailto:cecilia@ceciliabaptistchurch.com).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### To place an advertisement:

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister, Evergreen Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky. Call (502) 223-8364. Send resumés to: [office@evergreenbaptistchurch.us](mailto:office@evergreenbaptistchurch.us).

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Glens Creek Baptist Church in Versailles. Please submit resumés to Glens Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Cross Roads Baptist Church, Minot, N.D. We are looking for a man devoted to God's word and prayer, who will join us where God is working in our community and help guide us into the future. Please send resumé and any questions to Dan Carlson, [dancarlson@srt.com](mailto:dancarlson@srt.com). Phone: (701) 852-0805.

**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](mailto:aasubcm@bellsouth.net).

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

**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](http://www.OTBA-KY.com). Please e-mail resumés by March 15, 2009, to [DOMSearch@otba-ky.com](mailto:DOMSearch@otba-ky.com); or mail resumés to: OTBA DOM Search Team, 4901 South Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**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](mailto:pastorgc@stithton.org).

**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](mailto:pastor@pgbchurch.com).

**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](http://www.creationmuseum.org).

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

**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:** 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](mailto:Darlene@BBCLife.org). Deadline is March 15.

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

**TOURS:** Visit the other "Holy Land"—Turkey. Go where Paul was; do what Paul did; seven team members maximum. \$200 per day land costs. Airfare not included. Stay near Ephesus and see the churches of Revelation. Visit our website: [www.faihtourismturkey.com](http://www.faihtourismturkey.com); or contact [DVCathey1@aol.com](mailto:DVCathey1@aol.com).

# Sports and prison ministries intersect

*At San Quentin prison, Golden Gate seminarians reach inmates through sports*

By Phyllis Evans  
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

San Rafael, Calif.—“Walking into the yard at San Quentin, you know you’re an outsider,” said Bryan Brown, a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary who leads the seminary’s San Quentin Sports Ministry.

“Once you start to play the game, you completely forget you’re in a prison and playing with inmates.”

“It’s like walking into a huge middle-school playground,” said fellow Golden Gate student Sean Donohue, founder of the San Quentin All Stars, a basketball team composed of 12-15 inmates. “There are guys everywhere—jogging, playing baseball, basketball, working out, playing cards, talking—everywhere.”

Inmates in the yard are surrounded by 40-foot-high brick walls. Guards are not noticeable; Donohue estimated there are probably two guards for the 1,000 inmates in the yard. There also are manned guard towers.

In 2003, Donohue was approached by a local pastor about forming a prison basketball team. He held tryouts; 40 inmates participated and 15 made the team. They practiced on Tuesdays, with games on Saturdays against other San Quentin teams.

“After a year, even though I had moved to a town farther away, I wanted to keep my relationship with these guys,” Donohue said. “We would pray together, have powerful conversations and I really put myself out there.”

Donohue recruited guys from the seminary plus a few friends to play against the inmate team. Five years later, the outreach has grown to include flag football and softball.

Serving at the prison has been rewarding for the seminarians as well as the inmates. “I saw a flyer about a prison ministry,” said



**AT THE GATES** Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary students pause for a photo before heading inside San Quentin State Prison for a flag football game with inmates at the California prison. Seminary students have maintained a prison sports ministry since 2003. (Photo courtesy of Chris Galacia)

Miguel Rodriguez, a master of arts student who has been involved since 2006. “At first it was intimidating and a little scary, but the inmates were welcoming, and we could tell God was doing something.”

“At halftime, someone shares a devotion or testimony from the Word, and after the game we spend 15-20 minutes with the guys,” Donohue explained, emphasizing that each person finds one man to develop a relationship with over time: asking him about his life, caring, getting involved and developing a pen pal-type relationship.

“If you get into a good conversation during halftime, you don’t stop even when the game resumes,” noted Brown, who plans to

graduate with an M.Div. this May. “It’s more important to build a relationship than to play the game—that’s the main reason we’re there.”

“Our focus has shifted over the years,” said Donohue, who in addition to being a seminary student is a high school pastor at Creekside Community Church in Alamo, Calif. “Our original goal was to try to connect with all the guys at the same level for the same purposes: to encourage the believers and lead the unsaved guys to Christ. We’ve come to realize there is a special dynamic in the prison with which we try to be in synch.”

Donohue explained that half the in-

mates on the team are older guys from North Block, who are in their 40s, are strong believers, and all have good attitudes.

The other guys on the team are younger, ranging in age from their late teens to 20s and 30s. They are recently off the streets, not believers and their attitudes are unpredictable. “The older guys from North Block see this team as a ministry for them, too,” Donohue pointed out, describing how they share lessons and minister to the younger guys who have come into their world.

“So in our ministry we recognize these older men. We come alongside them rather than make them the focus of our ministry, and we target our ministry to the younger men, which in the end ministers to the older men,” Donohue said. “They feel like they are being encouraged and recognized for the men they have become.”

San Quentin opened in 1852 just across the bridge from San Francisco and 15 minutes from Golden Gate’s Northern California Campus. It houses more than 2,000 inmates, the majority facing sentences ranging from 20 years to life. Many of the prisoners have been in maximum-security facilities on murder-related convictions.

“They are hungry for interaction with us,” Rodriguez noted. “And they minister to us—encouraging us, praying for us. It’s amazing how you can feel God’s love and His presence even in the prison.”

For many inmates, it is the highlight of their week. “They are thankful for these opportunities to interact with us,” Brown said.

“The San Quentin Sports Ministry has proven to be a great way for seminary students to go into another culture and share the gospel with those who need a relationship with Jesus Christ,” Brown added.

Rodriguez agreed, saying, “It’s a wonderful, beautiful relationship we are developing; we’re making a family connection.”

# College coach sees himself as missionary to his basketball players

By Philip Timothy  
Louisiana Baptist Message

Natchitoches, La.—The day after his basketball team suffered a 37-point defeat, Northwestern State University Men’s Basketball Head Coach Mike McConathy took his entire squad to church.

“I’m sure some of the kids were upset that I made them get up and go to church following the lopsided loss and long bus ride home” to Natchitoches, La., from Troy State University in southeastern Alabama, McConathy said.

“But I was trying to make a point,” the coach insisted.

On this particular Sunday, he gathered his team before entering First Baptist Church of Natchitoches. “I said, ‘Guys, I know you think I brought you here as punishment, but you are wrong. I want you to know people here love you whether you lose by one or by 20.’

“God doesn’t care whether you win or lose, but whether or not you have used your talents and skills to the very best of your abilities,” he continued. “Therefore, you need to spend time to honor and thank Him.”

Now in his 10th season at Northwestern State and 26th overall as a coach, McConathy said he sees coaching as his calling.

“I look at this job as a call to coach much like a missionary being called into the field,” he said. “God has put me in a position to influence a lot of people and I take that very seriously.”



**SIDELINE MISSIONARY** Northwestern State University Head Men’s Basketball Coach Mike McConathy acknowledges that, as a basketball coach, he’s “a little unusual by today’s standards ... a no-nonsense type of guy.” (BP photo)

While he does not push his faith on his players, he does make sure they attend Sunday services as a team and quietly encourages them to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

“I do not directly get involved in their spiritual walks with Christ, but indirectly,” he said. “Through positive reinforcement, devotionals before practice and games and, hopefully by my example, I encourage them to have a relationship with our heavenly Father.”

The coach acknowledged he is “a little

unusual by today’s standards.”

“When I’m recruiting a prospective player in their homes, I tell them and their parents, up front, there will be no braids, no mohawks, no rings and no piercings.

“Why would I do this? Because I want to first let them and their parents know I am a no-nonsense type of guy. And, secondly, ... it builds a relationship that is centered around trust,” McConathy said. “I just don’t tell them what they want to hear, but I tell them the truth from day one. I tell them you will be cared for, respected and treated the way I would want my own sons treated.”

In addition to being a straight shooter, McConathy has gained a reputation as a talented coach. In 1999 when he arrived at Northwestern State, he found a program in disarray.

In 24 years of NCAA Division I competition, NSU had just five winning seasons and had never been close to a conference championship or an NCAA tournament berth.

His first team posted NSU’s first winning season in eight years and became the first to reach the Southland Conference tournament championship game. The next year, Northwestern State won the 2001 SLC tournament title, reached the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history and notched an opening-round win. McConathy and his squad suddenly were thrust into the national spotlight.

His faith helped him and his team remain grounded.

“Satan could have filled my head with all sorts of things if I had let him,” McConathy said. “But I let two pieces of Scripture—Philippians 4:6 and John 3:16—guide me through it all, and I kept focused on God.”

Success continued for McConathy and his squad.

In 2004-05, the team won 21 games (the most since 1960), a Southland Conference co-championship and played an ESPN-televised game. But a stunning last-minute loss kept them out of the NCAA tournament.

The following year, the team won a school-record 26 games, won the SLC title by the widest margin in nine seasons and made its fourth Southland Conference tournament championship game appearance in seven years. They topped off that season with a stunning, last-second win over Iowa in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

That tournament victory started an even bigger avalanche of national media attention. Yet, through the wave of interviews and appearances, McConathy refused to let it overwhelm him or his players.

“It wasn’t about us; it was about Him,” McConathy insisted. “Certainly we had success, but it was all due to Him. Keeping that in the forefront helped to keep me grounded. Success is wonderful, but it is how we handle the opportunities God gives us that matters most. You can never lose sight of that fact, because if you do, then Satan wins.”

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