

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

WESTERN Recorder

March 10, 2009
Vol. 183, No. 10

FOR THE RECORD

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Lawmaker proposes measure to protect state relief workers

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Frankfort—A state legislator has proposed legislation that would protect disaster relief volunteers from legal liability, but it does not appear the measure will pass this year.

State Rep. Brent Yonts filed House Bill 443, which was referred to the house judiciary committee Feb. 23. However, Yonts, a Kentucky Baptist, told the Western Recorder he does not expect it to gain a hearing before the regular session ends later this month.

The so-called Good Samaritan Law states that no person rendering emergency services or medical care during a declared emergency after a natural disaster shall be liable for civil damages.

The proposal includes an exception for willful or wanton misconduct.

"It's a little controversial," Yonts acknowledged. "Lawyers don't like it. I think it's a good issue. I'm thinking of adjusting the standard (from wanton misconduct) to gross negligence, which is a known standard in the law."

A member of First Baptist Church of Greenville, Yonts said a consortium of groups—including the Baptist Hospital System—had contacted him about sponsoring the proposal.

"This was an effort to accommodate people in all walks of life," said the legislator, who has not decided whether he will re-file the bill next year. "People should not be held to the same standard in an emergency as they are (in) 9-to-5" jobs.

Among groups opposing the legislation is the Louisville-based Kentucky Justice Association (formerly the Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys). Executive Director Maresa Fawns said there are situations where liability should be determined by a jury.

She pointed to a news story about Gov. Steve Beshear eating peanut but-

□ See Kentucky lawmaker ... Page 2



PROTECTED? A Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteer saws part of a tree limb at a home in Livermore following the January ice storms that crippled much of Kentucky. A state lawmaker has proposed a bill that would protect such workers from legal liability. While the measure is not likely to pass this year's General Assembly, state Rep. Brent Yonts said he may continue to push for it in future sessions.

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

Second chances



Executive Director Greg Troutt receives an ovation from his audience at the 2nd Chance Outreach center in Columbia. Once a drug addict himself, Troutt turned his life over to Jesus Christ and began the 2nd Chance addiction recovery program. The center is unique among other faith-based programs in Kentucky in that it includes a drug and alcohol detox component. (Photo by Sharon Burton/Adair County Community Voice)

Former addict brings addiction recovery program to state to help Kentuckians recover from abuse and find Christ

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Russell Springs—By all appearances, Todd Woodrum had his life together.

Married with two young children, he had a stable career as a bank security technician in his small South Central Kentucky hometown. He attended church regularly with his family and considered himself a Christian.

But Todd Woodrum carried a dark secret around with him. He was addicted to pain medication.

Woodrum was among the more than 260,000 estimated Kentuckians who are in the grips of some kind of addictive substance. And while hardly a day for celebration, Southern Baptist churches look to March 15, Substance Abuse Sunday, as a day to recognize the drug problem in their communities—and get involved.

The need to address that problem—especially in Kentucky—is crucial, according to Eric Allen, Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission service and ministries director. He helps coordinate substance abuse recovery programs for state churches.

"We do have an enormous amount of problems" with drugs in Kentucky, Allen acknowledged. "It doesn't matter where you go, every county and every city ... will say, 'It's worse here than anywhere else in the state.'"

While there are many programs churches and other ministries can use to help addicts regain their lives and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ, Allen said residential centers often are best at providing the needed support for a recovering addict.

That was the help that Woodrum finally found—after a long, painful journey.

Following back surgery in 1999, Woodrum was prescribed pain medication for several months. Once the prescriptions ran out, he moved on, he said.

Later Woodrum's doctor prescribed him the pain medication Tramadol, a drug which only last December was added to Kentucky's controlled substance list. It was that drug which triggered his addiction.

Woodrum recalled that once the Tramadol scripts dried up, he began trying to get any pain killers he could from his doctor. That progressed into buying

the drugs on the street.

"I had the money then and I'd get it wherever I could," he said. "Then it just got worse. It spiraled out of control."

Knowing the impact it would have on them, Woodrum hid his growing addiction from both his family and employer. But as he began to miss work more frequently, Woodrum's boss, a Christian who "gave me every chance that he could," according to Woodrum, confronted him.

"You can only hide an addiction for so long before people notice your behavior's changed," Woodrum noted.

His boss gave him the choice—rehab or unemployment. Woodrum attended his first rehab program for five days and later returned to work. He said he soon relapsed and was back in rehab three months later—a cycle which continued for some time.

"I would get out of the rehabs and then relapse within two or three weeks, then end up right back where I was," he recalled.

A DUI arrest in 2006 exposed Woodrum's addiction and "everything came crashing down on me," he said. He was found to have excessive levels of non-prescribed narcotics in his system and spent a night in jail.

In that cell, Woodrum said he felt like an "outlaw on the run who finally got caught."

"I just had this feeling like, 'OK, it's over with now. Everybody's going to know what's wrong with Todd,'" he noted.

As a result of the arrest, Woodrum lost both his job and his marriage. He had hit rock bottom.

Former addict finds Christ

Nearly 1,000 miles away from where Woodrum sat in a cold jail cell, Greg Troutt was contemplating a return to his home state of Kentucky.

Similar to Woodrum, Troutt was a former prescription medication addict no more than six years ago. Sexually abused as a child, he left home at age 15, married a woman nearly twice his age and became addicted to sex and pornography.

He joined the military where he was introduced to

□ See Recovery center offers addicts ... Page 3

Ky. Baptist disaster relief work winds down in state

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—After five weeks of clearing debris and providing relief, Southern Baptist disaster volunteers are winding down their efforts to aid Kentuckians affected by the January ice storms.

Crews still were working in six areas of Western Kentucky through the end of last week, but all other teams have finished and the entire effort is expected to conclude by this week, according to Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief associate.

"We're starting to shut down because our number of volunteers is decreasing, and also because we've been able to finish our priority projects," he noted. "Of course, there are still needs and there will continue to be recovery efforts going on locally."

Webb said approximately 1,500 Southern Baptist volunteers have been involved in ice storm relief to date, logging a combined total of 9,074 volunteer days.

The volunteers came from 20 state Baptist conventions, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas/Nebraska, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota/Wisconsin, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania/New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia (two conventions), and West Virginia.

"We are grateful for the sacrificial service of our Kentucky volunteers and are deeply appreciative of our sister conventions who responded in tremendous ways," Webb said. "We would not have been able to meet the vast needs across the state had it not been for these conventions."

To date, 56,657 meals have been prepared, 2,723 chain-saw jobs completed and 1,819 showers supplied. Additional assistance also was provided through mud-out and repair jobs, roofing projects, laundry services and chaplaincy outreach.

"This has been the largest relief effort in Kentucky as far as we know, or at least has involved the largest number of other state conventions," Webb pointed out. "Some from the state emergency management think it is the largest-scope natural disaster in Kentucky's history."

Areas still receiving assistance from Southern Baptist teams include areas in and around Greenville, Hartford, Livermore, Marion, Owensboro, Princeton and Salem.

The Kentucky Baptist Building has served as the operations center since the effort first began in late January. The temporary incident command center that was set up just for that purpose was shut down last Friday, Webb noted.

Contributions to the KBC's disaster relief efforts may be sent to the KBC, Dept. 5008, P.O. Box 740041, Louisville, KY 40201-9976. Please note "disaster relief" in the check memo. Online donations also are being accepted at www.KyBaptist.org/DR.



OPERATIONS HUB Elaine Koch (right) coordinates Baptist relief teams from the KBC's incident command center at the Baptist Building in Louisville. The operations center, which opened shortly after the January storms, shut down just last week.

Kentucky lawmaker proposes measure to protect disaster relief volunteers

Continued from page 1

ter recently at a Western Kentucky disaster relief site. The product had been shipped there by a company under investigation for unsanitary conditions at its plant.

In addition, if someone negligently hooked up a gas line that caused an explosion, the homeowner would not be permitted to recover damages under this law, Fawns pointed out.

"There's been no abuse," she said. "I don't think anybody can point to lawsuits after a disaster. I think that would be difficult to prove and sympathy would go toward the volunteer."

However, a variety of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief officials and pastors expressed support for the measure.

It would ease the possibility of legal problems and give volunteers a sense of wellbeing, said Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief associate.

That is important in light of the 1,500 Baptist volunteers who participated in disaster response and clean-up efforts following the recent ice storms, he said.

"We live in a different society today," Webb noted. "It seems there are some people who want to profit even during a disaster."

Ray England, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Greenville, said at the temporary shelter it operated after the Jan. 27 ice storm, he observed situations that could have led to legal problems.

Several people with medical needs stayed at the church, and a few were referred to hospitals after doctors who were members of the church examined them.

"If something would have happened, there would have been the potential for litigation," England said. "I think (the proposed law) is going to be beneficial."

Yonts' pastor, Gary McAbee, agreed.

An approved Red Cross shelter, First Baptist, Greenville, housed more than 200 residents and about 30 volunteers while serving more than 2,300 meals from Jan. 27 to Feb. 14.

"Most of the time when you're in



FEEDING TEAM Ann Cassata of First Baptist Church of Danville and Terri Sims of New Hope Baptist Church in Versailles prepare a meal for victims following the January ice storm. State Rep. Brent Yonts' proposed Good Samaritan Law would protect disaster relief volunteers rendering emergency services or medical care during a declared emergency after a natural disaster from liability for civil damages. (KBC photos by Larry Brannin)

a crisis you're not thinking about liability," McAbee said. "During the 17 days that never entered my mind. But there are always people trying to work an angle and trying to take advantage."

Two members of the KBC's disaster relief organization also think the Good Samaritan Law is a good idea.

"It's a protection against loss," explained Tom Westerfield of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, the team's communications coordinator.

Still, he admits not being aware that Louisiana had passed similar legislation when he took trips to that state after a pair of hurricanes last year.

"That wouldn't stop us from serving people who needed it," Westerfield said. "Our mission is to reach out to people in need. I never think about liability."

Bernard Randall of Mount Zion Baptist Church near Monticello said he is not sure how the bill would affect volunteers, but likes the idea.

"I don't know that it's necessary but I can't see where it would hurt anything," noted Randall, the shelter unit coordinator for KBC disaster relief.

"If we use (release) forms we limit liability, but having it done with the state legislature would be a great asset. It would be nice not to have to worry about that."

John Yeats, director of communications for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, said that state's law took effect last July.

The impetus for the legislation came after Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005. Residents who wanted to rescue stranded homeowners ran into problems with federal authorities concerned about insurance and liability, Yeats pointed out.

"Some common sense took over and our legislators responded to the situation," he said.

As to whether it has made a difference, Yates said it is too early to tell, but added, "Where it has made a difference is for people who have good faith and want to help, they can do it."

Yonts explained that it is possible his bill will undergo discussion during interim sessions, which can be called throughout the year.

Though he has not received any organized support from fellow Kentucky Baptists yet, he said he welcomes such gestures.

Beauty for Ashes conference to promote urban, suburban partnerships

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Community involvement is at the heart of SEED, the urban renewal initiative of Sojourn Community Church in Louisville which began in 2006.

Through as many as 20 monthly service projects, the church is "actively involved" in ministering to the neighborhoods surrounding its downtown locale, according to SEED director Nathan Ivey.

However, "we recognize that we cannot do it alone," he added. "As a church that's in the city (and) for the city, we desire to come alongside other churches ... and be on mission together for God."

That is the goal of the upcoming Beauty for Ashes conference March 26-28 at the 930 Art Center in Louisville.

Through the development of the SEED ministry, Ivey said he has discovered the

need for churches—both urban and suburban—to establish authentic partnerships to sow the seed of the gospel in inner-city communities.

The B4A conference will provide a forum "to discuss what is a gospel-centered partnership ... and what does that look like," he explained.

Nationally recognized speakers

The conference will feature a handful of speakers well-versed on the topics of urban ministry, partnership development and racial reconciliation.

Author and activist John Perkins, founder of the Christian Community Development Association and the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation & Development, and Eric Swanson, director of the Externally Focused Church Network, will lead several sessions during the

three-day forum.

Other featured speakers include Lincoln Bingham, pastor of Louisville's St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and cooperative ministries consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Randy Nabors, a Tennessee pastor and mercy ministry consultant with Global Church Advancement; and Bruce Williams, pastor of Bates Memorial Baptist Church in downtown Louisville.

The conference will feature four main sessions and a panel discussion both Thursday and Friday, and several breakout sessions Friday morning and afternoon.

The conference is being coordinated through a partnership between several Louisville-area churches and ministries including Sojourn, Bates Memorial, St. Paul Missionary and Southeast Christian Church, as well as the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Long Run Baptist Association.

The conference closes Saturday with an opportunity for participants to put their faith in action at the Touched Twice Community Event.

The 930 Art Center will become a "one-day medical clinic," Ivey said, "offering all sorts of free medical services to the community." Doctors and nurses will be on hand offering medical screenings, vision care, dental work and life-skills counseling.

Ivey said the medical care opens the door to providing spiritual care for those who come. Volunteers will be praying for families, offering gospel-centered counseling, handing out Bibles and literature, and sharing the gospel.

Registration for Beauty for Ashes is required and costs \$25. For more information and to sign up, visit www.B4AConference.com, or call Ivey at (502) 635-7053.

Recovery center offers addicts '2nd Chance' in Christ

Continued from page 1

prescription medication. That addiction accelerated to other street drugs as well, including heroin, oxy-contin and methamphetamines "and whatever I could find," he recalled.

"Hopeless addicted," homeless and following an overdose, Troutt said he visited a church where he lived in Killeen, Texas. "I cried out to God and surrendered," he noted, calling his story a "miraculous ... Damascus Road experience."

Committed to Christ, Troutt said he dedicated himself to sobriety and began helping others do the same. He ministered in jails and on the street. He even worked as a youth pastor and opened his first detox residence facility.

Recently ordained to the gospel ministry, Troutt ran the Wisdom Center in Killeen, a city located between Dallas and Austin and adjacent to the Army's Fort Hood.

Troutt's faith-based recovery program was rare in that it offered a detox program for substance abusers. After that, patients could live at the residence for as long as a year receiving treatment and "the Word of God," Troutt noted.

A native of Russell Springs, Troutt returned for a revival in 2006. Several friends urged him to consider bringing his successful ministry to Kentucky.

After doing extensive research on substance abuse in the state, Troutt discovered that Kentucky's rural communities had a much bigger drug problem than Killeen's inner city. Alarmed, "that's when I committed to coming and working" in Kentucky, he said.

In late 2007, Troutt, along with his wife, D.J., opened 2nd Chance Outreach just outside of Columbia in Adair County. The faith-based ministry offers a residential drug treatment facility and a detox program, something that is uncommon in the state.

Allen called 2nd Chance's detox program unique in that most churches that have rehabilitation ministries "do not deal with the detox part." They often refer addicts to hospitals for treatment, then accept them afterward, he added.

It was 2nd Chance Outreach that gave Woodrum what he needed to get clean and put his life back together.

With his mother's help, Woodrum entered the facility last June.

"I ran out of options," he said. "I had tried everything that I could think of on my own until I let God take over."

He recalled that the Troutts' energy and positivity helped him realize that people can have fun without drugs.

"I actually saw ... there are people who can truly recover, and there are people who can use their testimonies to help other people," Woodrum said.

"Natural detox"

Troutt described his process as a "natural detox." He explained that most "secular" facilities administer drugs such as cyboxin and methadone, which are just as addictive as street drugs, to help cure addictions. That, he said, can leave a person just as addicted as before.

The natural process includes the use of saunas, whirlpools and herbal remedies to combat the pain that comes from drug withdrawal.

Most detox periods last seven days with some extending as long as three weeks. "But you're truly detoxed in that seven days," Troutt insisted. "There's no alternative chemical in your body. ... And your body will begin to prepare itself for repair."

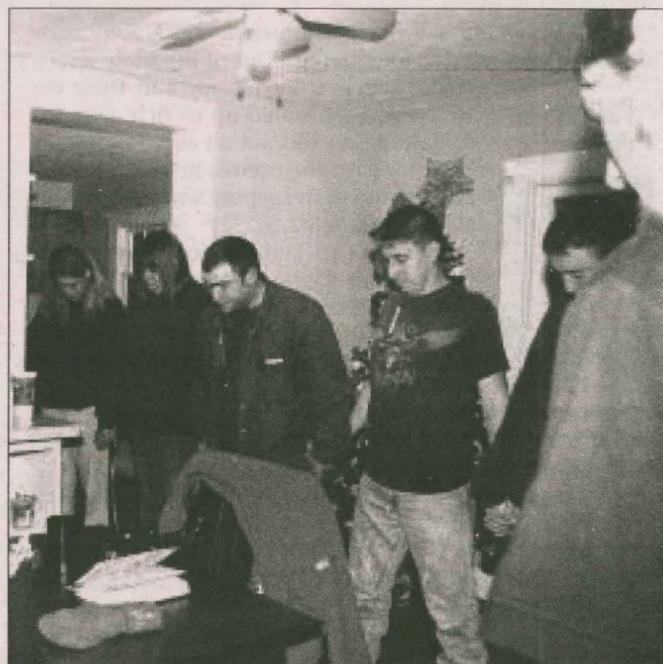
While Troutt admits he is not a doctor nor a licensed counselor, he said he surrounds himself with plenty of professionals trained to help with addiction recovery. His primary aim is to fix his patients' spiritual lives.

Through a rigorous schedule of classes and group meetings, Troutt said he delivers the Word of God through his testimony and a spiritual 12-step-based curriculum that points patients to a relationship with Christ.

"The best qualification that I have is that I'm not qualified, and I don't try to do the work of the Holy Spirit," Troutt said. "God deals with each man individually as He sees fit. All I



REACHING OUT Greg and D.J. Troutt operate 2nd Chance Outreach, an addiction recovery ministry based in Adair County. The couple runs a residential facility near Columbia, outpatient facilities in Russell Springs and Campbellsville, and a satellite office in Irvine. Greg, who is a former addict, started a similar ministry in Texas, but brought the program to Kentucky—his home state—when he learned of the extent of substance abuse here. (Photo by Drew Nichter)



PRAYER CHAIN Residents at the Columbia 2nd Chance Outreach center join hands in prayer before sharing a meal together. (Photo by Sharon Burton/Adair County Community Voice)

do is administer the Word of God.

"The Bible is the best curriculum that I've found for changing anybody's heart, mind and behavior," he added. "If you find one better, I'll do it."

In addition to the Adair County inpatient residence, 2nd Chance Outreach also has outpatient facilities in Russell Springs and Campbellsville, and a satellite office in Irvine. Troutt said he plans to expand ministry, opening residential centers and satellite offices throughout the state.

As for Woodrum, he began his new role last week as assistant director at the Adair County residence. He said he eventually may lead the facility as Troutt expands the ministry.

More importantly, Woodrum said he believes he finally has found his calling. "Maybe God finally got through my thick head," he admitted. "I'm kind of like somebody who's finally found what they want to do in life. Even though I had a good career, ... I really wasn't happy, it didn't really fulfill me inside—and this does."

'Renewal' retreat offers time for 'focused prayer'

Louisville—Christians seeking opportunities to pray and learn about prayer will benefit from the upcoming Western Kentucky Prayer Retreat March 20-21 at Lake Barkley State Resort Park in Cadiz.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the theme of the retreat is "Renewal" and is designed to help Christians renew their spirits, minds and bodies.

Featured speakers will be nationally recognized prayer leaders John Franklin and Greg Frizzell.

Franklin is the director of John Franklin Ministries and author of the books "And the Place was Shaken," "By Faith," "A House of Prayer" and "Spiritual Warfare."

Frizzell is the prayer and spiritual awakening specialist with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He is the author of "Returning to Holiness," "Biblical Patterns



John Franklin



Greg Frizzell

for Powerful Prayer Meetings," "How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life," "Releasing the Revival Flood" and other titles.

Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department, said the retreat would feature "messages from God's Word, Kingdom-focused prayer, God-centered worship and opportunities for dialogue."

"It is designed for pastors, prayer leaders, local church staff and ministry leaders, and should provide a ripe atmosphere for God to speak and work," Allen noted.

The conference will run from 6:30-9 p.m. March 20, and will continue from 8:30 a.m.-noon March 21.

The cost to attend is \$50 per person and includes lodging (based on double occupancy), a breakfast buffet and the program fee. Commuter and single occupancy rates also are available.

Special "KBC retreat" room rates are available directly from the park for those who wish to stay an extra night before or after the retreat for personal relaxation and enjoyment.

For more information or to register for the event, visit www.KyBaptist.org/Renewal, or call (502) 489-3530, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3530.

WMU to celebrate God's grace at annual meeting

Richmond—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will hold its 106th annual meeting March 27-28 at First Baptist Church of Richmond. This year's theme is "God's Amazing Grace."

A number of speakers are lined up for the event, as well as several community outreach opportunities in the Richmond area.

"From start to finish, God's amazing grace will be evident," noted Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton. "Anyone who cares about missions will want to be at our meeting."

The keynote speaker for the annual meeting is North American Mission Board President Geoff Hammond. Also featured are Charles and Carolyn Dixon, missionaries to Tanzania, and Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey.

Other speakers include:

- Jonathan Barron, campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University.
- Teresa Parrett, KBC missions mobilization coordinator.
- Dewayne Waldrup, pastor of Bluegrass Cowboy Church in Paris.
- Greg and Alice Whitetree, directors of the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Elkhorn City.
- Sandy Wisdom-Martin, Illinois WMU executive director.

The annual meeting also will feature a celebration of Kentucky WMU's partnership with Korea Baptist WMU. A commissioning service will be held for Soonsil Back, a Korea WMU staff member who has been working at the Kentucky office for the past three months. She recently graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and will soon return to Korea.

The business portion of the annual meeting will focus on electing new officers and board members. The group also will vote on changes to be made to the agency's bylaws.

During the Friday afternoon session, WMU participants will have the opportunity to become short-term missionaries in Richmond. Options include ministering at nursing homes, a pregnancy help center, a day care or a substance abuse recovery center, as well as prayerwalking the ECU campus.

Participants also can have "Lunch with a Missionary" Friday at noon. More than a dozen missionary speakers will be on hand to talk about their assignments over boxed lunches.

Pre-registration is required for the missionary lunches and pre-school child care. WMU members also are encouraged to bring items to be donated to several local ministries. Registration information and a list of needed items can be found at www.KYWWMU.org/AnnualMeeting, or by calling (502) 489-3534, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3534.

Kentucky Baptists give

Kentucky Baptists have demonstrated the grace of giving during recent weeks.

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul commends the Macedonian churches for their gracious giving. "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity ... and they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will" (2 Corinthians 8:2, 5).

During the January ice storm, Kentucky Baptists gave of themselves in ministry to one another and to those in need by providing shelter, food and spiritual encouragement.

They also continued to generously give to missions and ministry through the Cooperative Program, despite the fact that hundreds of churches could not meet on one or more Sundays in February. CP gifts during February totaled \$1,746,573, which exceeded expectations even though CP remains behind budget year-to-date.

The most recent report from Disaster Relief associate Coy Webb demonstrated the impact made by Kentucky Baptists and other Southern Baptist volunteers from 20 states during the disaster:

- Volunteer days: Kentucky Baptist: 1,590; total: 9,141
- Meals prepared: Kentucky Baptists: 21,809; total: 56,657
- Chainsaw jobs: Kentucky Baptists: 554; total: 2,771
- Professions of faith: Kentucky Baptists: 18; total: 42
- Ministry contacts: Kentucky Baptists: 292; total: 1,115

In addition, there were 1,819 showers provided, 275 laundry loads done, 431 chaplaincy contacts, and 191 gospel presentations.

This is a total of 25 years of disaster relief volunteer service days. These numbers are not even fully representative of the impact, as not all Kentucky churches and individuals have reported back.

The response of Kentucky Baptists in the disaster areas was outstanding. Many helped others when they themselves were without power and still had debris in their own yards. Farm equipment was used to clear roads and driveways. Shelter was provided and meals prepared and served. The entire effort has been an incredible witness to the commitment of Kentucky Baptists.

In speaking about the generosity of the Macedonians, Paul said, "... they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints" (v. 4).

Looking forward, we now have an opportunity to share with Baptist leaders in new work state conventions as we plan outreach efforts to 251 million unreached persons in North America. We can help support the North American Mission Board's "Find It Here campaign," the evangelism initiative that is designed to deliver the gospel to homes in Kentucky and across North America.

Please pray now for this effort to share Christ and plan to be involved through your church.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

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Louisville, KY 40253
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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

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

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

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

These bills are worthy of affirmation

Kentucky Baptists need to raise their voices and be heard concerning three pieces of legislation before the state's General Assembly that will strengthen and protect families.

Senate Bill 79 and its counterpart, House Bill 454, in essence, promote the sanctity of human life by requiring abortion providers to offer face-to-face consultation to patients, instead of taped messages. The bill, filed by Senator Elizabeth Tori of Radcliff, also requires that a woman be given the opportunity to see an ultrasound of her baby before making a decision to have an abortion. Currently 15 other states have ultrasound requirements prior to performing an abortion.

Pro-life supporters claim that a large number of women will inevitably decide against having an abortion after viewing the ultrasound. Approximately 4,000 abortions are performed in Kentucky each year, and estimates, based on actual statistics from other states, project that possibly 1,000 of these babies could be saved, if the bill passes, according to The Family Foundation of Kentucky.

Senate Bill 42, referred to as The Public Decency Act, is designed to protect local communities from sexually-oriented businesses. By prohibiting total nudity in strip clubs and mandating a "buffer zone" between performers and patrons, passage of the bill is both a public health issue, acting to curb sexually transmitted diseases, and a public safety issue, curtailing a rise in violent crimes often associated with sexually-oriented businesses, the Family Foundation noted.

While 116 of 120 counties currently have regulations on sexually-oriented businesses, a further advantage of this legislation is that it has a potential to save these counties thousands of dollars in legal fees in defending the ordinances against well-financed suits brought by national special-interest attorneys on behalf of local sexually-oriented businesses.

Senate Bill 68, known as The Child Welfare Adoption Act, is a measure to ensure that children in the state's care may have foster homes with both moms and dads by restricting adoptions by cohabiting adults. Filed by Sen. Gary Tapp of Shelbyville, the measure would not only prevent unmarried heterosexual couples from adopting children, it would also keep homosexual partners from adopting and fostering as well.

While opponents argue that this act will no doubt reduce the amount of homes that are willing to adopt children, David Edmunds, policy analyst for the Family Foundation aptly counters, "Marriage is the founda-

tion of a stable home and couples that do not have marriage as their foundation are prone to instability in other ways." This biblical perspective has been echoed repeatedly on numerous occasions in resolutions adopted by messengers to the annual sessions of the Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist conventions.

Of particular interest to Kentucky Baptists is that this measure could help protect faith-based adoption agencies—like Sunrise Children's Services which only recruits married couples to be adoptive families—from legal actions from promoters of the homosexual agenda. But with more than 800 children in our state awaiting adoptions, not only do Christian families need to support any legislation that seeks to provide these children with stable homes, but they also must be encouraged to consider adopting them. Therein lies the true solution.

However, Baptists should oppose House Bill 158, which promotes an expansion of legalized gambling by allowing venues for video lottery terminals at horseracing tracks. House observers report that the bill, which made it out of a first committee, has been assigned to another committee, where it has not advanced yet. Kentucky Baptists' opposition to gambling in any form, however, must again and again be expressed to our state legislators. Proponents adamantly argue that the video gambling venues would generate an estimated \$1 billion in revenue, of which the state government will receive only one third, but opponents maintain this ill-gotten gain comes at a steep moral price to the state's citizens. "Inviting a notoriously sleazy industry in for the purpose of ripping off the people ... and giving them two-thirds of the proceeds for doing so is a very bad idea for raising taxes," the Family Foundation of Kentucky warns.

Furthermore, video lottery terminals have proven to be one of the most addictive forms of gambling. News reports show that persons with addictions not only will gamble away their life's savings and lose their homes, but may even destroy their marriages and put their children at great risk before they will seek help. For the sakes of these families, Christians must continue to stand up and cry, "Enough already. No more."

Members of the state convention's committee on public affairs, led by Paul Strahan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, are urging Kentucky Baptists to contact their legislators to express affirmation for the three pro-family measures, opposition to the video lottery terminal bill, and to let them know the state's lawmakers are always in our prayers as they make decisions that will affect Kentucky's families.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



From accomplishment to zeal

By David Jeremiah

El Cajon, Calif.—If someone looked at your life, what would they see? An attitude of hope, enthusiasm and energy, or a chin perpetually on your chest in a posture of resignation and defeat? Are you the kind of person who spells "life" p-a-s-s-i-o-n or the person who, when asked to define "apathy," says, "I don't know and I don't care"?

No verse in the Bible better expresses the passion we should have for life than Colossians 3:23-24: "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

In these verses we find four handles by which passion may be seized on a daily basis: the scope, strength, secret and source of passion. This passage can become a Passion Principle as you go "from accomplishment to zeal" every day.

The scope of your passion

Note that the Apostle Paul says, "whatever you do ..." I don't think Paul meant whatever only in a spiritual sense, such as praying, singing, studying the Bible and witnessing.

Do you know what the word "whatever" means in the Greek? It means "whatever"! Everything we do in life should be done heartily as if we were doing it for the Lord.

Don't make the mistake of dividing your life as a Christian into a "sacred" part and a "secular" part. All of the Christian's life is sacred—your spiritual life, your work, your hobbies, your entertainment—and should be done heartily as unto the Lord.

The strength of your passion

Do you have a sense of God's pleasure in all you do in life? Paul says that whatever we do—teaching, running, plumbing, "lawyering," preaching, parenting, "business"—we should do it "heartily." Do it with heart! We ought to be lionhearted about life, attacking every day with the strength and vigor which comes only from the Lion of Judah, the Son of God Himself.

The secret of your passion

The secret of the Christian's passion is simple: Everything we do in life we do it "as to the Lord and not to men." The passion we put into any project or activity in life is a good re-

lection of how we esteem the One for whom we work. Knowing that we serve a Savior who gave His all for us should ignite in us a passion to give our all for Him—whatever we do.

The source of your passion

The source of the Christian's passion is "the Lord Christ" whom we serve. All great developmental leaders say that it's impossible to impart passion to anyone. Instead, the challenge is to discover the passion that is already within and build on it—fan it into flame!

You've probably seen the popular slogan, "Carpe diem," on posters and bumper stickers. It's the Latin phrase for "Seize the day" or "Make the most of the day." It's not bad advice, but seizing the day without seizing the Source of the day is like grabbing for air. Instead of Carpe diem, try Carpe deum—"Seize God"—and don't let go! He alone is the source of true passion for all you do in life.

People are trying everything from A to Z to find reasons to get excited about life today. But if you are a Christian, you can live from "accomplishment to zeal" with genuine passion every day.

Jeremiah is senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., and chancellor of San Diego Christian College.

Steps toward investment plan

By Don Spencer

Selecting appropriate investments (often referred to as asset allocation) is critical when investing for retirement or for other purposes. Here are five things to consider when selecting your investments:



Time is critical. If you are investing for retirement that is 20 or 30 years in the future, you can be more aggressive in your investment choices than you would in saving for your child's education expense. The more time you have before you will need the money, the more you should probably put in stocks. Likewise, with a shorter time

horizon, you generally need to use less volatile investment options.

Diversify. Diversify. Diversify. Different types of investments move in and out of favor, sometimes seemingly without much rhyme or reason, but with disturbing consequences for investors who have too much of their money in the wrong area at the wrong time. By owning many different kinds of investments, you will minimize your volatility. This is one of the advantages of owning a mixture of mutual funds.

Know yourself. When stocks were losing so much of their value over the past year, did you get upset and move money out of stocks as a reaction? If so, you may have been invested too heavily in stocks appropriate to your temperament. History teaches us that every few years you can expect a significant stock-market decline. If you cannot handle those declines, then do not overdo your stock allocation.

Do not fret about the short term. For the short term, the market's ups and down defy logic and are frightening. But history also teaches us that stocks deliver the higher returns than other investment categories over longer periods of time. That is why time is critical. Select the right investment approach for your time horizon, then do not make short term decisions on a long term investment, like in your retirement plan.

Plan for increased longevity. Life expectancy continues to increase. If you retire at 65, there is a good chance you or your spouse will live 25 years or more. Your money will need to last that long too. Because of that, it may be appropriate to keep a significant portion of your savings in stocks when you retire. Some financial planners suggest keeping 40 to 50 percent of your savings in stocks or stock funds anticipating 20 or more years in retirement.

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

Will stimulus bill promote religious discrimination?

By Richard Land and Barrett Duke

The stimulus is coming! Those who voted for it gave it thunderous applause during the president's recent speech to the combined houses of Congress. What is yet to be seen is what exactly it stimulates.

One section is almost certainly going to stimulate religious discrimination. Within the massive bill is a section that reads: "No funds awarded under this title may be used for ... modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities—(A) used for sectarian instruction or religious worship; or (B) in which a substantial portion of the functions of the facilities are subsumed in a religious mission."

If this section merely denied stimulus money for buildings belonging to religious groups that use those buildings for worship or to promote sectarian religious beliefs, it would simply be in step with the Constitution's prohibition of government-sponsored religion. This would also be in keeping with the Baptist heritage of opposing the use of government funds to promote or denigrate religious belief.

What is of great concern, however, is that the stimulus bill language poses a substantial danger to religious liberty. In their effort to enforce the Constitution's "establishment clause," those who voted for this language have jeopardized religious rights guaranteed by the First Amendment's "free exercise" clause. This language is so broad that it could be construed to apply even to public and non-sectarian private college buildings and dorm rooms where students engage in personal religious activities, such as Bible studies, discussions about their faith or prayer.

It all boils down to the meaning

of the word "used." Does it mean "primary use" or "any use"? The word itself is a standard part of the language employed in similar contexts for decades. The Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 prevents the use of government money for any facility of a higher education institution that is "used or to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship." Similar language turns up in other legislation addressing this same concern.

Our present lawmakers did not invent this language to violate the

This language is so broad that it could be construed to apply even to public and non-sectarian private college buildings and dorm rooms where students engage in personal religious activities, such as Bible studies, discussions about their faith or prayer.

protections the Constitution guarantees people of faith. The government understands the word "used" means more than "any use." Beginning with its 1981 decision in *Widmar v. Vincent* the Supreme Court has ruled consistently that people of faith have the same right of access to public campus buildings as any other group. It is doubtful that we need to worry about the government misapplying this term to deny stimulus funds for public or non-sectarian private college buildings and dorms in which people exercise their faith. Furthermore, the government is unlikely to use this language to restrict the religious activities of people of faith in these buildings and dorms or to drive them out altogether. The Supreme Court has spoken on this.

The danger this language does pose is that it opens the door for anti-faith secularists and radical church/state separationists to claim that the language means "any use."

They could engage in substantial intimidation of colleges by threatening to sue them if they allow even student-led Bible studies or discussion groups in buildings built or renovated with stimulus funds. Based on previous experience, many college officials would respond to such legal bullying by severely restricting religious activities in their facilities while the cases worked their way through the courts.

Hopefully the courts would apply their previous decisions to these situations and rule against these radical groups eventually. Until then, however, people of faith would be subjected to discrimination by fearful college administrators. Life for spiritually committed college students and other people of faith would become even more difficult on many of our nation's

college campuses in the interim.

While it is improbable that anti-religious bigotry prompted the insertion of this language, those who voted for it should have been more mindful of the tensions between faith and secularism present in our nation today and made sure that people of faith could not be subjected to discrimination or intimidation. Now, they need to rectify the situation by approving clarifying language that prevents anyone from discriminating against people of faith on our college campuses.

Otherwise, what this stimulus bill language will stimulate is intensive intimidation by aggressively secularist groups in an attempt to suppress "free exercise" of religious faith by students from student centers to dorm rooms on college campuses across our nation.

Land is president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and Duke is vice president for public policy and research.

Spend more time around the table

By Rebecca Powell

Nashville—Is the family dinner table a reality or a dream at your house? Most moms agree that it can be difficult to find time to plan and produce a meal night after night. Eating together, however, is worth any inconvenience and energy it may take to pull it off.

The Judeo-Christian culture is founded upon a variety of traditions and rituals that involve food. From the earliest recorded celebrations in the Bible, food has played an important part in feasting and gaiety. Today's culture is no different in this respect. Food plays a huge role in our lives, from weddings to wakes. Yet we sometimes downplay the importance of food in the daily life of a family.

"We have to look at each day as being the cornerstone of a child's life, not just the celebrations," explains Leanne Ely, author of "Saving Dinner." "The celebrations are planned, but it's day to day life that impacts our kids."

Day to day life, however, is full of activities. By the time evening rolls around, many families are divided by sports, music lessons or one parent working late.

"For me lately," admits Kathy, a

mother of two in Charlotte, N.C., "every step of the family table is difficult, from planning and shopping to cooking and cleaning up. We are slightly overextended."

According to Ely, it is precisely because of our hectic lifestyles that we need the family table.

FIRST PERSON

"There needs to be a place where we can sit down, take a breath and say, 'Whew! How was your day?'"

For mothers of young children, dinnertime has its own obstacles. "It's almost like a circus at my house," confesses Shelly, a mother of two toddlers. "I can hardly get the kids to stay at the table, much less have a conversation."

Ely suggests that you make the family table as fun as possible. "Try some fun conversation starters, like, 'If you could be any kind of animal in the world, what would you be?'" she offers. "Start asking questions and piquing their interest, even the older ones. If you persist in making it something that the kids want to do, you'll be successful."

For mothers of middle schoolers, the primary obstacle might be a child's "get it over with" mentality. After all, there are text messages that must be received and an-

swered. Insist that your middle schoolers plan on spending 20 to 30 minutes at the family table. Bar all cell phones from the room—and that means yours, too.

Besides connecting with their parents, most middle schoolers haven't seen their siblings all day. Dinnertime serves to reconnect all the pieces of your family.

Get your family together to ask them for some of their favorite meals. Put together 12 menu ideas (these will serve as a two-week rotation of dinner meals), and create a master grocery list.

Once you make that initial investment of your time, take five minutes a week to check your calendar to determine which nights the family table would be the most doable. Take an additional 10 minutes to put together a shopping list from your master.

"When we take the family dinner table and look at it with different eyes, we understand that it's going to have an impact on our children's future. It represents security, a place where they can come and talk about their day and know that somebody is going to take time to listen to them," Ely concludes. "If we do that, we've accomplished much." (BP)

Rebecca Powell is a pastor's wife, a mother of three, an author and conference speaker

How can saying "yes" make me a better parent?

By David Garrard

I have known Greg Morrow for more than 25 years. He currently pastors a church in California, Mo. I remember visiting with Greg and his wife right before our first child was born. The Morrrows already had children, and so I asked them what advice they would give two soon-to-be parents.

I will always remember what Greg said, and still consider his insight to be some of the wisest words I have ever heard about parenting. Say yes as much as you can.

"As a parent, there are going to be plenty of times when you are going to have to say 'no,'" Greg explained. "When you do, you need and want your kids to respect and obey, whether or not they agree or understand your thinking. 'No' will be easier to hear and respect if it comes within the larger context of 'yes.'"

You want to say yes as much as you can so that when you do have to say no, it will carry more impact. Saying yes as much as possible will also help your child see that you are not saying no just to be mean, or just for spite. They will come to know you as a parent who says no for real reasons—reasons that have their best interest and safety in mind.

Beyond the practical application, saying yes is easier and more fun, and will make you more fun as a parent. So, when your child asks you to do something, unless you have a good reason not to, just say "yes!"

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



Churches must work to transform communities, pastor says

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—If Christians dedicate themselves to meeting people outside their church, communities can be transformed.

The keyword is "work," according to former Kentucky Baptist pastor Kevin Hamm.

"The days of putting a steeple on your building and a name in the phone book" to draw people "are gone," said Hamm, pastor of Gardendale First Baptist Church in Alabama. Hamm led a breakout session on outreach and follow-up at the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Discussing initiatives from his own experience, Hamm said many churches approach outreach and follow-up haphazardly.

"It's amazing how shabbily we run our churches," said the former pastor of Valley View Church in Louisville.

Ideas for making deliberate and varied

contacts include:

- Have several church members write thanks-for-visiting cards and e-mails during the week.

- The pastor can send a personal note.

- Give visitors a "coupon" for a free fellowship supper. Include the person's name on the coupon so when it is redeemed, the church can make another thanks-for-visiting contact.

- Schedule a home visit to share the gospel with the prospect and respond to needs or prayer requests.

- Assign the person to a Sunday school class or other small group that also will make contact.

- Place the prospect on the mailing list for the next year or longer.

"If you can get people to come back a second or third time ... they will get involved," Hamm predicted.

Efforts big and small can generate first-time visitors, he added.



Kevin Hamm

When a person is baptized, Hamm's church provides invitations and postage so the candidate can invite friends and family, he noted. The same offer is extended to families prior to baby dedications.

Members also purchase a meal for the person behind them in the drive-thru at fast-food restaurants. The member provides a card with the church's street address and worship service time to the restaurant employee to give to the beneficiary.

The congregation hosts "appreciation days" for a segment of the community such

as teachers, members of the military, emergency services workers or others. Hamm said Gardendale "adopts" a school regularly, cooking breakfast for teachers prior to the start of classes.

The church also hosts events such as wild-game suppers and marriage/parenting seminars, he said.

Not every event is an appropriate venue through which to invite people to church or to share the gospel directly, Hamm pointed out. "It's not just about growing your church; it's about being a blessing."

He encouraged pastors to schedule listening sessions with church members to identify needs in the community, annual events through which the church can participate, and other ways to develop a reputation as a church that cares about people.

"Get out in the community and make some noise," Hamm urged.

Burton encourages multiple methods for sharing Christ

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—David Burton knows a thing or two about evangelism. As part of the team that developed the evangelism teaching tool Continuing Witness Training more than 20 years ago, Burton said he believes it is useful for church leaders to use such programs.



David Burton

But, he added, that should not be all they focus on when it comes to evangelism.

"We all, for years, seemed like we took one method and we honed in on that," recalled Burton, evangelism director for the Florida Baptist Convention.

Over time, he said, "I'm beginning to realize that I missed ... a lot of people in witness training because I thought they needed to learn how to do it the way I thought they needed to do it."

These days, Burton is encouraging churches to teach their members multiple ways to

share their stories, the topic of his breakout session at the recent Evangelism Conference in Lexington.

Today's churches contain a wide variety of people, he noted, all of them with distinct differences. "We've got to do different styles of teaching evangelism," Burton said.

"Some methods of sharing Christ will work for that person who has an outgoing personality, but won't work for that person who's rather shy and quiet," he explained. "Yet everybody is to be sharing the Good News."

Some of the ideas Burton shared:

The Red Dot. Burton said he developed the Red Dot concept more than two decades ago. It is a circular red sticker that is placed on a believer's watch "to remind everybody about the blood of Jesus."

He said the dot ultimately reminds an individual of four things:

- What Jesus did for me 2,000 years ago.
- What Jesus did for others 2,000 years ago.
- To share Jesus with someone each day.
- To answer any curious questions someone may ask about the dot.

"A lot of people just need that little nudge" to share Jesus, Burton noted.

Gospel tracts. "Everywhere you go, leave tracts in your tracks," Burton urged, adding that churches should have racks or boxes of tracts at the doors for members to grab as they leave the building each Sunday.

Hand-to-hand evangelism. "People need to know their hands can become a great illustration and ... tool for sharing their faith," Burton explained. This is most useful if a believer does not have a tract, a Bible or a lot of time in which to share, he added.

EvangeCube. Burton called the EvangeCube one of the most effective witnessing tools he has ever used. It "becomes a visual," he said, which helps to keep a person's attention.

Wheeler: Make commitment to tell 'good news'

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Lexington—The church needs to stop thinking of itself as an organization and, instead, see itself as a living organism, David Wheeler, evangelism and church planting professor at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, recently told Kentucky Baptists.

"The church is not a location. Rather, you are the church in flesh," Wheeler reminded participants at his breakout session at the recent Evangelism Conference.

"The moment you walk outside the door you are in the mission field," Wheeler asserted. Urging pastors and laypersons to "walk out of the building and into their businesses and start looking for people to share Christ with," he observed, "Most of our people will go to the same place to get their hair cut, go to the same doctor, and never once share Christ."

Wheeler then declared, "Satan has so deceived us about what the church really is, because it drives ev-

erything we do." That's the reason the church fights becoming an organism, he added.

"If this is not corrected," Wheeler continued, "then the church becomes a stressful numbers game that is more interested in an ego-driven 'bottom line,' rather than developing genuine disciples.

"Guys, it is about multiplication," he challenged. "It has nothing to do with us. It is about developing true disciples who multiply."

While evangelism often is narrowly defined as an initial encounter in which the gospel is communicated with another person, the biblical term actually means "the message" of redemption, Wheeler explained.

Jesus used evangelism as a process of disciple, he noted. "So, we must redefine evangelism by what it is, not by what it does: It literally means 'good news.'"

Another problem is that some view evangelism as a spiritual gift that is reserved for only a few. Although it is easier and less intimi-

dating to prop up the organizational responsibilities of the church's programs, "Never forget that we are called to be fathers of men, not finders of men," Wheeler urged.

Unfortunately, because of pressing demands and expectations to keep people happy, many pastors and church staff members will unintentionally lose their passion for being involved in transforming lives, he lamented.

To recover their biblical mission, Wheeler advocated going "back to the basics" in mentoring and accountability. He challenged participants to make four commitments: to have a daily quiet time and pray specifically for unsaved people; to commit to sharing their faith with at least one person each week, outside of the church setting; to do at least one significant servant evangelism activity in their neighborhood; and to intentionally mentor at least one other person every year in making the same commitments, thus multiplying their disciple-making ministries.

Build momentum for missions in your church...

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Relationships and the gospel

At camp, Christ is shared through personal contact

By Scott Bidwell
Crossings program director

"Relationships" and "week-long summer camp"—two terms that most think would only apply to meeting that "special someone" at camp. However, Crossings Ministries' college-aged summer staff foster relationships to see students cross over from death into life. It is commonplace—expected even—to see staff eating meals with students, shooting basketball together or even sitting at a picnic table in the shade.

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

This is no accident. Crossings' entire camp week is geared around setting up the summer staff to build relationships with students. This includes very specific meal lengths, targeted same-sex small group sizes, late night "hang-out" time at the "shack" (a place to buy cokes and candy), and even scheduled small group free time. Most students perceive that the staff enjoy spending time with them—and they do. However, the staff intentionally seek out students to spend time with so that relationships can be built.

Why does Crossings choose to use relationships to communicate

the gospel? Because the gospel is the most important, life-changing encounter that anyone can have, and because relationships are an effective means for communication.

Why do relationships work? It's simple: We were created for relationships. God created us to bring Him glory first through a relationship with Himself, then through relationships with others (Mark 12:28-31). Relationships build trust and give us shared experiences.

It is quite easy to build relationships with students primarily if they have been "abandoned" by their parents, as Chap Clark writes his book "Hurt." He says that, on average, students spend less than 15 minutes per day talking with their parents. Crossings' staff members are continually amazed at what students will share when someone actually takes the time to listen.

Crossings Ministries' desire is to see each person who comes to camp without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ cross over from death into life (John 5:24). At camp, the gospel message is communicated through relationships.

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Linking verb
- 4 Prophets, such as Samuel and Isaiah
- 9 Occupy; control
- 12 Suitable; apt
- 13 Doctrine or belief held as truth
- 14 Poetic before
- 15 "_____"; and blessed be my rock" (3 words) (Psalm 18:46)
- 18 Status in a group, slang
- 19 Decay
- 20 Loiters or lingers (colloq.)
- 22 Gets ready to face the day
- 25 Exclamation of dismay
- 26 Referred to
- 28 Greek letter
- 29 Unit equal to 1/1,000 inch
- 30 "One load of bread, and one cake of _____ bread" (Exodus 29:23)
- 31 "If we say that we have no _____, we deceive ourselves" (1 John 1:8)
- 32 Fifth or Park, e.g.
- 33 "When thou prayest, _____ into thy closet" (Matthew 6:6)
- 34 Act stubbornly
- 35 Orderly
- 37 Puts aside
- 38 Option at car dealership
- 39 City near Bethel
- 40 "_____ (3 words), O my soul While I live will I praise" (Psalm 146:1, 2)
- 48 Owns
- 49 "The house was filled with the _____ of the ointment" (John 12:3)
- 50 Western Native American

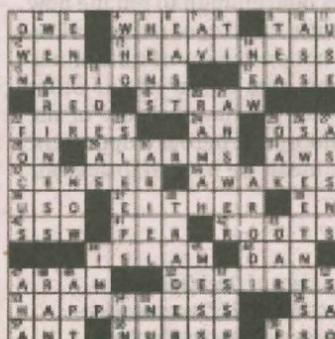
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51				52							53	

- 51 Chemical ending
- 52 Memos
- 53 Button on the VCR (abbr.)

Down

- 1 "The servant of the Lord must ... be ... _____ to teach" (2 Timothy 2:24)
- 2 Stadium sound
- 3 "The _____ God is thy refuge" (Deuteronomy 33:27)
- 4 Organ options
- 5 Poetic contraction
- 6 "Mark the perfect man ... for the _____ of that man is peace" (Psalm 37:37)
- 7 Kin (abbr.)
- 8 "They _____ up the people, and the elders, and the scribes" (Acts 6:12)
- 9 Certain sports competitions
- 10 "Rabbi, thou _____ the Son of God" (John 1:49)
- 11 O.T. minor prophet (abbr.)
- 16 "The _____ of the lame are not equal" (Proverbs 26:7)
- 17 "The earth was without form, and _____" (Genesis 1:2)
- 20 In the Book of Esther, Mordecai's nemesis
- 21 "In Christ shall all be made _____" (1 Corinthians 15:22)
- 22 Son of Hezekiah (Ezra 2:16)
- 23 John on Patmos, for example
- 24 Is unable to swim
- 26 Bigger than a borough
- 27 Destination pour les vacances
- 30 "There was a dead man carried out, the _____ of his mother" (2 words; Luke 7:12)
- 31 "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my _____" (Luke 1:47)
- 33 Ornamental case
- 34 Idol of the Phoenicians and Tyrians
- 36 "Those that walk in pride he is able to _____" (Daniel 4:37)
- 40 Greek letter
- 41 Tore
- 42 Tokyo, formerly
- 43 Young one
- 44 Tint
- 45 Sounds of hesitation
- 46 Highway (abbr.)
- 47 "They shall wet thee with the _____ of heaven" (Daniel 4:25)

Last week's solution



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Location: Louisville Campus of Campbellsville University

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No Pre-Registration Required -- FREE to All

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at Wake Forest University School of
Divinity, Winston-Salem, NC, will present
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• "African American Baptist History"
• "Varieties of Baptists in Kentucky: An Overview"
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GuideStone leader urges 'proper perspective' during volatile days

Dallas—Continued volatility in the nation's financial markets "reminds all of us that we need to have a proper perspective in times of uncertainty," GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins told trustees during their meeting last week in Dallas.

Hawkins cited Habakkuk 2:3 in the Old Testament, which says, "Though the vision tarries, wait for it; it will surely come."

"In times of uncertainty," Hawkins noted, "we can give up, give in or give out. However, through the power of God's leadership we must reach up seeking His guidance. We must reach in to fine-tune our processes and make the most of the resources that we have. And we must reach out to our participants in helping them to also gain a proper perspective as they navigate these tumultuous times of financial crisis."

John Jones, GuideStone's chief operating officer, updated trustees on the program areas of the Southern Baptist entity (retirement, investments, insurance and financial assistance).

"In a year of significant financial markets volatility, GuideStone Funds continued to perform very well compared to its mutual fund peers," Jones said. "For the five-year period ending Dec. 31, 2008, six of nine (GuideStone) Select Funds in the GS2 class exceeded their respective mutual fund peer universe median as measured by the Lipper Ranking."

"In addition, GuideStone Funds ranked 92 out of 226 mutual-fund families in the most recent Fund Family Fiduciary Rankings prepared by f360," he added. This report ranks mutual fund families based on the percentage of their individual funds that pass f360's due diligence screens. These screens include the fund's track record, assets, management tenure, style consistency, expense ratio, risk-adjusted performance and performance relative to their peer group.

Jones also reported, "Even during a very difficult period of time, we saw an increase in the number of active retirement plan participants." GuideStone now has more than 97,000 active participants in its various retirement plans. Total participants, active and inactive, total more than 153,000.

Turning to GuideStone's medical plans, Jones noted that in 2008, net enrollment increased by 3.9 percent. "During this difficult time we continued to experience growth in both our personal and group programs," he said.

Mission:Dignity update

In the financial assistance area, Jones reported generous responses by individuals and churches that support the Mission:Dignity program. Total gifts for 2008 exceeded \$6.12 million, the most received in one year.

"This was our first full year of no Cooperative Program distributions," Jones reminded trustees. GuideStone released its CP allocation back to the Southern Baptist Convention, effective September 2007, to be used for SBC national and international missions and ministries.

"We believe the re-branding of our financial assistance program from Adopt An Annuitant to Mission:Dignity has resulted in heightened awareness of this important program," Jones added. The Mission:Dignity program provides financial assistance to more than 2,050 retired ministers or their widows in financial need.

Reporting on GuideStone's launch of property and casualty insurance for churches and ministry organizations last fall, Jones said the new program "offers a competitive property and casualty program that provides risk management programs for churches and may provide the opportunity to reclaim dollars for ministry that have been lost to for-profit insurers." (BP)

BWA leaders hear disappointing finance report, fill justice post

Falls Church, Va.—Members of the Baptist World Alliance's executive committee heard a sobering financial report detailing investment losses over the last year, agreed to slash the group's budget and met BWA's new director for freedom and justice during their annual meeting March 3-4.

Gathering at the organization's headquarters in Falls Church, Va., BWA leaders agreed to slash the 2009 budget by nearly 30 percent, from an original figure of \$2,973,155 to \$2,111,155—a reduction of nearly \$900,000 in expenditures.

Ellen Teague, finance director for the worldwide umbrella group for Baptists, said the cuts are necessary to maintain a decent amount of reserve funds, heavily depleted over the last year because of huge investment losses.

After discussion, committee members approved the new budget figure. They also approved a separate resolution that empowered BWA

staff to increase expenditures above budgeted levels during the year if revenues were significantly higher than expected.

Barreto approved

Committee members also voted to recommend that the General Council approve Raimundo Cesar Barreto as director of the new BWA Division of Freedom and Justice. Council members created the new division—which will focus on religious freedom and justice issues that affect BWA member bodies—last year at the organization's annual gathering in Prague, Czech Republic.

Barreto, who currently is a pastor in Salvador, Brazil, holds a doctorate in Christian ethics from Princeton Theological Seminary. He also has degrees from Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology and the North Brazil Theological Seminary. He has taught at theology schools in Brazil and the United States. (ABP)

Evangelist Dennis Deese

Dr. Deese is helping win lost souls and disciple the saved by bringing to the pulpit, pastor and people a Biblically Practical, and Life-changing Anointed Word from God. He's being used by God to be an encouragement to the church and its staff in reaching and fulfilling their God-given potential.

"Please let me recommend to you Dr. Dennis Deese for your next revival meeting. He is a gifted preacher that preaches with authority, draws the gospel net as well as stir the church for revival. Evangelist Dennis Deese has preached for me many times. He has been warmly received on every occasion. He will be a tremendous blessing to your church. His years as a successful pastor, along with his zeal for God, make him the total evangelist."

Herb Reavis, Pastor

"I have never known anyone that loves Jesus and the ministry God has given him more than Dennis Deese. He has pastored for 25 years and now two years in the field of evangelism as a Spirit filled evangelist. I recommend him without reservation. Any pastor who wants a man who loves pastors and hungers for revival, needs to have evangelist Dennis Deese. I pray you will use this man of God"

Bill Stafford, Evangelist



Dennis Deese Ministries, Inc.
1035 Austin Ridge Ct.
Piney Flats, TN 37686
(423) 895-2847
drdeese@gmail.com
www.dennisdeese.com

The little guy counts, too

Oneida Baptist Institute stands up for itself and takes pride in being "small"

Years ago, I attended a pee-wee soccer game. It was a mixed team with both girls and boys. There was a lot of humor watching those little kids attempt to kick the ball from one end of the field to the other.

I soon noticed that the smallest boy was less interested in kicking the ball than he was chasing a player from the other team. Repeatedly the coach screamed at the top on his lungs for the little guy to go after the ball, not the other player, but no amount of screaming was going to change his actions. Eventually, the coach had to pull the little boy to the sideline. He asked him why he was chasing the other player instead of trying to kick the ball. His response was just as intense as his actions: "He called me a midget!"

Unless you have had a child who is unusually small for his or her age, or you were smaller than average as a youngster, it may be difficult to understand how sensitive one can be about being small. In our 110-year history I doubt there ever has been a time when we were anything but "small." Most of the schools we compete against are larger—some much larger—than we are. At times it is quite obvious when we take the floor or field that this is going to be another typical David vs. Goliath story. I wish I could say that we had David's success, but that doesn't happen often. We don't cry about being the little guy, but we do appreciate a little respect.

This year it was our turn to host our district's basketball games. Some years we have chosen to let another school host in our place. The

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

most common motive for this is that our gym is small—but it still is our gym. We take pride in playing there and being the Oneida Mountaineers.

When the meeting was held to draw for opposing teams, some people, as usual, were opposed to having the games in our "small" gym. Yes, it only seats 500-550, which means there may not be enough seating for everyone. We don't like that, but when you are the little guy, you have to get used to a lot of things. After much discussion, we finally had to remind everyone that it was our turn to host the games and we wanted to take it. We knew most of the objections were legitimate and we understood that regrettable some may even be turned away.

I have been in gyms that seat 2,000-2,500. Those schools almost never turn anyone away and even have extra seating. However, when you have 1,000 fans in a gym that will seat more than twice that, it often is a little difficult to sense the fans' involvement. Their cheers often get lost in the vastness of the gym. But put 550 fans in a gym that holds 550 and it is thunderous.

When someone is bold enough to tell me how unhappy they are with the size of our gym I remind them there is not one penny of state or federal tax money in our gym or any of our other facilities. We have what we have because of the goodness of God and our generous supporters. Being small doesn't mean we have to forfeit our rights or our pride.

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

The president turns 50

Fox not "over the hill," but rather looking to the hills

Well, I'm beginning to hear those words a lot, "You're over the hill now!"

It started a couple of weeks ago when I thought I was going to lunch in the campus dining room only to find out that the Clear Creek family had surprised me with a 50th birthday celebration. My present was an AARP shirt. I'm still trying to find out how the secret was kept from me for so long.

I honestly can say that turning 50 has not really had any kind of negative effect on me. I still feel great physically and look forward to many more years. But amid all the "50" jokes from all my friends and family, I have been doing some reflecting.

These last few weeks I have found myself recalling words the Psalmist spoke, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).

As I have been pondering these words, I am glad that age doesn't define or limit what we can do for the Lord as we allow Him to work through us. Every day as I walk across our campus nestled in the

valley of the Pine Mountains, I too "look to the hills" and am reminded that God is the One who made the heavens and the earth. I am thankful He doesn't look at how old I am getting; He looks for someone who will yield his life to Him and allow His strength to work through me to fulfill His calling on my life.

The average age of our students at Clear Creek is 32. Many times the initial obstacle for them in surrendering to God's call is the age factor. But once they yield to Him and finally get here and begin their ministry preparation, they realize that age should never have figured into the matter. They are

reminded daily as they look unto these hills that their help comes from God who made heaven and earth. They too realize daily that they can count on His strength to fulfill His calling on their lives.

So, I am thankful for these last few weeks. They have been a great reminder to me that I'm not "over the hill" at all. I'm thankful to be serving the One who created the hills.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Yearbook shows slight decline in Southern Baptist numbers

By Bob Allen

New York—The nation's two largest Christian denominations are experiencing slight but statistically significant membership declines, according to the latest edition of the National Council of Churches' Yearbook of American & Canadian Churches.

Released late last month, the 77th annual compilation of church statistics reports membership in the Roman Catholic Church declined 0.59 percent last year. It also reported a 0.24 percent drop in the Southern Baptist Convention's membership.

Roman Catholics still are America's largest denomination, with 67 million members. Southern Baptists still rank second,

with 16.2 million. Given the groups' respective sizes, neither decline is earth-shattering, authors of the study noted. But the report raises eyebrows because both groups have in the past grown steadily but now may be joining virtually every mainline church in experiencing persistent membership decline.

According to membership figures compiled by churches in 2007 and reported to the Yearbook in 2008, the Catholic Church lost 398,000 members in a year, while Southern Baptists lost nearly 40,000.

Eileen Lindner, editor of the 2009 Yearbook, said the annual ranking often is viewed as a gauge for relative vitality of communions reporting either increases

or declines in membership, but in reality counting those numbers "is a rather imprecise art."

Some churches, Lindner said in a title essay published in the new Yearbook, count children who are baptized as infants as members, while others wait until they are confirmed. Still others rely on a "born-again" experience or "believer's baptism" for counting members.

Further complicating the picture, Lindner said, many church members relocate, join other congregations or drop out of church without removing their names from the rolls.

Non-denominational and megachurch congregations often permit or encourage

people to attend but not join. Emergent church fellowships do not always place emphasis on formal membership, but may instead measure church effectiveness by the number of meals served or other forms of ministry.

Lindner said all this calls for rethinking church membership as a measure of congregational health.

"Whether or not church membership counts remain the most common measure of church vitality in the long term may be open to question," she wrote. "There is little doubt that the topic of church membership and its meaning are undergoing a review in the life and organization of many church bodies." (ABP)

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11TH ANNUAL LITERACY
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Open to all literacy ministry volunteers, this event is designed to further develop, equip and encourage those who serve in literacy ministry as a tutor, trainer or director.

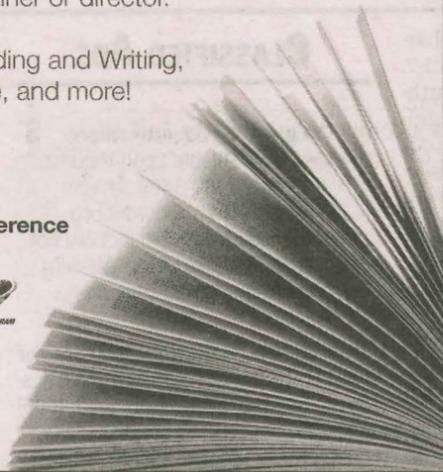
The conference will feature a variety of workshops for Adult Reading and Writing, Tutoring Children and Youth, and English as a Second Language, and more!

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\$20 per participant by April 15
\$30 per participant after April 15

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.kybaptist.org/literacyconference
- Rebecca.Carnell@kybaptist.org
- 502.489.3409 or 800-266-6477 ext. 3409



NATIONAL NOTES

Focus on the Family's Dobson retires—Focus on the Family founder James Dobson has resigned as chairman of the Colorado ministry he started 32 years ago, but will continue to host his daily radio broadcast and is expected to stay involved in national politics. Both Dobson and his wife, Shirley, have departed from the board, the ministry reported Feb. 27. The move is considered "the next step in a transition plan" that started in 2003 when Dobson stepped down as president, the ministry said. The new chairman of the Focus board is Patrick Caruana, a retired Air Force lieutenant general who has been a board member since 1996, and its vice chairman since 2006.

Obama moves to rescind 'conscience clause'—The Obama administration announced Feb. 27 plans to rescind regulations that allow health-care workers to abstain from performing medical procedures they object to on moral grounds. The Bush administration authored the rule in December, primarily to shield those with religious or moral opposition to abortion. It said health-care workers cannot be discriminated against for refusing to participate in objectionable procedures, and facilities that did not accommodate employees with objections could lose federal funding. Obama administration officials told The Washington Post they believe the rule is too broad and could prevent women from receiving the care they need.

Steele: Civil unions weaken 'foundational institution'—Newly appointed Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele made it clear Feb. 24 he opposes not only gay marriage but also civil unions. As reported by Politico.com, Steele made the comments to conservative radio talk show host Mike Gallagher. Steele said marriage is intended for a man and a woman only, calling it a "foundational principle of organized society." The GOP chair said that if gay marriage is legalized, it would "weaken an institution that is a foundational institution of not just America, (but) of mankind."

Supreme Court declines case of praying coach—The U.S. Supreme Court has turned down an appeal from a high school football coach who was banned from bowing his head during student-led team prayers. Without comment March 2, the nation's highest court ended Coach Marcus Borden's efforts to overturn a township decision that as a public employee, Borden cannot mix religion with his work as a coach. The high court's decision leaves intact a federal appeals court's April decision that Borden's desire to bow his head and take a knee during team prayer is an endorsement of religious activity at a public school. Borden has been fighting for the right to bow and kneel in prayer with his team since November 2005, when he filed a federal lawsuit arguing the school district's regulations were overly broad.

Court: Election law wrongly applied to church—A federal appeals court ruled Feb. 25 that Montana officials violated the free-speech rights of a Southern Baptist church when they required the congregation to register as a political action committee for supporting a 2004 ballot initiative against gay marriage. A three-judge panel said that Montana's commissioner of political practices erred in applying the law to Canyon Ferry Road Baptist Church in East Helena. Judges said the church's actions—sponsoring a video against gay marriage and encouraging members and guests to sign petitions supporting defining marriage in exclusively heterosexual terms in the Montana Constitution—were so minimal they were unworthy of the state's attention.

RENEWAL

This retreat will include messages from God's Word, Kingdom-focused prayer, God-centered worship, and opportunities for dialogue. It is designed for pastors, prayer leaders, local church staff and ministry leaders and should provide a ripe atmosphere for God to speak and work.

RENEW YOUR SPIRIT, MIND AND BODY AT BEAUTIFUL LAKE BARKLEY

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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Mission Service Corps missionary Harold Moore of Ashland. Harold serves as a coordinator of mass feeding with Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, trains volunteers, maintains and repairs equipment, and responds to witnessing opportunities. Pray that his physical health would remain strong. Pray for additional volunteers to step up and help in the vital disaster relief ministry.

Crittenden Baptist Association's truck-stop ministry in Corinth. David Wolfe leads this ministry that offers gospel tracts, Bibles and cassette tapes, worship services, and a personal witness to truckers and other visitors at the Nobles Truck Stop along Interstate 75. Pray that the tight schedule of truckers would not prevent them from hearing the gospel message. Pray that many truckers would come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ through the witness that is provided.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BOAZ**—Wice Memorial Church recently called **Danny Clemons** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will celebrate Student Ministry Day March 15. Students will lead the morning worship and Student Minister **Jason England** will bring the message. A fellowship meal will follow the service. All those attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be delivered to a local food pantry by the students.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Tunnel Hill Church will host a Jews for Jesus presentation, "The Passover Seder" with **Jeannie Goldstein** March 15, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Pastor **Nathan Whisnant** at (270) 737-8120.

■ **KEVIL**—Newton Creek Church recently called **Wayne Carter** as pastor.

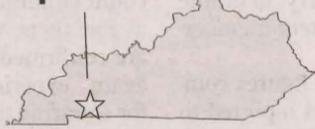
■ **LEBANON**—Woodlawn Church recently called **Greg Haynes** as pastor. He previously was pastor at New Salem Church in Monticello.

■ **PADUCAH**—Highview Church recently called **Jewell Warford** as interim pastor.

■ **PAINT LICK**—Faith Decision Church will hold revival services March 15, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; March 16-18, 7 p.m., with **Jason Pierce** as evangelist. **Jim-**

Spotlight on ...

Hopkinsville



Calvary Memorial Church will host the drama "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" March 15-17, 7 p.m. The production presents the gospel and warns about the dangers of rejecting Jesus Christ. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Pastor **Larry Dale Combs** at (270) 886-8068.

my Closterman is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—**Rodney Wallace** recently resigned as pastor of Calvary Church.

■ **RICHMOND**—Rosedale Church recently called **Christopher Dotson** as pastor.

■ **STANTON**—Emmanuel Church recently ordained **Ken Cude** as a deacon. **Greg Webb** is pastor.

■ **WHEELWRIGHT**—**John Doug Hayes** recently resigned as pastor of Jacks Creek Church.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

12 Launch One, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

13-14 Creative Ministries Festival, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

14 RA Congress Region 2, Nortonville Baptist Church.

14 State Vacation Bible School Clinic-West, Second Baptist Church, Madisonville.

14 Handbell Ring and Share-West, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

14 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville; First Baptist Church, Somerset.

14 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Boyce College, Louisville; Erlanger Baptist Church; First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; First Baptist Church, London; First Baptist Church, Madisonville; First Baptist Church, Richmond.

19 Launch One, Daviess-McLean Baptist Association Office, Owensboro.

20-21 Region 5 Disaster Relief Recertification and Training, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Williamstown.

21 RA Congress Region 4, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.

21 RA Congress Region 8, First Baptist Church, Russell.

21 RA Congress Region 6, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

21 Regional Keyboard Festival-West, First Baptist Church, Murray.

23 Launch One, Crittenden Baptist Church.

23 Welcome to Kentucky, Hilton Garden Inn, Louisville.

24 Welcome to Kentucky, Baptist Building, Louisville.

26-29 Adult Kentucky Changers, Cedarmore Camp & Conference Center, Bagdad; Dallasburg Baptist Church, Wheatley.

26 Launch One, Elkhorn Baptist Association Office, Lexington.

27-28 National Sunday School Director Seminar, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.

27-28 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Richmond.

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

SEEKING: Minister of music and youth. For info, visit www.oakstreetchurch.net; or call (423) 332-2300.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Gap Creek Missionary Baptist Church, a conservative member of Cumberland Gap Baptist Association in Claiborne County, Tenn. Experience is preferred. Gap Creek has an active membership of over 300 and is growing. If possible, send a CD or DVD of sermons along with a resumé to Gap Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Arthur, TN 37707, Attn: Troy Poore. You may e-mail resumé to troypoore@hotmail.com; or fax to (423) 869-8777.

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

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

SEEKING: Senior pastor with character described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, has a Master's degree from a Southern Baptist seminary, has a minimum of 5 years full-time pastoral experience, and is approximately 35 to 50 years of age for growing church. Please send resumé plus a non-returnable video, CD or DVD to the Pastor Search Committee, Kings Baptist Church, PO Box 380, Mt. Washington, KY 40047. For more info, check the church's Web site: www.kingsbaptist.net.

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

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for First Baptist Church, Hazard, Ky. Send resumé to FBC, 560 Main St., Hazard, KY 41701; or e-mail to hazardfbcpastor@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Part-time director to plan, coordinate and lead music for worship services in a northern Pulaski County church. Send resumé to: NBC, PO Box 129, Science Hill, KY 42553. For more info, call (606) 423-2271.

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

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.fbchodgenville.org. Mail resumé to 730 Tonievile Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or e-mail to sally@fbchodgenville.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an advertisement:

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

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

SEEKING: Senior pastor. Calvary Baptist Church of Princeton, Ky., led by its Pulpit Committee, is seeking the leader God has already chosen for His church. If God has spoken to you, please send a resumé and/or a DVD to: Pulpit Committee, 121 Kentucky Avenue, Princeton, KY 42445.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for Audubon Baptist Church. Responsible for blended style congregational worship and choir direction. Only mailed resumé will be accepted; mail to Linda Owen, 3205 Broeck Pointe Circle, Louisville, KY 40241. All resumé 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, Attn: Mitch Ash.

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

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

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; or by phone at (270) 304-1824.

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

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

SEEKING: 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 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.

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

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

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.faithtourismturkey.com; or contact DVCathey1@aol.com.

New book takes close look at adventures in parenting

By Shawn Hendricks
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—Rodney and Selma Wilson remember the time their 4-year-old daughter, Natalie, called a family meeting.

Natalie declared openly that her parents loved her sister, Jennifer, more. Before the meeting ended, the issue was thoroughly discussed and eventually resolved. Now all grown up, their daughters laugh about it, but it serves as an example of the importance of open communication.

Most importantly, the Wilsons contend, strong communication or a "talk system" can help children on their journey with Jesus Christ.

"You never want to shut off conversation with your child ... ever," Selma said in a recent interview. She and her husband have been involved in family ministry for 25 years.

"Looking them in the eye and putting your hand on their shoulder and saying, 'I love you and I'm praying for you,' is a powerful form of communication."

In the book, "The Parent Adventure: Preparing Your Children for a Lifetime with God," the Wilsons and Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, join forces to share the impact that godly parenting can make on a child's life.

In the first half of the book, the Wilsons share Scripture and practical advice from their own parenting adventures. Their stories and advice cover everything from first bike crashes, to dropping kids off for their first day of school, to the times they leave home for college and marriage.

"This book sets out as an encouragement to every parent," Rodney noted. Parenting "is difficult at times. And yes, guilt-ridden at times ... but it can be done and done effectively."

"We've had many people tell us, 'Don't take this wrong, but this is really simple stuff,'" he added. "So simple I can remember it and apply it to my parenting situation." To which we always say, "Thanks."

The Wilsons share their passion for family ministry through writing, counseling and speaking at seminars.

The second half of the book, titled "The Church Challenge," focuses more on how a congregation can provide more parenting and biblical guidance to families. It also addresses the widening divide between indi-



PARENTAL GUIDANCE Rodney and Selma Wilson co-wrote "The Parent Adventure" with LifeWay Research Associate Director Scott McConnell. (LifeWay photo)

viduals' parenting and faith.

McConnell heads up the research end of the book. It includes sobering statistics that come from hours of interviews with 1,200 parents—all of whom had children under the age of 18 at the time of the study (see sidebar).

In addition to his role at LifeWay Research, McConnell is a husband and father of two children. He has helped churches through research projects for 12 years.

He admitted the book opened his eyes to the growing gap between how people are parenting and living out their walk with Christ.

"The Word of God is what is missing from the parenting equation today," he said.

"The average American parent and many parents with evangelical beliefs do not even know what the Bible has to say about parenting."

Here is a small sample of the results from the survey:

- Twelve percent of parents said their religious faith is the top influence in raising their children.

- Only 14 percent feel very familiar with what the Bible has to say about parenting.

- Less than half of parents (42 percent) agree that the Bible is the written Word of God and is accurate.

Most parents are too busy living in what Selma referred to as "survival mode"—just trying to keep their lives together and provide for their families. Faith often is just a "Sun-



LifeWay study examines parenting

By Mark Kelly

Nashville—Most American parents believe their parenting skills and family lives are pretty good, but they are reluctant to describe their homes as peaceful, relaxed or joyful. They also say their daily family time consists mostly of eating dinner and watching television, according to a new study from LifeWay Research.

While most parents are trying to improve their skills, far fewer look to the church or the Bible for help, researchers reported.

The national survey of 1,200 parents with children at home under the age of 18 was conducted by LifeWay Research, the research arm of LifeWay Christian Resources.

The study found that 96 percent of parents agree they consistently try to be better parents. Fifty-eight percent agreed strongly and 38 percent agreed somewhat with this statement.

Sixty percent of parents look a lot to their own experiences growing up as their source of guidance on parenting and another 31 percent do so to some extent.

By comparison, 21 percent indicated they receive a lot of guidance from a sacred text and 15 percent said they depend a lot on a church. A full 61 percent completely ignore parenting seminars and 53 percent have no use for books by religious parenting experts.

Only 14 percent indicated they are very familiar with what the Bible has to say about parenting, LifeWay Research reported. Twenty-seven percent of Protestant parents said they are very familiar with what the Bible has to say about parenting compared to only 7 percent of Catholic parents. Among parents with evangelical beliefs, 52 percent said they are very familiar with the Bible's parenting advice.

A large majority of the parents described

their home environment as supportive (74 percent), positive (71 percent), encouraging (69 percent) and active (69 percent). At the same time, however, 61 percent are unwilling to describe their homes as peaceful, 49 percent as relaxed and 43 percent as joyful.

While 57 percent of the parents said their families eat dinner together on a daily basis and 45 percent indicated they watch television together each day, only 53 percent reported that they pray together at least monthly and just 31 percent reported having religious devotionals or studies together at least monthly.

Family life suffering?

More than 80 percent of parents rate family life—the quality of family communication, time spent with each other, treating each other with respect—as good to excellent. Thirty percent, however, indicate their family's spiritual life is only fair or poor.

A full 92 percent of parents agreed they need encouragement, the study found. Almost 10 percent said they need help with parenting and 11 percent indicated they have nowhere to turn for encouragement.

Among parents who attend religious worship services weekly, 38 percent indicated they get no encouragement from a sacred text such as the Bible, Torah or Koran and 24 percent reported getting no encouragement from their church or place of worship.

Forty-three percent of Protestant parents and 85 percent of Catholic parents said they do not receive encouragement from a sacred text. As for their church, 39 percent of Protestant parents and 71 percent of Catholic parents said it is not a source of encouragement as a parent. (BP)

day thing," she said. But, she added, it doesn't have to be.

"If your faith becomes so integrated in the natural course of getting up and going to bed and doing life," she said, children's "faith will be integrated also."

The good news of all of this, the authors insisted, is that churches today have a unique opportunity to provide parents and children with more encouragement, biblical and parenting training, discipleship, and mentoring.

The Wilsons' book also suggested that parents are more successful when they develop a parenting plan based upon the realization that God has a plan for their children's lives.

"It's a mindset that says 'I do not own my children,'" Selma noted. "They have a destiny beyond my role ... and my job is to get them ready for that role."

Southern introduces new model for family ministry training

Louisville—The School of Leadership and Church Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has introduced a family-ministry model that centers on equipping parents to biblically train their children.

Designed for future associate pastors, the new approach, called the family equipping ministry model, seeks to address a weakness in the ministry of many local churches, noted Randy Stinson, dean of the School of Leadership.

"One of our main concerns has been that over the last 20 years, the discipleship of children and teenagers has not been as effective as it should be," he said. "One of the reasons that is true is because parents have either not been trained, not been held accountable, or both, to being the primary disciple-makers of their children."

The new model operates under the following definition of family ministry: the process of intentionally and persistently realigning a congregation's proclamation and practices so that parents—and especially fathers—are acknowledged, trained and held accountable as the persons primarily responsible for the discipleship of their children.

Stinson said the model differs from the family-integrated church model that has become popular in some circles.

"The FIC essentially does away with youth pastors and age-graded ministry," he explained. "The Family Equipping Ministry Model, while advocating a restructuring of the various ministries of the church, utilizes various trained pastoral positions and does not do away with age-graded ministry."

Stinson said an emphasis on family ministry is particularly valuable in view of the breakdown of the family in much of contemporary culture.

"As we train the next generation of associate staff members, we believe more in-depth training in family ministry is going to be required in a culture that is pressing for the fragmentation of the family," he predicted. "We want to train people to bring the family together."

Churches can now get 'Fireproof' license discount

Alpharetta, Ga.—Churches that purchase a movie license for the film "Fireproof" between now and the end of March can get a 10-percent discount thanks to a partnership between Outreach, Inc., and the North American Mission Board.

A license is required before a church can legally show the movie to its congregation. Licenses can be purchased by calling Outreach at (800) 991-6011, or by visiting Outreach.com. To receive the discount, churches will need to ask for the "NAMB discount" when calling, or if purchasing online, enter the

coupon code NAMB2009FPJAN. The license is good for one year.

Filmed on a \$500,000 budget by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., "Fireproof" made \$33 million at the box office last year and opened at No. 2 in DVD sales nationwide according to VideoBusiness.com. It was released on DVD more than a month ago but still was ranked No. 5 in Amazon.com's chart of total DVD sales as of last week.

The movie's companion book, "The Love Dare," remained No. 1 on The New York Times' paperback advice chart at the end of February.

Sales of the film and book also have been impressive in the Christian market, with the paperback version of "The Love Dare" ranking No. 1 and the imitation leather version at No. 3, according to the chart compiled by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

The movie has sparked a marriage movement, with churches holding Bible studies examining marriage. LifeWay Christian Resources also has published a Love Dare Bible study curriculum, while Outreach has published the Fireproof Your Marriage curriculum. (BP)



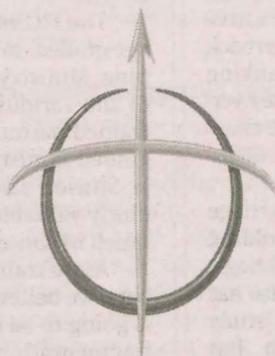
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