

WESTERN Recorder

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FOR THE RECORD

Missions
Acts 1:8 Challenge conferences highlight North American, international missions. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
Cooperative Program deficit widens even though February giving exceeds expectations. *Page 2.*

Editorial
Celebrate God's work through the local Baptist association. *Page 4.*

Financial Forum
The basics of Christian estate planning. *Page 5.*

Baptists
Student pastors introduce Internet social media sites as new missions frontier. *Page 6.*

Kentucky
Kentucky seminary honors longtime Baptist professor. *Page 8.*

Issues
Critics say President Obama's stem cell order is unethical and unnecessary. *Page 9.*

Show and go tell



Adam Kilchenman (center) goes over the finer points of puppet ministry with a couple of student participants at the recent Creative Ministries Festival at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Nearly 1,700 students and adults attended the pair of annual events in Louisville and at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. More than 30 presenters performed and conducted dozens of creative arts workshops focusing on a variety of ways to creatively "show the gospel," according to event coordinator Tom Smoot. *Story and more photos on page 3. (Photo by Mandi Buckner)*

Ill. pastor shooting prompts uneasy talk about church security

Maryville, Ill.—A past president of the Illinois Baptist State Association died March 8 when a gunman walked into his church and shot him during an early-morning worship service.

Fred Winters, 45, pastor of First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill., died from a single gunshot wound.

Police said Terry Sedlacek, 27, entered the 1,000-seat sanctuary in suburban St. Louis and walked toward the pulpit while Winters delivered a sermon on finding happiness at work. He exchanged words with the pastor before revealing the gun and shooting.

Winters, who had been senior pastor of First Baptist, Maryville, since 1987, had ties to Kentucky, earning a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Mark Jones, the congregation's worship minister, said the church probably would consider added security after the shooting, but "we think this is a one-time situation."

"We have seen attacks in our country," he added. "People cannot stop living their lives. People cannot be paralyzed with fear. We're going to continue to live our lives and we're going to live with a greater intentionality and purpose."

□ See *Rash of shootings ... Page 8*

Louisville churches form unique bond, have desire to help others 'get healthy'

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Ron German stood where he had hundreds of Sunday mornings prior. This particular day, the pastor was so emotional, he choked back tears as he spoke.

What he saw in front of him was a standing-room-only sanctuary full of people—about 350 in all—ready for worship. Among them, adults, children, senior adults and teenagers.

German had spent the previous four years as pastor of Louisville's South Watterson Trail Baptist Church. Never had he scanned a Sunday morning crowd of more than about 35 people—nearly all of them senior adults.

South Watterson Trail was a "dying church," German acknowledged.

On March 8, that all changed. The church once known as South Watterson Trail Baptist Church became Forest Park Community Church.

The unique partnership came to fruition that day as German and Forest Park Pastor Ronnie Caswell stood together and welcomed members from both congregations to their new church home. Six months earlier, neither man could have envisioned the path down which God would lead them.

Founded by longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor William Martin, South Watterson Trail established its church home in Louisville's Fern Creek neighborhood in 1982.

"It was an elderly church even from the beginning," noted German, who joined the congregation in 1991. "The church had never really attracted a lot of younger people."

The few churches the church did have went away to college, did not return home and were never re-



PACKED HOUSE As least 350 people pack the sanctuary at the new home of Forest Park Community Church in Louisville, formerly South Watterson Trail Baptist Church. The church partnership joined two congregations on opposite ends of the spectrum—Forest Park a young, thriving church, South Watterson Trail, an aging, dwindling church—into one church community. *(Photo by David Hartlage)*

placed, he pointed out.

"We had no young people, so we had no future," said Phil Willis, a five-year member of South Watterson Trail, who at 70 years old, represented the congregation's average age.

"Older people, no children; that offers very little growth for a church," he added.

Desperate to infuse the church with some youth, German proposed several initiatives to accomplish that goal. From mailings, to door-to-door visits in nearby neighborhoods, to starting a day care, to exploring the possibility of a radio ministry, nothing worked.

"We couldn't get anything going," he said. "We □ See *Louisville churches help each other ... Page 2*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Mar. 18.

Louisville churches help each other, long to help others

Continued from page 1

had a lot of willing spirits, but we just didn't have the physical ability to go out and do it."

After about a year of unsuccessful efforts, German contacted several Baptist agencies looking for help.

It was former Long Run Baptist Association staff member Jon Auten who last fall put German in touch with fellow Louisville pastor Caswell and Forest Park Community Church.

The church plant got its start in 1993 as an in-home Bible study at Caswell's apartment. After about six months, the church's 25 members began holding Sunday morning services at a suburban Louisville hotel.

Less than a year later, Forest Park moved to a small abandoned church building in the city's Jeffersontown neighborhood, tucked away in the middle of an industrial park.

Despite the less than desirable location, Forest Park Community Church began to grow.

Today, the church has a membership of about 225 people, according to Caswell, and is heavily involved in dozens of ministries.

Among them is a motocross racing ministry. The church even built a dirt bike track behind its building, a popular attraction for kids of all ages.

Caswell said Forest Park also is involved in helping other churches. "We have that in our DNA" to help churches, he noted. "Regardless of denomination, we'll help them."

So, when he heard that South Watterson Trail Baptist Church needed help attracting younger people, he and his staff jumped right in.

Weeks of discussions led to planning a Sunday evening contemporary worship

service at South Watterson Trail led by the Forest Park worship team. It was meant to "try to attract younger people and plant them here," German noted.

"I was just so touched by their willingness to help out," he added.

But just as the new services were about to kick off, German said God had something else in mind.

"I was laying in bed one night and the Lord had just really impressed upon me to not go forward with the Sunday night service, but to offer our church to Forest Park," he recalled.

German said he felt God was testing Forest Park's faithfulness, relating it to Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Once God saw Abraham was willing to go through with it, God stopped him and offered him a ram to sacrifice in Isaac's place.

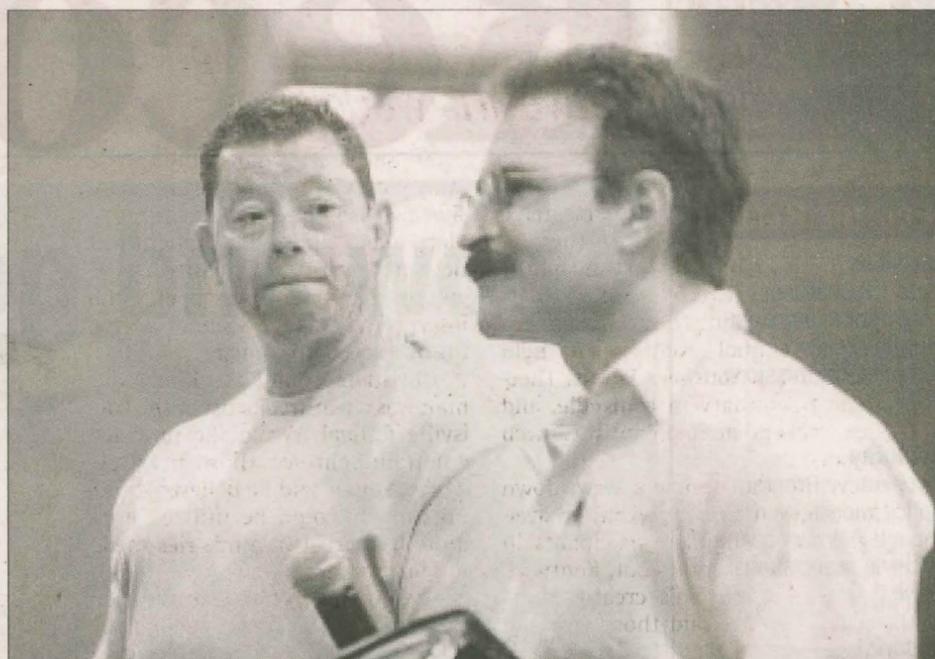
Forest Park members "were willing to go all the way," German said.

Caswell said he was floored by German's offer and immediately asked if German knew what he was doing.

German told Caswell that South Watterson Trail, with its dwindling attendance and tithes, was only months from closing its doors. He said the pain of the congregation seeing their building become a new, unfamiliar church was a much better option than seeing all they had worked for over the years disappear.

"The worst thing we could have done was to draw our horns in, let the ministry fold up, put a chain on the door and then have some developer buy it, level the building ... and put a condominium up," German insisted.

With total approval from both sides and legal matters handled, the congregations set about at the first of the year modernizing South Watterson Trail's tradition-



NEW FUTURE South Watterson Trail Baptist Church Pastor Ron German (foreground) addresses the Forest Park Community Church congregation March 8 as Pastor Ronnie Caswell looks on. German said that although he has stepped aside from pastoral duties, he has a burden for helping struggling churches in Louisville and across the state "get healthy" to reach the unchurched population which is rapidly growing. (Photos by David Hartlage)

al building, giving it a much more contemporary feel.

After about \$65,000 in renovations, the transformation was complete. It included removing or displacing many of the mementos that were familiar to the South Watterson Trail members.

"I had to continuously remind people ... that every one of these assets—the buildings, the hymnals, the pianos, the pews—none of it belongs to us," German explained. "It all belongs to Jesus Christ."

Ready to begin a new chapter of ministry for both, the question then became, "How do you join this all together?" the two pastors asked.

German said he agreed that since Forest Park was Caswell's ministry, it was his to lead. But that did not mean German would fade into the background.

"There are no personal pronouns in the house of God," he insisted. "It's not about me, it's about God."

Calling his role now more of "serving role ... than a leading role," German shared the vision that both he and Caswell have for the ministry of Forest Park: to help unite other churches as one in God's mission.

"I have a tremendous burden to try to unify our churches in this city and in Ken-

tucky," German said. "Our churches have drawn inward instead of outward, and I think they're imploding, not exploding."

Citing a recent survey that indicated a significant rise in the number of Americans unaffiliated with a religion, German lamented churches' inability to reach that population.

"We have a terrible paradigm shift going on right now in our country of people walking away from ... churches," he said. "These are the people we need to get back."

But "how can we reach them when our churches are unhealthy?" he asked.

Caswell said Forest Park is available to help. He pointed out that a team already is involved with helping another Louisville church while it searches for a new pastor.

"We've got plenty of musicians, we've got seminary students, we've got a lot of gifted, loving, caring people ... (to help) churches get strengthened or started," he said.

German maintained he does not want to see Forest Park absorb other struggling churches and grow to 10,000 members. "We want to go and help them get healthy and strong," he said. "Then we want to walk away so that you can be autonomous and stand on your own—and that we can all have a great victory."

NEW HOME Forest Park Community Church Pastor Ronnie Caswell leads prayer near the end of the church's first service at the former home of South Watterson Trail Baptist Church in Louisville March 8. Nearly \$65,000 went into renovating the traditional church building to give it a more contemporary feel to help attract unchurched people from the surrounding Fern Creek neighborhood.



Acts 1:8 conferences highlight missions

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptist church leaders who want to increase their church's missions involvement are encouraged to learn more about the Acts 1:8 Challenge at one of four upcoming conferences.

A joint effort of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board and North American Mission Board, the Acts 1:8 Challenge provides an opportunity for churches to declare their commitment to a missions strategy in their community, state, continent and world.

Acts 1:8 Challenge conferences will be held:

March 31, Bowling Green, Warren Baptist Association office.

April 2, Hazard, Big Creek Baptist Church.

April 3, Owenton, First Baptist Church.

April 4, Salem, Pinckneyville Baptist Church.

"Church leaders are often interested in missions but may not know where to start or how to take their involvement to the next level," noted Scott Pittman, Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions director. "Our goal is to

help churches identify where they want to go, and to help connect them to opportunities."

According to Pittman, Acts 1:8 Challenge churches partner with their association, state convention, NAMB and IMB to advance their missions endeavors. These churches benefit from denominational training, resources and missions partnership opportunities.

"The conferences will revolve around the four areas of missions opportunity commanded in Acts 1:8," Pittman said. "We'll also describe how the Acts 1:8 Challenge can help churches of all sizes fulfill these commands."

Those interested in joining the Acts 1:8 Challenge will have an opportunity to do so at the event, but commitment is not required for conference participation, Pittman said.

The conferences are free, but pre-registration is required. For event details or to register, visit www.KyBaptist.org/Challenge, or call the KBC's partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529, or toll free in Kentucky (866) 489-3529.

CP deficit widens although giving exceeds expectations

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists gave more \$1.74 million through the Cooperative Program in February, despite facing hardships and canceled services following severe ice storms that crippled much of the state in late January.

While not enough to reduce the ongoing CP deficit, Billy Compton, Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, said the amount exceeded expectations. Many churches, particularly in Western Kentucky, had to cancel one or more services in January and early February because of the ice storm aftermath, he pointed out.

"Our ministry and missions partners are very encouraged that Kentucky Baptists are continuing to give

sacrificially during this challenging economic time," Compton noted. "Many needs—both physical and spiritual—are being met every day through the ministry of the Cooperative Program."

According to Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader, churches have given a total of \$11,541,217 through the Cooperative Program through February. CP receipts now are behind budget by \$458,783 (3.82 percent) halfway through the fiscal year.

Cooperative Program giving also remains behind last year's pace by \$300,823 (2.5 percent). After the first six months in the 2007-08 fiscal year, CP gifts totaled \$11,842,040.

The CP budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year is \$24 million.

Creative Ministries Festival 2009

Numbers down, but excitement high for annual creative arts workshops

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Imagining creative and unique ways to share the gospel, nearly 1,700 students and adults gathered at the recent Kentucky Baptist Creative Ministries Festivals.

The annual events were held March 6-7 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and last weekend at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

While the numbers were down for this year's events—from an average of about 2,000 participants in recent years—Tom Smoot, Kentucky Baptist Convention's creative ministries director, said those who did come were excited to be there.

"I'm really pleased with the turnout because I was even expecting a little lower" attendance, he noted, adding that the recent ice storms coupled with the economy's effect on church budgets likely kept some groups away.

Smoot, who has been directing the Creative Ministries Festival for about 20 years now, explained that such events—primarily geared toward students—are important because of the generation to which they appeal.

"Their generation ... is a 'show' generation," Smoot said. "Rather than just telling, or hearing somebody tell the gospel, I think they're really into showing it."

Not only are students interested in sharing the gospel creatively, Smoot said that adults, too, are jumping on the creative ministries bandwagon. At the Louisville event, he noted there were two adults for every student. Most of them were not only chaperones, but participants.

Those youth and adults took away plenty of imaginative ideas for sharing the gospel in their churches. More than 30 presenters taught participants a variety of creative arts elements, ranging from puppetry and interpretive dance, to balloon sculpting and stand-up comedy.

Christian comedian Kim Coleman was a featured artist at the Louisville festival. While she provided entertainment for those in attendance, Smoot said he believes stand-up comedy could be utilized even more as a creative ministries medium in churches.

Among the other featured performers this year was sign-language artist Tyra Lokey, comedian Dr. Tom and Chagy the Clown.

Smoot said that while turnout for the festivals each year remains strong, it is the stories that filter back afterward that are most encouraging.

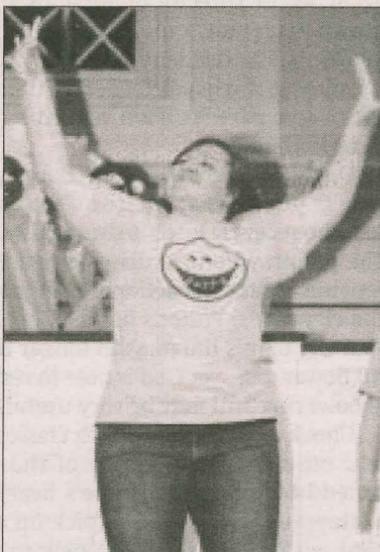
In an e-mail, a children's ministry coordinator from a Lexington church recalled a young boy's excitement at learning magic from Greg Farmer, a gospel illusionist from Somerset.

She said the boy performed a crayon illusion to share the gospel at a children's worship service a day after the Louisville festival. Afterward, seven children responded and one prayed to receive Jesus Christ. "That simple magic trick," she wrote, gave that boy the opportunity to "take credit for helping lead someone to receive Christ."

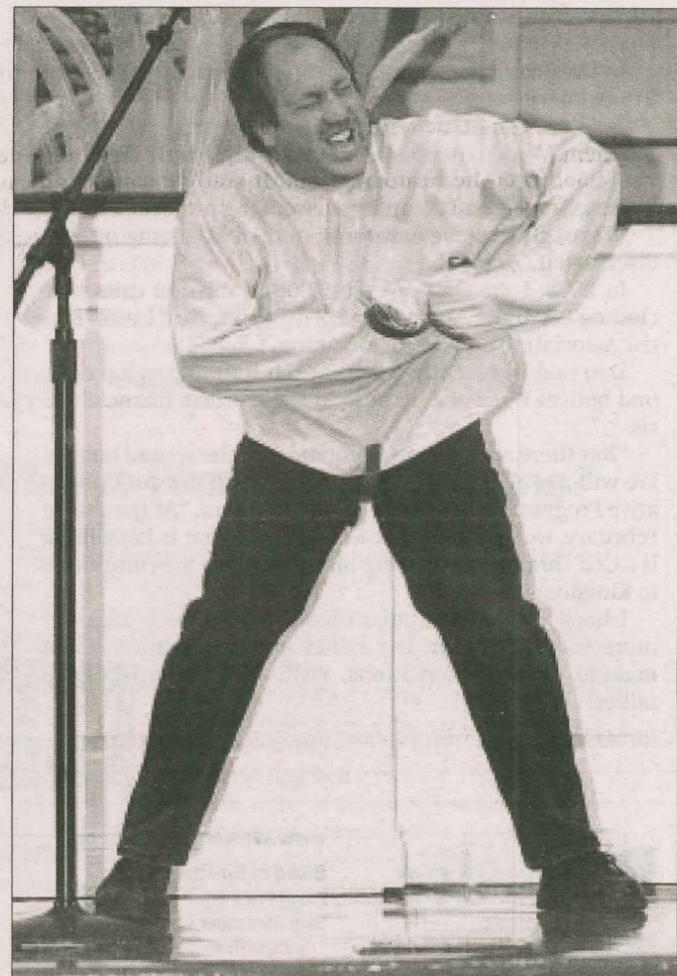
Creative ministries "gives students an opportunity to ... identify with their churches," Smoot said, "but also make a statement for the Lord."



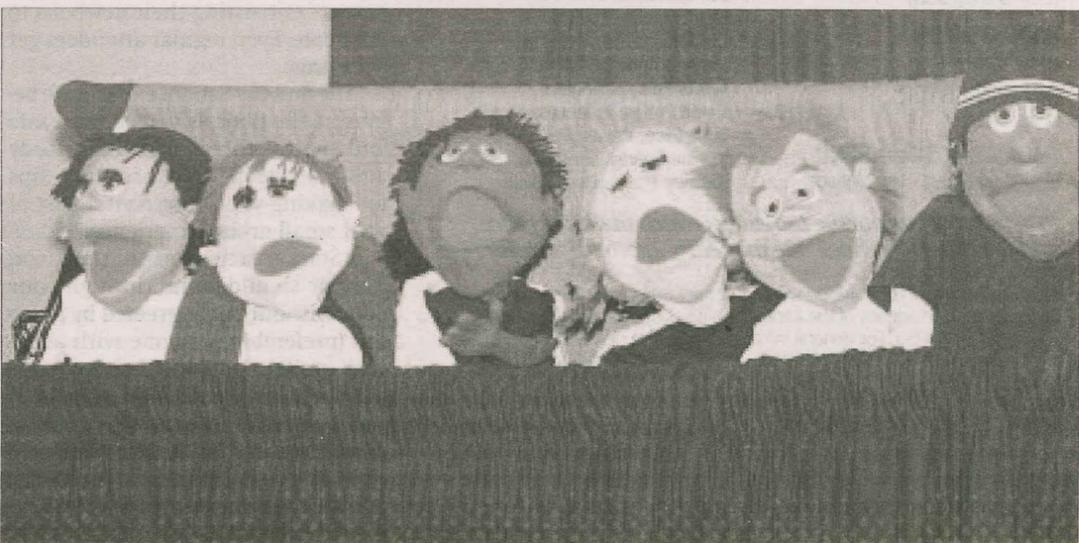
TWISTED A group of girls enjoys learning how to make balloon hats during Sharon Kelley's balloon hat-making workshop at the recent Creative Ministries Festival in Louisville. Sharon's husband, Terry, also taught classes on using balloons to share the gospel, as well as illusions and comedy. The festival offered nearly 100 creative ministries workshops during the two-day event. (Photos by Mandi Buckner)



GET CREATIVE ■ **Top:** A girl performs an interpretive dance during the closing session of the Louisville Creative Ministries Festival. ■ **Right:** Somerset-based gospel illusionist Greg Farmer attempts to escape from a straitjacket. He also led several workshops on using magic to share Christ during the weekend event. ■ **Below:** A group of puppets serenades the Creative Ministries Festival audience. Puppetry has long been a staple of creative ministries. This year's events featured several classes based on how to utilize puppets for gospel outreach. Nearly 1,700 students and adults attended this year's festivals.



FUNNY LADY Christian comedian Kim Coleman shares her humorous take on life with the audience at the Louisville Creative Ministries Festival. Event coordinator Tom Smoot said he brought Coleman in because of her "respectable" act, but said that stand-up comedy is a creative arts medium not utilized enough in churches. He pointed to the success of comedians like Dennis Swanberg and the late Grady Nutt as examples that stand-up comedy can be funny without being vulgar.



Cooperative Program rallies

A dynamic testimony from a pastor was one of the highlights of the recent Cooperative Program rally at the First Baptist Church of Owensboro. Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah, shared a stirring testimony of his journey with the Cooperative Program.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

"I have always loved and supported the Cooperative Program, but I remember the day that I 'got it,'" Dan said.

Dan was serving a small rural church while attending seminary in New Orleans. The church gave to CP, but they would give on the basis they had anything left over. He asked them to make CP a priority, and they did.

After about six months though, Dan became discouraged about making a difference with his life and giftedness. Then God reminded him that the church was achieving many things for the Kingdom through their CP gifts.

Dan said he thanked the church the next day for supporting local, state, national and international missionaries and seminary education. As he explained that through the Cooperative Program they were achieving Kingdom work, they "got it," too, and became excited about making a difference.

He said the church began to grow—in part because of the focus on the Kingdom through the Cooperative Program—and that this has become an emphasis in every church where he has served.

"Every January I preach on stewardship and tithing" he said. "We believe one of the reasons God is blessing us (at First Baptist Church of Lone Oak) is because of this emphasis."

In five years, the church has increased weekly giving by \$15,861, for a total increase of \$820,000.

In 2008, Lone Oak conducted mission trips to Zambia, Morocco, Mexico, Alaska, Louisiana and Eastern Kentucky. The church has also started a second Sunday school, a third worship service and completed a building project.

"Through it all we never lowered our CP giving or even discussed it," Dan said.

In 2008, Lone Oak gave \$515,000 to mission causes including CP, Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, West Union Baptist Association and Sunrise Children's Services.

Dan said he recently asked church staff to develop a second budget if needed because of the nation's financial crisis.

"But there are two non-negotiables in the second budget. We will pay our building note, and we will not cut Cooperative Program giving," he said he told them. "At the end of February, we are ahead in our budget... What is happening is a God thing. He is blessing his people who are committed to Kingdom growth."

I hope you will not miss the CP rally in your area. For more information on the rallies and information about making dinner reservations, visit www.kybaptist.org/cp rallies.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Celebrate God's work through the association

A visit to Nancy, a small community about 10 miles outside of Somerset, last week not only provided a look at the magnificent beauty of the Lake Cumberland area and some of the massive houseboats for which it has become so famous, but also my first real glimpse of Kentucky Baptist church life.

A highlight of the trip was visiting with several pastors there and seeing the churches where they serve, including the current convention president John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset. Toby invited business manager Tom Townsend and me to see his family farm, a gorgeous tract of land in the rolling foothills a few miles outside of town. There he has remodeled an old corn crib into a weekend retreat spot to hunt wild turkeys and deer; fish for catfish, bass and blue gill in the pond; or just reflect on the text of Sunday's message from the porch swing.

Associations have long been the backbone of Southern Baptist life, as local churches join together in cooperative ministry efforts to reach their communities for Christ. One can easily sense the pulse beat of Baptist work by listening to the ministry reports presented during an annual or semiannual meeting of a local association.

Pulaski County Baptists first formed their association at Somerset Baptist Church in 1904, with messengers attending from 23 churches. Today, the association, led by Director of Missions Malcolm Cheek, has grown to include some 61 congregations, comprised of nearly 11,500 resident members who jointly contribute almost three-quarters of a million dollars through the Cooperative Program, according to the most recent figures available.

During his report, Cheek shared about a recent mission trip to Russia, where he counseled a former pastor who recently lost his church due to an indiscretion. The pastor, who now drives a taxi, has made a public repentance for his actions. Using the biblical story of the clay in the Potter's hands, Cheek drew an analogy that the man's life may no longer be seen as a beautiful flower vase, yet God is able to reshape it into a cereal bowl that still may be very useful.

Cheek taught three youth classes, including a seminar on evangelism. In one of those classes, he illustrated how sin hardens one's heart to God by asking a strapping young man to pick up a card; pick up the card with a pen attached; pick up a chair that held the card and the pen; and then pick up the chair with someone sitting in it who was holding the card and pen. Obviously, the task became harder, just as it is increasingly difficult for one to confess sin the more it

impacts one's life.

Cheek challenged the youth to be willing to share their faith with at least one person during the next month, and eight raised their hands to indicate their commitment. While in Russia, Cheek rejoiced that he saw eight people won to the family of God.

Reporting for the association's missions committee, Mike Stacey spotlighted an upcoming opportunity to be involved with Project Noah, which restores and rebuilds houses that were damaged when Hurricane Katrina washed away many New Orleans neighborhoods. He also encouraged individuals to participate in Crossover Louisville this summer and to assist with constructing a church and doing evangelism in Nicaragua in July.

Burniece Scott thanked Pulaski Baptists for their assistance in its clothing ministry, noting that 124 families—a total of 419 people—had been served in the past two months. Coats, caps and gloves were provided for five children in one family who were on their way to school one morning, and one couple came to the center looking for wedding attire, she reported. Two people recently had been led to Christ, she rejoiced.

Youth rallies were held in November, January and February, each of which averaged 42 youth from six churches participating, Eddie West reported. And, Steve Hall provided an update on a recent Focus on Marriage Celebration that featured Beth Moore and Jeremy Camp, which was attended by 45 persons.

During the evangelism report, Ed Amundson urged churches to accept the 40/40 challenge, which sets a goal of 40 of the association's churches conducting community ministries and outreach activities during a 40-week period. These churches will give brief success reports at the association's next annual meeting. John Mark Toby also requested for as many churches as possible to be involved in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's "Find It Here" evangelistic media campaign.

Finally, Dusty Phelps, campus minister at Somerset Community College, told about various ways the churches are encouraging and reaching out to college students, and he thanked Pulaski Baptists for their continued support of Cooperative Program ministries.

Why are reports like these significant? After all, Pulaski Baptists are not the only ones who are doing these kinds of ministries and missions activities. That is precisely the point. In each of the 70 Baptist associations across our state, God is at work through churches as Baptists cooperate together to reach their communities for Christ, and that is something we can all affirm and celebrate.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



The importance of the door

By David Francis

Nashville, Tenn.—The door to your Sunday School class or department communicates a great deal more than you might think—especially to a first-time guest, a preschooler experiencing a separation anxiety, or parents entrusting their newborn to your care. Even regular attendees get a message.

The Sunday School experience begins at the door. Is your door a safe and inviting threshold to Bible study and fellowship? Here are some tips for making your door a vital part of your small group experience.

■ Station a person at the door. Nobody should come through your door without being greeted by a person (preferably someone with a sincere smile). In adult groups, this may be a greeter, but in preschool and children's rooms, this will almost certainly be a director or teacher. Make each person feel special. For adults, that might mean offering a firm handshake; for preschoolers

and children, you will want to kneel and greet them at eye-level.

■ Consider the view from the door. What does the parent or participant see from the door? Is it a room that is ready for learning and fellowship? In a preschool or children's room, are activity choices available on the tables? In an adult room, are the chairs mostly facing away from the door so that late participants can slip in without being stared at? In a baby room, does the view communicate "bright, clean and safe?" Stand outside your door and ask, "What do my eyes tell me about this room?"

■ Consider the smell from the door. In an adult room, nothing is quite as inviting as the smell of fresh coffee, pastries or fruit. In a preschool room, there is nothing quite as uninviting as the smell of ... well, you know. My wife and I teach pre-K Sunday school and we never have a problem with separation anxiety on the days we're baking cookies.

■ Consider the paperwork at the

door. Nothing is quite as awkward as the "Baptist paperwork" we subject guests to when they visit our churches, so make this paperwork as easy as possible for the new person. Never ask a guest to fill out a visitor's form. Instead, ask the greeter or a class member to fill out the form and introduce the guest at the appropriate time.

■ If you have a sign-in sheet as part of your children's security system, don't assume a new parent knows how to fill it out. Be available to walk them through the process.

■ Remember Jesus at the door. We all know the verse, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). Each person who comes through the door of your Sunday school classroom may be doing so in response to God's gentle knocking at the door of his/her heart. What if it is the first time—or one, last time? Do all you can to make it a great experience.

Francis is director of Sunday School at LifeWay Christian Resources.

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

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Christian estate planning basics

By Laurie Valentine

A Christian estate plan is one you develop by determining God's purposes for how your assets will pass at your death and for how your finances would be managed and decisions would be made for you if you became incapacitated during your lifetime.



To accomplish God's purposes regarding how your assets will pass at death, you need a written plan—a Will or Will and Trust—that directs how your probate estate (individually-owned assets and amounts payable to your estate or executor at your death) will

pass. Fine-tuning the written distribution plan under your Will can be accomplished with specific bequests of designated amounts or assets to specific charitable or individual beneficiaries. You may also need to make special provision for the management of the shares of your estate passing to young beneficiaries or incapacitated beneficiaries by including testamentary trust provisions in your Will.

Coordinate life insurance and retirement plan beneficiary designations with your written plan for asset distribution (your Will or Trust).

You also need to review the way in which your assets are titled. Assets titled as joint tenants with rights of survivorship do not pass under your Will; they pass to the surviving joint owner. This may conflict with the provisions of your Will that indicate a different overall plan of distribution.

God's purposes for asset management in the event you become incapacitated as the result of a stroke, an accident or illness may be accomplished by executing a Durable Power of Attorney. Using a Durable Power of Attorney allows you to empower someone of your choosing to make decisions for you and manage your finances if you become incapacitated in the future.

A revocable living trust can also provide a mechanism for management of assets in the event of incapacity, as well as distribution at death without probate.

To assure the appropriate person(s) have authority to make healthcare decisions for you, if you are incapacitated, a Healthcare Surrogate Designation should be considered. You may also determine that you want to put in writing your desires regarding life-prolonging medical procedures in the event of a terminal condition by executing a Living Will Directive.

Estate planning is an important part of every Christian's financial stewardship responsibilities. For more information, please contact me at (866) 489-3533 (toll-free).

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Baptists must rediscover the heart of evangelism

By Steve Hale

Since Sept. 11, 2001, our nation has been in a state of emergency and has put into place a strategy to protect us from ever again being attacked by terrorists. In the same way, our denomination has been fighting another war for years. It is much more subtle, but nonetheless, equally as real. The cultural war for Truth—actually a spiritual war for souls—is waging an all-out assault on the Church. The fallout from this war is felt more by our pastors than anyone else.

When have we seen so many prestigious ministries fail and prominent preachers fall due to moral indiscretions? For various reasons, approximately 1,300 pastors are terminated each year. But the real fallout is seen in the anemic evangelistic efforts of our churches. With approximately 80 percent of our churches in decline, 10,000 of them baptized no one last year and another 11,000 baptized less than six.

Sixty percent of our 43,000 churches failed to baptize one teenager last year. In fact, if a church baptized 29 then it was in the top two percent of the entire denomination.

Southern Baptists are considered the most aggressively evangelistic denomination in the world. Given these disturbing numbers, it is understandable why 3,500-4,000 churches in America close their doors every year.

Yet, if you were to ask most of our Southern Baptist evangelists, it would not be uncommon for them to see 29 professions of faith in a four-day revival meeting. If, indeed, a church can see more people saved in four days by utilizing a vocational evangelist than in an entire year, then why are local church revivals not being scheduled by the hun-

dreds and why are evangelists not being utilized as in days past?

We hear excuses that people are busier than ever. So what? When proper leadership is given, adequate preparation is implemented, and an anointed evangelist is secured, people will and do attend. Souls will be saved and the church will be revived.

Evangelists are special forces in the Lord's army. They are professionals. Their call from God is as legitimate as any pastor's.

When churches fail to utilize these men, they are neglecting one of the great gifts God has bestowed upon the Church. It is as though a satanic conspiracy has prevented the gift of the evangelist from being maximized. Denominational leaders can try and re-define it. We can say the revival methodology is no longer viable. We can relegate evangelistic strategy. We can pretend that Ephesians 4:11 does not exist. But those men who leave their families week after week to reach souls for Christ, see the difference that revivals make in the life of a church.

Yet, the perception is that "nobody" ever schedules a revival anymore. And to be sure, most do not. Consequently, the spiritual terrorist and all of his demonic cohorts are successfully eliminating God-called evangelists from the evangelical landscape.

When I entered the field of evangelism 30 years ago, there were 1,200 Southern Baptist evangelists. Today, there are less than 200, including musicians and preachers. Of that 200, I venture to say less than 50 are staying busy. Without sounding self-serving, in the last two months we have seen an average of 45 professions of faith each week (and I am

actually a revivalist more than an evangelist).

Considering that 98 percent of churches will not see that many baptized in a year's time, it is baffling to evangelists as to why our denomination does not give more attention to this "special forces" unit in fighting the war for souls, which is apparent to all that we are losing. We baptized as many in the 1950's as we are today.

Evangelists were much more utilized then, but we dare not connect the dots. To be sure, the culture has changed but the gift of the evangelist has not been revoked by God.

Our churches have never been in such dire need of a strong prophetic word from a fearless man of God who will address the issues of carnality and lukewarmness with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

While it appears that we are losing the cultural war for truth and the war for souls within the Church, it is not a time to call a retreat. Since itinerate ministries have always been at the heart of God's agenda in bringing spiritual awakening to a nation, if such a resurgence of souls is to be experienced by our denomination, it is unlikely that He will bypass His evangelists who have been gifted for this purpose.

For us preachers, the call that God has placed on our lives beckons us to be passionate standard-bearers who refuse to throw in the towel. Evangelists are reporting for duty and ready to be dispatched to our given assignments. Let's join hands and be part of the greatest spiritual surge in America's history.

Hale, of Woodstock, Ga., is past president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. This article appeared in the Nov. 6, 2008 issue of *The Christian Index*, the Georgia Baptist paper.

Club for non-cursers ridiculed

By Kelly Boggs

Alexandra, La.—He has received more than 60,000 pieces of hate mail in the past seven weeks and profanity-laced e-mails daily fill his inbox. Teaming with the torrent of written abuse has been scores of threatening voice messages. So, just who is this vilified individual and what has he done to earn such scorn?

The person being subjected to the abuse is McKay Hatch, a 15-year-old high school freshman in Pasadena, Calif. Hatch is being attacked because he had the audacity to begin a club dedicated to curtailing profanity at his school.

On the "No Cussing Club" Web site (www.nocussing.com), Hatch shares how the club got its start.

"I started the 'No Cussing Club' at my junior high school ... in 2007," he writes. "A lot of kids at my school, and some of my friends, would cuss and use dirty language all the time. They did it so much, they didn't even realize they were doing it."

When Hatch told his friends that the cussing bothered him, he says "they were shocked." As a result the group accepted a "No Cussing Challenge" whereby they made a "commitment to themselves to use better language."

Hatch received approval for his club at his high school. On "club rush day," 100 people joined. Soon

after, the website went up and now the "No Cussing Club" boasts more than 20,000 members from all over the globe.

The "No Cussing Club" has also affected adults. At least two California municipalities have adopted a "no cussing week" designed to encourage the use of clean language.

I visited the "No Cussing Club" website and joined Hatch's effort to encourage clean language. I agree with him that public discourse is too prolific with profanity.

Movies and television programs intended for general audiences once contained no cursing or sexual innuendo. Now you are hard-pressed to find mass media without crude content. As a result, cussing has trickled down and stained everyday discourse.

Language once uttered only by tough-talking men is now routinely heard at school, the mall, the park and from the mouths of children.

While cussing has been around as long as there has been communication, until recently its public use has been frowned upon. Once, those who flaunted vulgar words and phrases were considered to be rude, crude or socially inept.

"The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a vice so mean and low," said George Washington, "that every person of

sense and character detests and despises it." Our first president would be disappointed at the proliferation of profanity that has occurred in the nation he helped found.

So, why are so many proponents of profanity threatened by a voluntary club designed to promote the use of clean language?

If you take a look at Hatch's detractors through the lens of Scripture, you gain some perspective. "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart," the Bible says (Matthew 12:34). Scripture also states, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses, slanders" (Matthew 15:19).

Speech—as well as action—is a matter of the heart. An undisciplined heart produces an unrestrained vocabulary as well as erratic behavior. Those attacking Hatch for his "No Cussing Club" overreact because their hearts—like their vocabulary—are out of control.

With much chagrin, even the most disciplined person might have an explicative escape his or her lips. However, the "No Cussing Club" is not about the infrequent slip of the tongue. Hatch is calling attention to the unfettered and unrestrained use of profanity that degrades and sullies our culture. For that he deserves accolades, not attacks.

Boggs is editor of the *Baptist Message*, news-journal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

What is Pharisaical parenting?

By David Garrard

Pharisees were one of two dominant groups of religious leaders during the days of Jesus—the other being the Sadducees. Pharisees were a proud group, known for their strict adherence to the law. The Pharisees were always doing things for show. They wanted their good works to be seen by others. As such, "Pharisaical Parenting" is a phrase I have coined to describe parenting that deliberately models certain behaviors for children.

There were times when Jesus deliberately did and said things for the express benefit of those around Him. See John 11:41-42 and the account of Jesus raising Lazarus for an example.

As Christian parents, there are certain things our children need to see us doing and hear us saying. Our children need to see us reading and studying our Bible. They need to hear us praying and see us giving our money. They need to see us involved in acts of ministry. They need to hear our casual and constant acknowledgment that we have placed our trust in God. They need to see and hear consistent evidence that our faith is real and makes a difference in our every day life.

The idea of Pharisaical Parenting underscores the importance of personal example. As has often been said, when it comes to children, more is usually caught than taught.

Of course, Pharisaical Parenting could also be used to describe the parenting philosophy that says, "Do as I say, not as I do." In Luke 12, Jesus warned about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, challenging the ways in which their lifestyles differed from their teachings. Obviously, parents should want to avoid such hypocrisy, and the confusing message it sends to children.

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



BAPTIST DIGEST

Wake Forest Divinity dean to step down—Bill Leonard, the founding dean of the School of Divinity at Wake Forest University, will step down as dean in 2010 but will continue to teach there, the school has announced. Leonard will step down as dean on June 30, 2010. He came to Wake Forest, located in Winston-Salem, N.C., in 1996 to establish the divinity school which opened in 1999. Leonard, author and editor of 16 books, is an expert on Baptists, including the battles between conservatives and moderates within the Southern Baptist Convention. He will remain chair of church history at the divinity school. School officials will begin a search for Leonard's replacement later this year.

Baptists getting older, study says—Baptists may be the grayest of any major religious group in America, according to a study released March 9 by Trinity College of Connecticut. The 2008 American Religious Identification Survey, the third set of data in a landmark study tracking changes in religious loyalties, reported 21 percent of the people who identify themselves as Baptists are 70 and older. That compares to 12 percent of the general population, 13 percent of Catholics, 14 percent of mainline Christians and 10 percent of Mormons who fall in that age range. Forty percent of the national population is 50 or older, while 58 percent of Baptists fall into that age bracket. The survey defines "Baptist" in a broad sense, including Southern Baptist, American Baptist, Free Will, Missionary and African-American denominations.

Pastor accused of setting fire to church—A Southern Baptist pastor in South Carolina is facing arson charges after allegedly setting fire to his own church building March 8. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division announced the arrest of Christopher Daniels, 41, on a charge of second-degree arson. A press release said Daniels "willfully and maliciously" set fire to Blue Ridge Baptist Church in Belton. Roger Orman, associate executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said the congregation—until recently known as Triangle Baptist Church—is on a roster of churches that cooperate with the state convention. A local newspaper said about half of the congregation's active membership—about 25 members, mostly elderly women—stopped attending after a series of attacks by vandals who spray-painted what appeared to be gang symbols on walls of the sanctuary. If convicted, Daniels could receive up to 25 years in prison.

Police investigate Mo. Baptist nursing school—Police in Springfield, Mo., are investigating the suspected embezzlement of more than \$500,000 from a nursing school operated jointly by a Baptist university and a Catholic hospital. The Springfield News-Leader reported March 11 that St. John's College of Nursing and Health Sciences told police about the missing money on March 5. The college is operated in partnership between St. John's Mercy Health System and Southwest Baptist University, a four-year school with 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students in nearby Bolivar, Mo. The paper quoted a spokesperson of the nursing school who said one employee had been fired and the matter turned over to police. The article quoted an officer who said an arrest had been made, but the suspect's name was being withheld until charges are filed.

Jerry Johnson joins Midwestern—Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have approved the selection of former college president Jerry Johnson as vice president of academic development. Johnson, in addition to his election as professor of ethics and theology, was named chief academic officer to succeed Thorvald Madsen who becomes dean of Midwestern Baptist College. Johnson, 44, joins Midwestern after serving nearly five years as president of Criswell College in Dallas and host of a daily syndicated radio program on ethics and public policy. He earlier served as dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's undergraduate Boyce College in Louisville.

Trustees keep Liberty Univ. gun-free—Liberty University will remain gun-free, school trustees decided March 3. Last year, Liberty's chapter of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus asked university officials to change the school's firearm policies to allow people with concealed-handgun permits to carry weapons on campus. According to local media, trustees did not take a formal vote at their meeting but agreed by consensus to continuing the policy of allowing only police officers to bear arms while on campus. Officials said a major concern was that if permit holders live in a dorm, their weapons might fall into the wrong hands. He also said some faculty members were uncomfortable with students carrying weapons while they handed out grades.

Student pastors introducing Internet social media as new missions frontier

By Jill Waggoner

Alexandria, Minn.—The printing press, radio, television—with each of these revolutionary inventions, Christians have used them to spread the gospel. Today, believers of the same mind, but different era, are taking the message of Christ to social media such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, podcasts, YouTube, Flickr, MySpace and the like. Facebook alone now reaches more than 140 million members.

Minnesota youth pastor Tim Schmoyer saw an opportunity to share Christ through such sites and organized an "Online Missions Trip," described as "a two-week outreach campaign for teenagers and youth leaders to capitalize on the tremendous social opportunities that exist on the Internet and use it to share Christ with unsaved friends all over the world."

Schmoyer promoted the February outreach, pulling in more than 2,000 individuals and dozens of churches as participants.

Doug Blankenship, self-described "Twitter-aholic" and youth pastor at Holland Avenue Baptist Church in Cayce, S.C., saw Schmoyer's posts and became interested in signing up his group.

"I was attracted to a new approach and new look at the old established goal that we have 'to reach out,'" Blankenship said.

"Renew our emphasis"

The Online Missions Trip also came at a strategic time in his church's life, Blankenship noted. Prior to the outreach, his youth group had been studying "Dare 2 Share" evangelism curriculum.

"I thought the Online Missions Trip would be a way to renew our emphasis to be comfortable and confident in bringing God up in conversation with people, and not be afraid, intimidated or feel like a weirdo," said Blankenship, who used his Facebook status updates, posts and profile to talk about Jesus, eternity and the Bible.

Blankenship said he hopes to

continue to incorporate the Internet and social media into his ministry "to spread the gospel even wider." He also plans to hold training sessions for parents of youth to help them understand the media better.

After the Online Missions Trip, Blankenship and his youth group will seek to funnel new students into their small group ministry where leaders are preparing to begin "The Case for Christ" study by author Lee Strobel.

Blankenship mentioned he is praying that a wrap-up gathering for the Online Missions Trip will include at least "two or three students sharing that they had a conversation where they really went beyond what they have in the past. ... If a few share, then that mindset spreads to others.

"I'll never be as effective in sharing with their friends as they are. They are making Christ known and real to friends who don't believe. If this is a first step to seeing that happen, that's exactly why we jumped in." (BP)

Kentucky seminary honors longtime professor

Lexington—The Baptist Seminary of Kentucky honored one of its founding professors for 50 years of teaching by launching an endowed lecture series in his name earlier this month.

The Baptist school on the campus of the Lexington Theological Seminary established the E. Glenn Hinson Lecture Series to honor the life and work of its senior professor of church history and spirituality. Future lectures will build on Hinson's legacy of study in spiritual formation, church history, ecumenism and Baptist history.

One of the things Hinson, 77, said he learned over 50 years of teaching

is "that you have to play the hand you are dealt." That means teachers "should take account of your limitations."

"I wouldn't give you a nickel for deafness," said Hinson, who has dealt with hearing loss for many years, "but, let me say, I wouldn't take a million dollars for what I have learned because I have had to cope with this handicap."

The longtime professor said he probably would have been a better teacher with good hearing, but he benefitted from improving hearing-aid technology that allowed him to continue his work. Once more at the point of being unable to function in

a classroom, Hinson soon will have cochlear implants installed.

John Inscore Essick, recently named assistant professor of church history and Hinson's successor at the Kentucky seminary, introduced a panel of Hinson's former students responding to his remarks.

"Seminary professors are often, for better or for worse, like a stone dropped into a calm pool," Essick said. "Ripples, endless ripples, go out from that point."

"You," he said to Hinson, "have been like a very fine stone dropped into a very needy pool, and you have left many ripples as a result of that." (ABP)

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and StillWater

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I know you, like I, want to have a part in ensuring that Christian men, women, boys and girls will be challenged and equipped continually into the future to understand and to be radically involved in the mission of God on this earth in order to change a life and change the world. An effective way for us to do that is by giving to—and through—the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Heritage Fund. My wife and I have been ongoing givers since the fund's inception.

Anyone and everyone can give something, in any amount and at any time. You can give by check, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares or real estate. You can give by a beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy or a retirement account. You also can include a bequest in your will or trust.

To the extent you cannot give up the income from an asset, you may need to consider a life income gift, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. For some, a charitable lead trust would work nicely with a fixed payment to the Heritage Fund for a fixed term or years, with the remaining

principal returned to you or your heirs at the end of the term.

For information about any of these giving options, please call Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine or me toll free. For information about the Heritage Fund, please call Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton toll free at (866) 489-3534.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



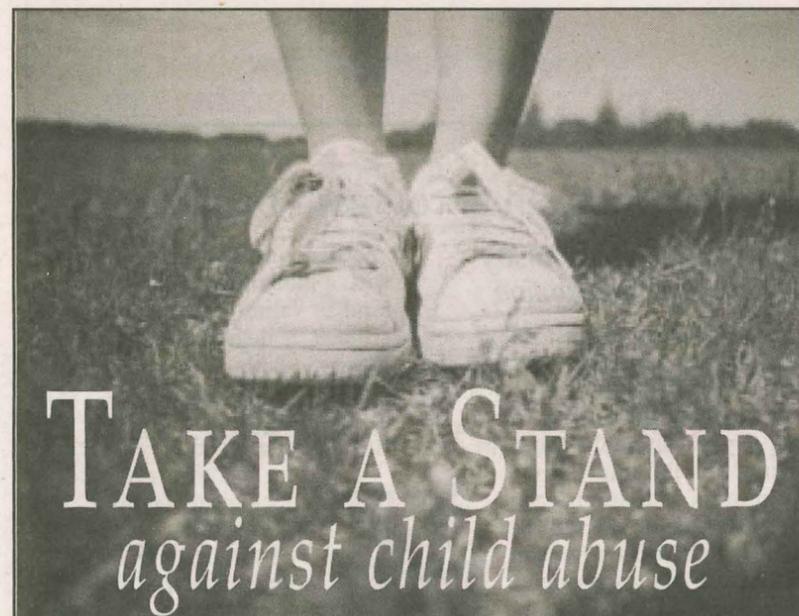
Barry Allen

Also, let me encourage you to visit www.KyWMU.org and click "Estate Planning" on the sidebar. Kentucky WMU has provided some valuable and helpful information about estate stewardship.

I especially encourage you to take 30 minutes and complete the entirely confidential and personally interactive web-based Estate Plan Organizer tool. It allows you to gather valuable information for more effective planning. If you desire, you can take that information to your estate planning attorney, or send it to Valentine for a private consultation session.

I look forward to seeing many of you next week at the WMU annual meeting in Richmond.

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



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Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Insect indicated in Deuteronomy 1:44
- 4 Clothes
- 8 Book division
- 12 Son of Abijam and good king of Judah
- 13 Medicinal plant
- 14 One of David's valiant men: _____ the Ahohite (1 Chronicles 11:29)
- 15 Affirmative
- 16 Blue or White
- 17 Sets goals
- 18 "For he is Lord of lords, and _____ (3 words)" (Revelation 17:14)
- 21 Members of conger family
- 22 "His bones are like bars of _____" (Job 40:18)
- 23 Debris
- 25 African antelope
- 26 Apiece (abbr.)
- 28 "The _____ are a people not strong" (Proverbs 30:25)
- 29 Child's play
- 30 Fine-feathered filler
- 32 Empire state (abbr.)
- 33 Reporter's question
- 34 Pulled along
- 35 "The day dawn, and the day _____ arise in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19)
- 37 Horse or brake
- 38 Powerful acclamation of Jesus (3 words) (1 Timothy 6)
- 41 Add to the payroll
- 42 Father of Amos (Luke 3:25)
- 43 Shanty
- 45 Before (prefix)
- 46 Priest who "brought the law" (Nehemiah 8)

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

- 47 Wrath
- 48 Postparty scene
- 49 Quadrant of D.C.
- 50 "Be strong, and quit yourselves like _____" (1 Samuel 4:9)

Down

- 1 Hudson, for one
- 2 "He called the name of the well _____; because they strove with him" (Genesis 26:20)
- 3 Most direct, as a route
- 4 To make a knot
- 5 Medleys
- 6 Volkswagen vehicle
- 7 "I come _____ fruit on this fig tree, and find none" (Luke 13:7)
- 8 _____ forte
- 9 Straighten, as a column
- 10 Drives into
- 11 Poetic contraction
- 19 New Jersey pros
- 20 Son of Caleb (1 Chronicles 4:15)
- 23 Pale
- 24 "If _____ of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God" (James 1:5)
- 25 Enola _____

- 26 Nathan told David the story of the _____ lamb
- 27 Conjunction
- 29 "By him were all things created ... whether they be _____, or dominions" (Colossians 1:16)
- 30 "Behold, the judge standeth before the _____" (James 5:9)
- 31 "One was brought unto him, which _____ (2 words) ten thousand talents" (Matthew 18:24)
- 33 Lump sum
- 34 Doubting disciple
- 35 Sifts, like socks
- 36 Ash, and others
- 37 Disparaging remark
- 38 "Their _____ is gone out through all the earth" (Psalm 19:4)
- 39 Bother
- 40 "Be ye _____ of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you" (Luke 10:11)
- 41 Son of Noah
- 44 "Your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages _____ times" (Genesis 31:7)

Last week's solution

1	A	R	E	4	S	E	E	R	8	M	A	N	
12	P	A	T	13	T	E	N	E	14	E	R	E	
15	T	H	E	L	O	R	D	L	I	V	E	T	H
20	H	A	N	G	S	22	A	R	I	S	E	S	
25	A	L	A	S	26	C	I	T	E	D	X	I	
29	M	I	L	30	O	I	L	E	D	31	S	I	N
32	A	V	E	N	T	E	R	34	B	A	L	K	
35	N	E	A	T	L	Y	37	S	A	V	E	S	
40	P	R	A	I	S	E	T	H	E	L	O	R	D
48	H	A	S	O	D	O	U	R	50	U	T	E	
51	I	N	E	N	O	T	E	S	53	R	E	W	

Rash of shootings gets churches thinking about sanctuary safety

Continued from page 1

One day after the shooting, church security consultant Marc Brooks fielded calls from eight congregations eager to get firearms into the hands of worship staff or volunteers.

Those churches will first need to pass Brooks' state-certified test to carry a concealed weapon. But keeping a congregation safe from violent outbursts does not always have to involve guns in the sanctuary, he insisted.

"If you need firearms training, then we do that," said Brooks, a deputy sheriff and chief instructor for Protective Services Training & Consultants in Thornton, Colo. But sometimes church security "doesn't require a firearm. It just requires that you're alert and that you're in shape and that you're able to protect your pastor."

Church security issues have become a fresh cause of concern in the wake of several deadly incidents, including that in Illinois. In recent months:

- A man stunned a group of tourists in February when he fatally shot himself at the foot of a cross at the Crystal Cathedral in California.

- Last November, a gunman allegedly killed his estranged wife and a worshipper who rushed to her aid at a church in Clifton, N.J.

- Last July, a man with an apparent grudge against liberals opened fire inside a Knoxville, Tenn., Unitarian Universalist congregation, killing two and wounding six.

These events, plus others from recent years, have churches large and small wondering what—if anything—they can and should do to ensure safe environments. It can be a tough question to answer, not just because of limited resources but also because most congregations strive to be welcoming, especially to strangers.

Carnegie Mellon University criminologist Jacqueline Cohen suspects church violence might even be less prevalent today than in generations past, in part because criminals have more alterna-

tives if they are seeking an audience or a reliable place to locate their victims.

Church violence appears to be increasing, Cohen said, because a shooting in church "distinguishes it from other murders, and it makes people afraid to be in a place where they otherwise feel safe, and those are the dynamics that (lead to widespread coverage) in the media."

Even so, churches are concerned by incidents that capture attention, and a cottage industry has cropped up in recent years to advise them on security issues.

Experts recommend churches begin their security efforts by learning to spot their vulnerabilities. That means conferring with a security consultant or local law enforcement, according to Rick Anderson, founder of Church Security Solutions in Salem, Ore.

From there, Anderson suggests assembling a team to look for "pre-incident indicators," such as a stranger who appears nervous, avoids eye contact and cuts casual conversation short. Attention to the unordinary, coupled with strategic placement of team members around the sanctuary, can help reduce the risk of an incident, he explained.

But such lessons are not always easy to learn when churchgoers strive to be accommodating in a house of worship. "If somebody looks at us crossways or we get an uneasy feeling, we tend to forgive them and go on about our business," Anderson said. "We actually suppress our gut check, (but) we shouldn't dismiss cues that in our gut tell us something is not right."

For churches considering whether to have an armed presence, the issues get more complex. Anderson generally encourages congregations to enlist armed members who are law enforcement officers with access to firearms and emergency training. Having a uniformed security presence, he said, can be "a great deterrent."

Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Religion News Service's G. Jeffrey McDonald

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'I came to Oneida for a new, fresh life'

Former students gain new perspective of Oneida after being away for awhile

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is receiving letters, phone calls or e-mails from former students who have taken time to look back at their Oneida experiences. When I was a student at OBI in the early '60s, I didn't fully understand how blessed I was to be able to attend here. I believe I had a greater appreciation for the opportunity than many of my peers, but it took about 10 years for me to begin to really appreciate my Oneida experience.

Having done that, you can understand how rewarding it is for me to hear from a graduate who has taken time to look back at his or her Oneida years with a deeper sense of gratitude. The other day I received an e-mail from a young lady who graduated a few years ago. I would like to share part of what she wrote:

"Well, it has been several years since I graduated and not a day goes by that I do not think about Oneida, a former teacher, roommate or a friend that I still talk to weekly. I am very thankful for Oneida and the staff. I have had my ups and downs since I left Oneida, just like a lot of other students, but I have managed to pull myself together. Oneida taught me a lot, it just took me a while to realize it and put it all to use. I took so much for granted.

"I came to Oneida for a new, fresh life. My parents had been incarcerated and my sisters and I were to live with our grandparents. I really didn't like the thought of that. I was not a very bad kid, I was just confused. ... When my grandparents offered the idea of a boarding school, I laughed.

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

"Then, as my grades began to drop even more and I started to hang out with the 'wrong crowd,' I had no choice. I was very hesitant at first but I agreed and said I was only staying until Thanksgiving. ... I never thought anyone at Oneida would 'get' to me. Their stories may not have been the same as mine but they knew how I felt. As Thanksgiving approached, I had made new friends, good grades and started playing sports. I didn't want to go home. I loved OBI!

"I was at Oneida for four years. I participated in volleyball, cheerleading, softball, basketball, BETA, SGA, BSU and I was editor of the school newspaper. These are all things I would have never done if I weren't at OBI. I was voted most versatile, most athletic and most flirtatious."

I wrote about this young lady in an earlier column years ago when she was a senior. She—like a lot of other young people, including myself—needed to be at OBI. Fortunately, her grandparents were Baptists and had always known about Oneida.

When students enroll, each one is asked why he or she wants to come to OBI. This girl said, "I want to make better grades and grow spiritually." In her senior essay she wrote, "The single most important thing I've learned at Oneida is what true friendship is. ... My friends (before I came to Oneida) said they cared about me but I know they didn't. ... I will miss OBI more than I realize. ... Oneida is an all-around good place and I am grateful I have had the opportunity to go to school here."

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

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Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Critics: Obama stem cell order unethical, unnecessary

By Tom Strode

Washington—President Barack Obama March 9 overturned a prohibition on federal funding of stem cell research that destroys embryos, drawing protests from supporters of the previous policy who said his action is both unethical and unnecessary.

Signed at a White House ceremony, Obama's executive order rescinded a policy instituted by President George W. Bush in 2001. Bush's rule barred the use of federal funds for stem cell research that results in the destruction of human embryos.

Because of their ability to develop into other cells and tissues, stem cells provide hope for producing cures for a variety of diseases. Many scientists have promoted embryonic stem cell research, because stem cells from embryos are pluripotent, meaning they can transform into any cell or tissue in the body. Extracting stem cells from an embryo, however, destroys it.

Obama's order lifted the previous policy but left the details on funding to the National Institutes of Health, which is to issue guidelines within 120 days.

The president's action was expected. Obama pledged in February to reverse Bush's policy, but the foreseeable action did little to cushion the blow for embryonic stem cell research foes.

"This is a sad day for the sanctity of all human life in America," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Obama, Land added, "has declared open season on unborn babies, allowing them to be destroyed for the sole purpose of harvesting their embryonic cells and tissues in the hopes of discovering treatments for maladies and diseases affecting older and bigger



CONTROVERSIAL CHOICE President Barack Obama signs an executive order on stem cell research while in the East Room of the White House March 9. Critics have decried the president's move which they say will destroy live human embryos. (RNS photo by Larry Downing/Reuters)

human beings."

Obama's order also flies in the face of research results, critics indicated.

Human trials using stem cells from non-embryonic sources have produced therapies for at least 73 ailments in human beings, despite the fact such cells are not considered pluripotent, according to Do No Harm, a coalition promoting ethics in research. Extracting non-embryonic stem cells does not harm the donor.

In addition, scientists have discovered in the last 16 months ways of converting adult cells into cells that have nearly the identical properties of embryonic ones. Such cells are labeled induced pluripotent stem cells.

"Funding ESCR is unethical, unnecessary and another example of the Obama administration's wasteful spending practices," said C. Ben Mitchell, bioethics professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in suburban Chicago and a consultant for the

ERLC. "Amazing advances in medical science are coming from adult and iPS stem cell research. The president should direct his concern towards these sources of stem cells."

Before signing the order, Obama said the previous administration had "forced what I believe is a false choice between sound science and moral values. In this case, I believe the two are not inconsistent. As a person of faith, I believe we are called to care for each other and work to ease human suffering. I believe we have been given the capacity and will to pursue this research—and the humanity and conscience to do so responsibly."

His administration will enforce "strict guidelines" to make certain the research is "both scientifically worthy and responsibly conducted," Obama announced. "We will ensure that our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction."

Land and other foes of the new policy pointed out, however, that the president's statement did not eliminate the possibility of cloning embryos for research.

"Most experts believe (the current) supply of embryos will soon be exhausted by federally funded research demands, and this will build pressure to allow embryos to be created by cloning for the sole purpose of harvesting their cells before they reach 14 days' gestation," Land said. "President Obama made a chilling allusion to this when he said the guidelines 'will ensure that our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction,' which of course, leaves open the specter of legalizing cloning for supplies of embryonic stem cell purposes." (BP)

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After Illinois shooting, Arkansas lawmaker wants concealed weapons in churches

Little Rock, Ark.—Days after a fatal shooting at an Illinois megachurch, an Arkansas lawmaker said she plans to make a second try to pass a bill allowing concealed weapons in churches.

"I have received numerous e-mails and phone calls concerning this wanting me to bring this back, none against it," State Rep. Beverly Pyle, a Republican, told Little Rock CBS affiliate KTHV-TV.

The bill, which Pyle originally introduced Jan. 29, would remove churches from a list of locations where people licensed to carry concealed weapons cannot bring guns.

The bill passed through the House of Representatives but died on a voice vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Feb. 25, according to the Associated Press. There were only two votes for the measure, and Pyle needed five.

Pyle is making changes to the proposal—including removing a clause that would require churches to post a notice on whether they allow guns on their property—and plans to take it back to the committee next week, according to KTHV.

Pyle said she thinks some senators may vote

differently this time around after a gunman fatally shot Fred Winters in the pulpit of First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill., just outside St. Louis, March 8.

Police said the suspect in the shooting, 27-year-old Terry Joe Sedlacek, was armed with enough ammunition to kill as many as 30 people and had planned the attack to the point of writing "death day" on his planning calendar for March 8.

His weapon jammed after four shots, however, before he pulled a knife and wounded himself and two church members trying to subdue him.

State Sen. Hank Wilkins, a Democrat, told KTHV he may change his vote from no to yes.

"In light of the shooting (March 8) I think there will be a number of legislators who will want to reconsider this," Wilkins said.

State Sen. Robert Thompson, also a Democrat, acknowledged he is still unsure about his vote.

"I haven't made up my mind to be honest with you. I think Rep. Pyle made a good argument that the current law violates separation of church and state. If it were a cleaner bill I might be able to vote for it," Thompson told KTHV. (RNS)

14th Annual Woman to Woman Conference

Binghamtown Baptist Church
Middlesboro KY

April 4
8:30am—2pm

Featuring: Kathy Slamp of
Vessel Ministries

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For information & Registration:
Janice (606)248-8733 or Betty (606)248-5600

Research suggests faith lowers stress levels

Toronto—Canadian researchers have found that strong religious convictions can lower stress and enhance the performance of basic tasks.

A team in Toronto put 28 students through tests measuring both levels of religious observance and stress caused by making mistakes on a test.

The newly published study by professors at the University of Toronto and York University points to religious believers out-performing non-believers on cognitive tasks.

"The more religious they were, the less brain activity they showed in response to their own errors," said University of Toronto assistant psy-

chology professor Michael Inzlicht, lead author of the study. "They are calmer when they make errors."

Using electrodes, researchers monitored brain activity and found subjects with high levels of religious observance experienced less activity in the part of the brain that governs anxiety and helps modify behavior. The more religious zeal individuals showed, the better they did on the test.

"The more they believe, the less brain activity we see in response to their own errors," Inzlicht said. Religious people "were much less anxious and stressed when they made an error" (DNC)

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for the Acts 1:8 Challenge conferences, which will be held March 31-April 4 in Bowling Green, Hazard, Owenton and Salem.

■ Pray that God will provide a Southern region prayer coordinator for Operation Bended Knee.

■ Pray for those Kentucky Baptist volunteer mission teams that are planning and preparing for their trips for 2009.

■ Pray for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department staff: Consultant George Chinn; Ministry Assistant Mary Livingston; and Director Scott Pittman.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will host the **Hallelujah Singers** from Immanuel Church in Lexington March 25, 10 a.m., at the school's Ransdell Chapel.

■ **CLINTON**—Second Church recently ordained **Gaylon Bruer**, pastor of Oak Grove Church in Arlington, to the gospel ministry. **Larry Fraser** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Central Avenue Church ordained **Teofilo Pino** to the gospel ministry March 8. **J.D. Shipp** is pastor.

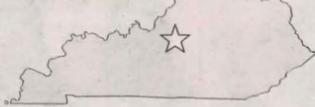
■ **FARMINGTON**—Farmington Church will hold revival services March 22-25, 7 p.m., with **Ronnie Sivells**, Kentucky Baptist Convention church development strategist, as evangelist. **Ben Stratton** is pastor.

■ **GLASGOW**—Glasgow Church recently called **Ken Brown** as associate pastor for worship and senior adults. He previously was associate pastor for worship and music at First Church of Morganfield. **Bill Whittaker** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church will hold revival services, "Running the Race of Life Successfully," March 22-27, 7 p.m., with **Ron Lasley**, race-track chaplain at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, as evangelist. **Dan Powell** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Bardstown



New Beginning Church will host **Lee Thomas**, author of "Praying Effectively for the Lost," March 27, 7 p.m. For more information, call Pastor **Isaac Ferguson** at (502) 348-7044.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will hold revival services March 20-21, 6:30 p.m.; March 22, 8:45 a.m., with **Matthew Gullion**, pastor of First Church of Salyersville, as evangelist.

■ **OWENTON**—Pleasant Ridge Church will honor Pastor **David Wotier** and his family March 22 for his 20 years of service to the church. A luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. worship service, with an honorary service, 2:30 p.m., and reception, 3:30 p.m.

■ **PAINTSVILLE**—First Church recently called **Wil Owens** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Shepherd Street Church recently recognized Pastor **James Brasher's** 20 years of service to the church.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 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 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.

April

- 3-5 Collegiate Leadership Training Conference, Cedarmore Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 4 RA Congress Region 5, Macedonia Baptist Church, Dry Ridge.
- 14 Iron Sharpening Iron, Mr. B's Pizza and Wings, Henderson.
- 16 Iron Sharpening Iron, Georgetown College.
- 17-18 4:GO, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.
- 17-18 Exalt, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.
- 18 Get Small, Georgetown College.
- 20 Senior Living Celebration, Zion Baptist Church, Henderson.
- 20 Iron Sharpening Iron, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Prestonsburg.
- 21 Understanding Other Beliefs, Casky Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 21 Senior Living Celebration, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 21 Developing & Managing People, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

Urban ministry expert to deliver Georgetown College lecture

Georgetown—Georgetown College will host Bruce Main, president and executive director of UrbanPromise Ministries in Camden, N.J., as its Danford Thomas lecturer March 24 at 11 a.m. at the school's John L. Hill Chapel.

His address is titled, "Why a Faith-based Response Can Address Root Causes of Urban Poverty." The event is geared toward pastors, socially aware

leaders and other individuals who want to assist youth residing in impoverished areas.

Main, who recently was selected by Christianity Today Magazine as one of America's "Up & Coming Leaders under 40," founded UrbanPromise in 1988. The ministry seeks to revitalize impoverished urban communities through Christian-based comprehensive youth development pro-



Bruce Main

grams. It hosts after-school programs, summer camps, employment readiness programs, entrepreneurial training opportunities, missionary internships and alternative schools for teens. UrbanPromise also operates the Camden Forward School, an elementary school for low-income families.

In recent years, Georgetown College students have

participated in spring break mission trips to serve with UrbanPromise. Several students and faculty members are serving there during this week's spring break.

The Danford Thomas Lecture has been held at Georgetown College since 1927. It honors the memory of one of the school's first permanent faculty members. The event is free and open to the public.

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: 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 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 resúmes to Alan Walters at alan_walters@adp.com before March 30, 2009.

NEEDED: Large passenger van for Labor of Love Ministries (W.V.) to transport young mothers to school, work, doctor appointments. Call Judy at (304) 276-2965.

SEEKING: Part-time minister/director of youth ministry (grades 7-12). Green Acres Baptist Church, 5075 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40219; or e-mail: greenacresbaptist@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Prayer and soul-winning partner for 73-year-old Louisville-area man. Call Clarence at (502) 851-4336.

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 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: 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: 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 kubigrack@aol.com.

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: 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 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or e-mail to sally@fbchodgenville.org.

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

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

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

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

RecLab focuses on ministry, both physical and spiritual

By Brooklyn Noel Lowery
LifeWay Christian Resources

San Antonio—Playtime could save your life.

At least that is what leaders at LifeWay's recent RecLab training event wanted conference participants to understand about sports and recreation ministry.

"The activity is secondary," noted John Garner, longtime RecLab speaker and conference host. "Sharing the gospel in an intentional way is the primary purpose. If you're just there to play games, you can do that at the city park. Life is too short, and the gospel is too important."

Earlier this year, about 200 people from as far away as Albany, N.Y., gathered in San Antonio for RecLab, a conference LifeWay has been hosting annually since the mid-1960s. RecLab is a training event designed to offer tips, trends and networking opportunities to individuals who work in sports and recreation ministry, an area of ministry that encompasses everything from church softball leagues and sports camps to family festivals and father-son game nights.

Diverse needs

Because the ministry is so diverse, RecLab participants arrived in San Antonio with a variety of needs and hopes for the conference.

"The face of my church is older," said Stacey Smith, a first-time RecLab participant and minister of recreation at First Baptist Church of Madison, Miss. "I'm really looking for activities that I could offer to senior adults."

Before he even had attended the "Senior Adult 65+" breakout session, Smith learned about In His Grip, a golf ministry program founded by RecLab speaker Scott Lehman. After listening to Lehman's presentation during the "In His Grip" breakout session, Smith said the program sounded promising since golf was an activity he could use as both a fellowship and an outreach opportunity at his church.

"I realize recreation ministry is probably one of the biggest front doors we have," Smith explained. "The nature of the ministry means we can provide things the music minister can't. We're able to get out of the building and onto the field."

The conference offered a wide range of seminars and topics. Orga-

nized into various tracks, including sports, outdoor and adventure recreation, men's ministry, and many others, participants chose to follow a particular subject throughout the 10 track times, or to learn a little something about everything.

Eddie Robertson is the minister of recreation at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C. He said he has lost count how many RecLab events he has attended—he said it was "eight or so"—but that does not mean the conferences have not made an impact.

"When I first came to RecLab, I felt kind of isolated and like I was out there on my own trying to make recreation ministry happen," Robertson acknowledged. "But I came and found other people who were turning sports into ministry. It was encouraging."

Robertson represented a significant group of RecLab veterans, but first-timers showed up as well. In fact, Garner said that first-time participants make up a growing percentage of the total RecLab attendance each year.

"We live in a leisure-driven culture," Garner said, "and pastors are looking for a way to tap into that mentality. They see other churches having success with a recreation ministry and they send people (to RecLab) and tell them, 'Go find out what this is all about.'"

During his breakout session "What is this work and how do I get started?" Garner told participants that recreation ministry requires leaders who can work with anyone from pre-schoolers to senior adults.

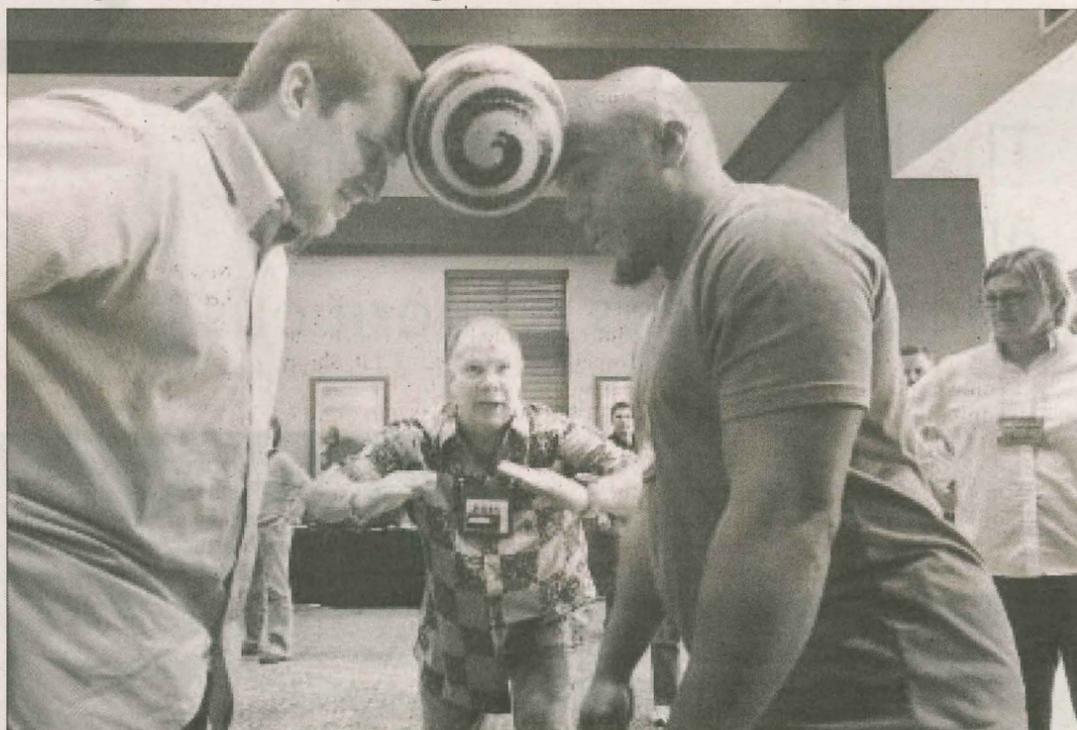
More than that, it requires leaders who recognize the possibilities and potential importance of what they do.

Sports opens the door

"Recreation ministry provides a natural, non-threatening way to introduce God's Word to the community," he noted. "People may not know the church, and they may not know Jesus, but everyone knows sports. There's nothing religious about a basketball; it's what you do with it that matters."

But sometimes it is a place—not a piece of sports equipment—that opens the door.

Derrick Blaylock came to RecLab in preparation for organizing and running a recreation ministry at a



GAME TIME ■ Top: Instructor John Thompson (center) gives direction to Caleb Neff (left) of Greensboro, N.C., and Kyle Kilgore of Rockville, Md., during Thompson's "Games, Games, Games" training session during RecLab 2009. ■ Left: The "Running Man" game and its many variations was a hit among the RecLab participants. (LifeWay photos by Kent Harville)



TALK SHOW RecLab event host John Garner (left) converses with a puppet during the Monday evening worship session of RecLab 2009. Sally the Puppet gets her sassy attitude from puppeteer Gloria Fox, whose husband, Kent, watches from the background.

park that Fallbrook Church in Houston is building on donated land.

Blaylock is new to the world of recreation ministry, but he said RecLab offered him encouragement and ideas.

"Coming here has helped me a lot," he said. "Just taking on the responsibility is overwhelming, and it's good to learn from others who have done this work."

And learn they did. The conference featured information on everything from juggling and games with children to starting sports leagues and hosting wild game suppers for men.

Robertson noted that having a diversified recreation ministry was important because it broadened the ministry opportunities.

"We can be the ball player, the teacher or the guy on the golf course," he said. "Recreation ministry asks us to become all things to all people with the intention of sharing Christ with them."

As one RecLab speaker put it, Recreation ministry "is about putting the physical and spiritual together."

In addition to the numerous workshops, RecLab participants also heard from former NFL quarterback Jay Schroeder and keynote speaker David Uth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

For more information about RecLab, visit www.LifeWay.com/RecLab.

Conference gets adults to see recreation ministry from children's perspective

By Brooklyn Noel Lowery
LifeWay Christian Resources

San Antonio—It was not all just seminars and lectures during LifeWay's recent RecLab event. John Thompson, a representative with Sports Supply Group, made sure the adult participants at the recent conference got to see recreation ministry from a kid's point of view.

His breakout sessions "Games, Games, Games" and "More Games, Games, Games" had adults juggling foam penguins and cooperating to carry balls between their foreheads.

As participants attempted each activity, Thompson offered tips for using the games with groups of kids.

■ Use cooperative activities, such as partnering to carry a ball between two people's hips, to encourage athletic children to slow down and help the less-athletic members of the group.

■ "The stopwatch is the great equalizer," Thompson said. Rather than setting a number goal for games that require repetitious movement, set a time limit and encourage individuals or teams to complete as many repetitions as possible during that time.

■ Do not forget the lessons the games can teach. For example, remember to stress that success is dependent on communication during partner activities.

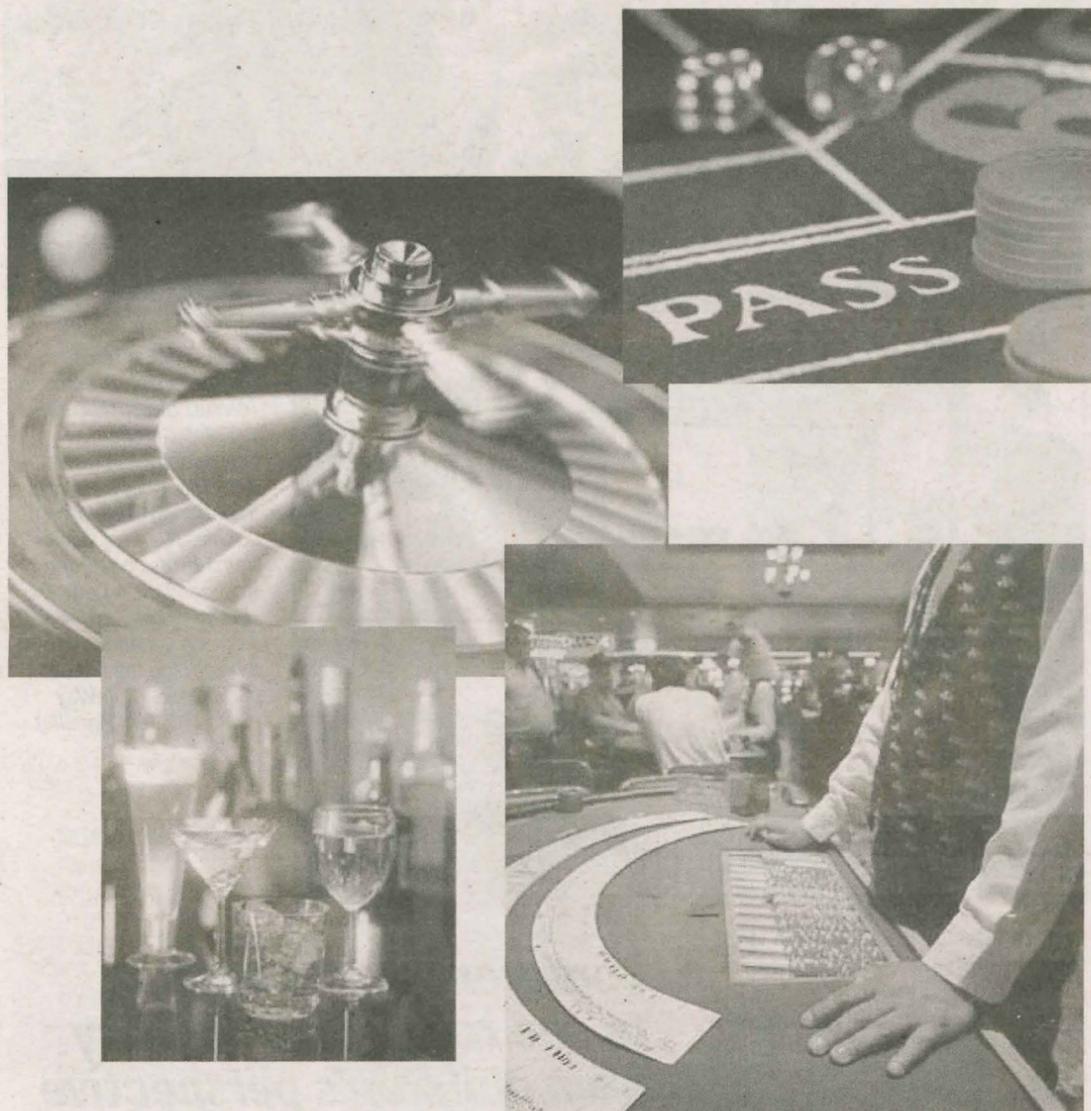
Thompson also encouraged participants to overcome the fear of trying new activities.

"See, juggling isn't that bad," he said as tentative volunteers tossed brightly-colored handkerchiefs in the air. "And it teaches kids perseverance. This really makes your kids think, 'I can get past this.'"

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The Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems works to stop the expansion of alcohol sales and gambling in our state. We invite you to partner with us in this ministry to protect Kentucky's families and children. Call your legislators at 1-800-372-7181 and ask them to vote NO to any bills expanding alcohol sales or gambling. Your continued prayers and financial support are needed and greatly appreciated.

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems
2722 Crittenden Drive ♦ Louisville, KY 40229-1114
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