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FOR THE RECORD

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Wounded urban heart



Kibera, a 6-kilometer-long expanse of tin-roofed shacks, is home to 1 million people—one of the largest slums in the world. Sixty-six "poor urban settlements" in Nairobi, Kenya—some small, some enormous—bump against the sleek, downtown skyline like moths circling a light bulb. (IMB photo)

Missionaries work to reach Kenyan capital, help Christians 'dwarfed' by city's lostness

By Erich Bridges
International Mission Board

Nairobi, Kenya—Sixty-six "poor urban settlements"—some small, some enormous—bump against Nairobi's sleek, downtown skyline like moths circling a light bulb.

Kibera, a 6-kilometer-long expanse of tin-roofed shacks following the railway, is home to 1 million people—one of the largest slums in the world. Mathare counts at least 500,000 people. Dandora surrounds a city dump that stretches as far as the eye can see.

The "poor urban settlements" contain more than half of the 4 million people (some say 5 million) in Kenya's capital city, but they occupy only part of the urban landscape.

Extensive middle-class and upscale communities lie west of Nairobi's central business district—roughly where white Europeans lived during former British colonial rule. The city center pulses with the energy of business, universities, embassies, national government, culture and night life.

Nairobi is the economic, political and

cultural capital of East Africa. Most multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations and Christian mission groups involved in the region base offices there.

"It's a continental city," said Jon Sapp, the International Mission Board's former regional leader for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa.

A growing Nairobi business class includes members of the so-called "Obama generation"—young, educated Kenyans energized by a new United States president with Kenyan family ties. Another major segment of Nairobi's economy is run by ethnic South Asians with longstanding ties to the city.

Nearly every African language is spoken in Nairobi; nearly every major African people group is represented.

"We have sides of town that are Muslim and Christian," observed one missionary. "There are areas where little pockets of countries live, like Eastleigh. Nairobi has every religion you can find in the world: Hindu, Buddhist, animist, African traditional religions, Christianity (and

□ See Missionaries seek ... Page 8

Campbellsville forum to celebrate 400th anniversary of Baptist origins

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University will host a celebration, in cooperation with the Baptist History and Heritage Society, in honor of 400 years of Baptist history and heritage, April 2, at the university's Louisville campus.

Bill Leonard, dean and professor of church history at Wake Forest University's School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, N.C., will present the celebration's keynote address titled, "Conscience and Dissent in a Believers' Church: Renewing Baptist Global Identity."

The Baptist organizations participating in the forum include: Kentucky Baptist Convention; Long Run Baptist Association; Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; J.H. Spen-

cer Historical Society; American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky; Central District Association of Baptists; General Association of Baptists in Kentucky; and Simmons College in Louisville.

"The diversity of the participating Baptist entities is noteworthy and reflects some of the very rich tradition of the Baptist movement," said John Chowning, Campbellsville University's vice president for church and external relations.

"Most historians agree that the Baptist movement began in 1609, the year after John Smyth and his congregation fled from England to Amsterdam to avoid

□ See Campbellsville University ... Page 2

State prison honors ministry program's inaugural graduates

By Jared Nelson
Princeton Times Leader

Eddyville—Western Kentucky Correctional Complex inmate Mark Calvert, one of 13 men in the first graduating class of the prison's Malachi Dads program, said he enrolled in the parenting course "for the knowledge, because knowledge is power."

The program, or "vision," as its participants refer to it, is an Awana Lifeline mission sponsored at WKCC by Harrell Riley, his Hell Is Real Ministries staff and other volunteers. Riley is a Mission Service Corps missionary to Kentucky.

Its mission is to teach inmates how to grow into godly parents, to train their children spiritually and break the cycle of crime in their families.

Calvert had no children of his own, as he testified to a crowd of inmates and guests at the correctional complex March 12.

He spoke of a rocky past—marijuana use at 9 years old, auto theft two years later, the knifepoint robbery of his own brother and sister-in-law in 1995.

He fled the law at that point and eventually found himself in a mission house in Florida.

It was there, he said, that he found God, and contacts who encouraged him to turn himself in.

He served 10 years, first at WKCC near Fredonia. After his release, he served as a volunteer chaplain in other institutions.

Soon, though, the criminal pursuits of his past resurfaced.

"I lost a wife, I lost three businesses and I began to manufacture meth," he said. "And now I'm back for 14 years ... this is my third time. I think I've got it."

When WKCC and HR Ministries began offering Malachi Dads training late last year, Calvert was one of those who opted to take advantage of the classes.

He and the other 12 inmates who graduated are the second class to have graduated in the entire United States, Riley said. The first class graduated at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, where the Malachi Dads program was pioneered.

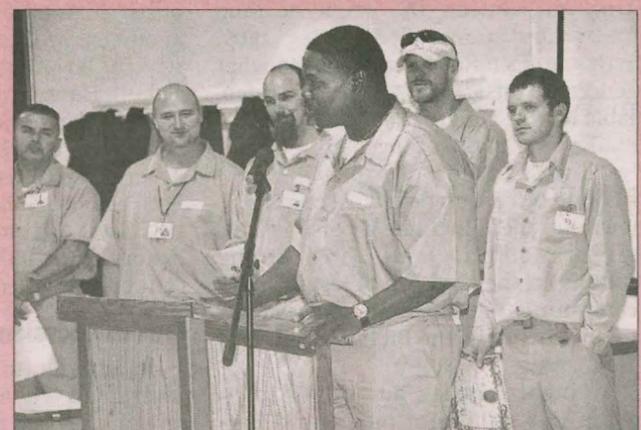
After completing the program, Calvert told the crowd he learned of another benefit.

"Last night, I got served for paternity," he said. "So maybe that's the reason why."

Riley, one of several speakers to address the group, said the Malachi Dads graduates "have committed to repent of (sin) and to do something about it."

"They're going to be the men of God that they desire to be, and that their families desire them to be."

□ See Prison ministry celebrates ... Page 3



FATHER'S PLEDGE Western Kentucky Correctional Complex inmate Joe Bush (front) leads fellow Malachi Dads graduates in the Malachi Dads pledge March 12. Pictured are (from left) Mark Calvert, David Hobgood, David Pennington and James Carrier. (Photo by Jared Nelson/Princeton Times Leader)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Mar. 25.

KBC anticipates Connect extension, new committee named

Ky. Baptists Connect extension goals outlined

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptists Connect three-year extension approved by the KBC Mission Board last December will take effect Sept. 1. While some goals from the original five-year Connect emphasis have been carried over, the extension outlines a total of 22 new goals under three main objective areas. They are:

Developing leaders

- Equip 1,800 church leaders in developing a personal and congregational vision that contributes to increasing worship attendance and resident church membership.

- Assist worship and music leaders from 200 churches in evaluating and enhancing the worship experiences provided in their local congregations, for the purpose of contributing to an increase in their worship attendance.

- Provide leadership training for 600 church youth leaders and to mentor 1,500 campus student leaders.

- Increase by 30 the number of associations that have a prayer strategy and trained coordinators to equip and lead in the effort.

- Network with 500 pastors, churches and associations in best practices, mentoring relationships and electronic connections facilitated by regional strategists and others.

- Enlist and involve 150 young leaders (under 40) in networking relationships and/or mentoring groups.

Strengthening Churches

- Equip 1,200 church leaders in developing and strengthening healthy congregational relationship patterns that can contribute to increasing resident church membership.

- Assist 500 churches with Sunday schools that are not growing to raise Sunday school/small group participation by 6 percent by starting new units.

- Help 500 churches develop a church discipleship/assimilation team that will lead their church to focus on the following four areas: first impressions, guest follow-up, new members' class and spiritual growth.

- Assist 350 churches in retaining participation of the 16-19 year-old population.

- Assist KBC churches in developing comprehensive stewardship strategies that will result in an increase of 9 percent in undesignated gifts to support missions and ministries locally and beyond.

- Assist 200 KBC churches in developing and implementing plans resulting in 2 percent annual growth in at least three selected areas (resident membership, baptisms, Sunday school/

small groups, worship attendance and undesignated receipts).

Reaching people

- Encourage and enlist Kentucky Baptists (associations and churches) as led by the Holy Spirit to pray, engage, sow and trust God for the celebration of 20,000 baptisms each year between 2009-12.

- Make 30,000 evangelistic contacts through the ministry of the Baptist campus ministers.

- Assist KBC churches in developing a holistic approach to youth ministry that will result in a 3 percent increase in youth baptisms and youth Sunday school involvement.

- Assist KBC churches in enhancing the faith development of preschoolers and children, including a greater understanding of the gospel, resulting in a 2 percent increase in the number of preschoolers and children involved in weekly Bible study.

- Assist churches in planting 150 new churches, including 45 ethnic and nine high-impact churches.

- Assist 140 churches in mobilizing 700 volunteer participants in direct domestic and overseas missions involvement resulting in 5,000 professions of faith.

- Assist the 140 churches to grow in their level of direct domestic and international missions involvement resulting in 70 churches experiencing a first-time engagement, 30 churches committing to pursue a partnership, 30 churches to form a strategic partnership, and 10 churches to become a strategic missionary church.

- Enlist and certify 2,500 people in phase I and II disaster relief and witness training, and to assist nine churches in construction with volunteers.

- Increase by 15 percent the number of short-term volunteers serving in Kentucky (26,000 by 2012) and the number of project locations in Kentucky (103 by 2012).

- Assist 750 churches and/or associations in the development of community outreach ministries and missions strategies.

"The driving passion behind these objectives and goals was assisting the local churches in development and reaching people for Jesus Christ," Mackey said. "I am very excited about new goals that will utilize church health resources to assist churches in development and growth, as well as goals that will assist in keeping teens and young adults involved."

For more information about the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis, visit www.KyBaptist.org/KBC.

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Convention President John Mark Toby has appointed a new Mission Advisory Committee in preparation for the three-year Kentucky Baptists Connect extension that is set to begin in September.

The Connect emphasis originally began in 2004 as a five-year strategic plan for evangelism and ministry support across Kentucky. Previously scheduled to conclude this year, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board approved the extension in December in order to reach goals yet to be fulfilled and address new opportunities.

The extension was based on recommendations from the initial Mission Advisory Committee, a group comprised of Kentucky Baptists who are providing guidance for the Connect emphasis until Jan. 1, 2010. The new committee will maintain the same function throughout the three-year extension, Sept. 1, 2009-Aug. 31, 2012.

New committee members who will serve during the extension include:

- Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, committee chair.

- Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church.

- Pat Burkhardt, member of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

- Tom Curry, pastor of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

- Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro.

- French Harmon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset.

- Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.

- Don Reed, director of missions for Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington.

- Jo Ann Smith, member of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

"John Mark Toby has appointed an excellent committee to work with the three-year extension of Kentucky Baptists Connect," KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said. "The committee will be a great resource to the KBC staff in implementing these objectives and goals."

Mackey pointed out that the Connect extension officially will launch at the KBC's Nov. 10 annual meeting in Elizabethtown, but said he anticipates the committee to begin meeting soon to develop its strategy.

While some goals from the 2004-09 plan are again reflected in the extension, Mackey explained that the new plan incorporates additional ministry areas. The goals have been streamlined to fall under three main objectives: developing leaders, strengthening churches and reaching people.

"The most effective goals from the current plan were refined for continuation, and new goals were developed based on recent research in several associations, other research and needs that have surfaced," Mackey noted.

Connect goals

Goals being carried over from the original plan include baptisms; discipleship and assimilation; church planting; evangelistic ministries; networking; new Sunday school and small group units; and online resources.

Additional goals outlined in the extension plan expand the focus to include youth and campus student ministry; stewardship; visionary leadership; congregational relationships; missions involvement; and disaster relief.

The extension plan also reaffirms partnerships between Kentucky Baptists and Kentucky Baptist entities, continues to acknowledge the major impact factors stated in the original plan, and authorizes Executive Director Mackey to lead in implementing the emphasis.

KBC staff will provide leadership in executing each goal and measuring progress, but Kentucky Baptists Connect will continue to rely on the ministries and outreach efforts of local KBC churches, Mackey noted.

"The role of the KBC staff will be to work with churches and associations in developing strategies and an action plan for each goal," he said. "I am very prayerful that by working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we will see Kentucky experience exponential advance in Kingdom growth."

Campbellsville University to celebrate 400 years of Baptists

Continued from page 1

persecution during the reign of King James," Chowning reflected. "In 1609, Smyth and his followers established what is generally considered to be the first identifiable Baptist congregation."

Today, the Baptist movement consists of a "diverse" group of baptized believers united by certain beliefs. According to Chowning, these include: a personal saving relationship in Jesus Christ; strong emphasis on the Lordship of Jesus Christ; a commitment to missions and evangelism; and belief in the Bible as the Word of God.

"We invite Baptists, and others interested in this significant moment in Baptist history, to join us for this historic gathering of Baptist leaders and scholars," he urged.

Widely regarded as an expert on Baptist history, Leonard has held teaching posts at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan.

He is the author or editor of 15 books, including "A Dictionary of Baptists in America," "Christianity in Appalachia: Profiles in Regional Pluralism," and "Baptist Ways: A History," a survey of Baptist history from 1600 to 2000. His most recent book is titled "Baptists in America."

Breakout sessions

In addition to Leonard, several other individuals will lead a series of breakout sessions focused on Baptist history.

- Lawrence Williams, professor of African studies and history at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, will lead a session titled, "African American Baptist History."

Russell Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville and moderator for the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, will serve as moderator for this session.

- The second session, "Varieties of Baptists in Kentucky: An Overview," will be led by W. Morgan Patterson, a scholar in residence at Campbellsville University. The moderator for this session will be John Hurtgen, dean of Campbellsville's School of Theology and a professor at the university.

- Session three, titled "Kentucky Baptist Contributions to the Larger Baptist Community," will be led by Gregory Wills, professor of church history at Southern Seminary and director of the Center for the Study of the Southern Baptist Convention. David Whitlock will serve as moderator for this session. He is

pastor at Lebanon Baptist Church, as well as an adjunct professor and church relations council member at Campbellsville.

- The closing session, titled "Future Direction for the Baptist Movement," will feature a panel discussion. Panelists include Awkard, Wills, Pamela Durso, associate executive director-treasurer of the Baptist History and Heritage Society in Atlanta, and Campbellsville President Michael Carter. Leonard will serve as moderator.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration begins at 1 p.m., with the general session set for 2 p.m. The event is scheduled to adjourn by 8:30 p.m.

For more information about the event, contact Campbellsville University's Office of Church and External Relations at (270) 789-5520, or e-mail sddouglas@campbellsville.edu.

Rainer, others discuss primary practices that define congregations as 'essential'

Elizabethtown—"Young adults are likely to stay in the church if they see it as essential to their lives."

That was the message more than 200 Kentucky Baptist ministers heard at last week's Essential Church Conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

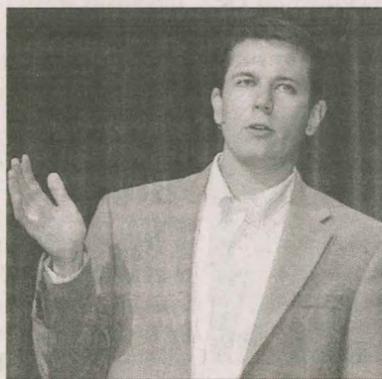
The church is merely one option among many for their lives, according to Sam Rainer, who co-authored the book "Essential Church" with his father, LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer.

The book takes a look at the reasons why more than two-thirds of churchgoing young adults, ages 18-22, leave the church. The problem is, Rainer pointed out, is that most of them do not see it as an essential part of their daily lives.

The conference, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, gave pastors an opportunity to learn what it takes to become "essential" and attract and retain young adults in their congregations.

Rainer explained that churches must work on four internal practices in order to make their congregations essential to young adults. Those are to simplify, deepen, expect and multiply.

Simplify. As the popular book "Simple Churches" illustrated, churches have become too compli-



Sam Rainer

cated and busy. Many of these churches do not communicate a clear process for making disciples of its members, Rainer noted.

"Churches that are essential to the lives of young adults work hard to communicate a clear process for becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ," he said.

Deepen. Churches that are essential should help deepen members' knowledge of God's Word and His truths. This is done in three ways:

- Through relevant biblical preaching.

- By emphasizing small-group Bible study as a "core value of the church."

- By encouraging church members to study the Bible on their own.

Expect. In order to become an essential church, Rainer said pastors must come to expect the best from their members.

This is especially important to communicate to new members of the church, most effectively through new members' classes. These sessions can provide an important measure of growth in discipleship within the church, Rainer noted.

Multiply. The final aspect Rainer discussed was an essential church's commitment to help its members multiply spiritually.

Rainer pointed out that missions and ministry are common practices in members' lives. But more importantly, "essential churches have an intentional strategy to reach both the dechurched and the unchurched" in their communities, he said.

In addition to Rainer, several other church leaders and consultants led breakout sessions that dug deeper into each of the four core practices.

In his session, Dan Summerlin, pastor at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, challenged pastors to model excellence for their congregations.

"If our people see that we take our calling seriously, they will take it seriously," he said.

Prison ministry celebrates Malachi graduates

Continued from page 1

Guests attending the ceremony included Western Kentucky Circuit Judge C.A. Woodall III, District Judge James Redd III, area ministers and others.

"These folks that are here tonight vitally support what's going on," Riley said. "It's the start of something that only God can finish, but He wants to finish it with you."

The 16-week Malachi Dads course required the inmates to regularly attend classes, maintain written communication with their children and keep journals to record their feelings.

Judge Redd, one of the evening's featured speakers, encouraged the inmates to be "prophets, priests and kings" to their families.

"We don't have to be perfect to be a prophet," he said, reminding the group of the biblical story of Elijah. "We just have to be available."

He told the graduates, as well as the other inmates gathered in the prison's minimum-security unit, that the legal system was behind them.

"Your government, believe it or not, is for you," he said. "Your judges want to see you all be able to thrive, and your churches do too."

Inmate Roy Brockett, another Malachi Dads graduate, told the group that his children were no more than waist-high when he entered the prison system.

Brockett, serving a life sentence, now has great-grandchildren.

"By doing a life sentence, somewhere down the line, you've got to come to realize that you may never get out. This may be where you end up."

After a prison visit, he said, his youngest daughter gave him an ultimatum: "Either you're going to change and come home to us, or we're going to turn our back and walk away."

"I grew up in an orphanage, and I never had a family," he said. "So these kids are all I ever had."

"I went back. I sat down and prayed—something I didn't know anything about, and hopefully I was doing it the correct way."

"From that day forward, I have thanked God every day that I get up," he said.

Brockett said he met Riley a year and a half ago and eventually joined the parenting class.

"I walked in there not knowing what I was getting myself into, just knowing that I had to have and do things different than I've ever done in my life. I had to surrender to everybody."

The more of the program's literature he read, he said, the more he felt like the material was telling his own life story.

He persevered, sometimes by himself when no one else showed up for class, he said.

And the program paid off, he noted, at a Returning Hearts celebration, a daylong event on the WKCC grounds where qualifying inmates are allowed to spend time with their children in a fair-like setting.

Brockett said his children had never shown up for the celebration, and he had grown tired of asking.

Riley urged him to fill the application out once more, and personally delivered four of Brockett's grandchildren to the next Returning Hearts event.

"To this old man, that fair was like the county fair to me," he said, "and I could've never dreamed that could ever come true."

Near the end of the day, Riley led a prayer service and extended an invitation for anyone seeking Jesus Christ.

"I was sitting there, I'd got my head bowed down, and somebody grabbed a hold of my arm and said I needed to go with them."

"I raised up. The first thing I'm thinking of is I'd done something wrong—you know, around here, when they tell you you got to go, you got to go."

"I turned around and they pointed across, and they was escorting one of my grandkids across the gym floor."

"I go hobbling across as fast as I can. I get over there, and the child's reaching out and grabbing my hand, and says, 'Papaw, I want to give my life to Jesus.'"

"My legs got cut out from under me," he said, his voice choked with emotion.

"And I bawled. I couldn't say a thing to that child. And I could just see it in her face, and her heart."

"And guys, if that wasn't a sign from God that I needed to change, then nothing I could ever do or say would."

Graduates in the first Malachi Dads class at WKCC are: Roy Brockett, Joseph Bush, Mark Calvert, James Carrier, David Hobgood, David Pennington, Rahim Shabazz, Jerry Sizemore, Marshall Speer, Kelly Tharp, Ohma Willis, Ira Yates and Carl Zwanaig.

Reprinted with permission from the Princeton Times Leader

Kentucky Baptists to collect relief buckets for Africans

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists who wish to help provide relief to millions of Africans afflicted with HIV/AIDS are encouraged to once again participate in the Home Care Kits for Africa project this summer.

Organized by Baptist Global Response, Southern Baptists' humanitarian aid organization, the goal of the effort is to distribute essential health-care items to caregivers and disease victims in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Baptist Global Response is seeking to collect 5,000 filled buckets from Southern Baptists across the nation. During the 2008 pilot project in Kentucky and several other states, 1,400 buckets were collected and sent to Africa for Southern Baptist missionaries to distribute.

Individuals and churches can participate in the effort now through July 19 by purchasing requested items and bringing them to a participating Kentucky Baptist church or associational office, where they will be packaged into five-gallon buckets. Items include household health products like soaps, vitamins, healing ointments, bedding and more.

"This is a way for us to respond to a critical need in Africa by helping to stop the spread of the disease to caregivers," said Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief associate. "It also gives our missionaries the opportunity to share the gospel and give hope to the hopeless."

The KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union are again organizing the Kentucky collection.

"We know that Kentucky Baptists really like hands-on mission projects and this is an opportunity to literally pack the bucket and send it," noted Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton. "It's especially effective when we know our IMB missionaries will be the ones distributing the goods to those in need."

From July 20-24, church members will pack the supplies in five-gallon buckets and transport the buckets to one of 16 drop-off locations across the state. The locations are the same as last year:

- Bowling Green: Warren Association office, 6448 Scottsville Road.
- Elizabethtown: Severns Valley Association office, 500 College Street Road.
- Hardin: Blood River Association office, 47 Aurora Highway.
- Lexington: Elkhorn Association office, 1161 Red Mile.
- London: First Baptist Church of London, 804 W. 5th St.
- Louisville: First Baptist Church of Highland Park, 7321 Billtown Road.
- Madisonville: Little Bethel Association office, 445 Thompson Ave.
- Mayfield: First Baptist Church of Mayfield, 118 W. South St.
- Morehead: First Baptist Church of Morehead, 123 E. Main St.
- Owensboro: Daviess-McLean Association office, 1003 Scherm Road.
- Pikeville: Pike Association office, 79 Ratliff St.
- Pineville: First Baptist Church of Pineville, 405 Kentucky Ave.
- Princeton: First Baptist Church of Princeton, 300 W. Main St.
- Somerset: Pulaski Association office, 116 Mill St.
- Stanford: Lincoln Association office, 4160 Highway 27 S.
- Williamstown: Crittenden Association office, 305 N. Main St.

KBC disaster relief trucks will pick the buckets up at the specified locations from July 27-31 and will deliver them to Baptist Global Response's offices in Richmond, Va.

"These buckets will meet a tremendous need for families ministering to terminally ill relatives at home," Webb noted. "They also will support ministries coordinated by Mark Hatfield, Baptist Global Response's area director for Sub-Saharan Africa, who is a missionary with Kentucky roots."

"This project will offer the hope of Christ to thousands of victims and their families as they battle HIV, cancer, tuberculosis, malaria and other life-threatening diseases," Webb added.

More information and a complete list of needed items is available at www.KyBaptist.org/AfricaProjects, or by contacting the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3527, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

WMU annual meeting ministry

The Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's annual meeting will be held March 27-28 at First Baptist Church of Richmond. "God's Amazing Grace" will be the theme.

This meeting always is inspirational with a strong lineup of speakers, but I am especially excited about a new feature that will give attendees an opportunity to participate in hands-on ministry in the Richmond area on the afternoon of March 27.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Ministry opportunities will include prayerwalking, sorting books for Book-Link, sanitizing toys at Telford YMCA, completing cleaning projects at the Baptist Campus Ministry Center at Eastern Kentucky University, visiting nursing homes, and doing clerical work at the Light of Christ ministry.

Participants are requested to bring baby bottles for the Pregnancy Help Center, women's clothing for Liberty Place, creamy peanut butter and old fashioned oatmeal for Grace Now Ministry, and Christian books for Book-Link.

Some ministry projects require pre-registration. Call Wendy Stout at (866) 489-3534, or e-mail her at wendy.stout@kybaptist.org to express your interest.

I want to commend Kentucky WMU leadership and Executive-Director Joy Bolton for this noteworthy addition to the annual meeting. It is an incredible way to demonstrate Christian love, to provide significant ministries and offer hope through Jesus Christ.

Another special component of this year's meeting will be the keynote message by the president of the North American Mission Board, Geoff Hammond, on Friday morning. WMU began the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and continues to be a significant partner in promoting North American missions.

The program also includes a theme interpretation by Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director for Illinois WMU. Emily Christian and other musicians from First Baptist Church of Richmond will provide worship music.

Other speakers include Greg and Alice Whitetree from the Freeda Harris Baptist Center; Teresa Parrett, the KBC's missions mobilization coordinator; Charles and Carolyn Dixon, International Mission Board missionaries in Tanzania; Jonathan Barron, campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University; and Dewayne Waldrup, pastor of Bluegrass Cowboy Church in Paris.

Kentucky WMU continues to be a great partner in the support of missions and missions education. This historic partnership between Kentucky WMU and KBC has been expressed through state missions for more than 130 years.

I am so grateful to Kentucky WMU for its vital partnership in financial support of this June's Crossover Louisville activities ahead of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Kentucky WMU joins the Kentucky Baptist Convention, NAMB, Long Run Baptist Association, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in making this tremendous evangelism effort possible.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Listen to your GPS: God's Positioning System

Although Global Positioning Systems are becoming more and more common in cars, they still amaze me. Not only can they pinpoint your exact location within a few yards, but if you enter an address, they also can plot your exact route turn by turn to seemingly any destination in the country. Even more fascinating to me is how they can estimate your exact driving time to your destination and adjust calculations en route based on speed and allow for rest or food stops. If you make a wrong turn, a helpful voice informs you and recalculates a new route to get you back on course.

At least, that is the way a GPS is supposed to work. But my son and I have discovered that the one in my car has a serious flaw.

Call it an independent streak, stubbornness or maybe it is just that I don't like being told what to do, but I have been caught arguing out loud with my GPS, insisting that it isn't correct or that I know an easier, faster way. Admit it now: I'm not the only one, am I?

Last Sunday, my son, Caleb, and I were coming back from Florence. We had traveled there to attend the dedication of the beautiful new worship facility of First Baptist Church, where Pastor Tim Alexander has served for more than 25 years.

We had keyed the Florence church's address into the GPS and used it on the way there—only to discover that the new church's striking facility is conveniently located on Mt. Zion Road and its steeple is clearly visible from I-75, just a few miles south of Cincinnati. So when we hopped into the car to head home, I figured I knew the way and turned off the GPS. A little piece down the road, however, we were curious about how long we had remaining on the trip, and Caleb turned on the GPS and selected the address for our home near Louisville.

At that point, we had our first clue that something was amiss. The GPS told us to exit off the interstate onto a side road. That's strange! It has to be wrong, I thought. So I kept going past the exit. The GPS voice sounded a bit annoyed as it instructed me to make a U-turn at the next exit. When I chose to ignore it again, the GPS sounded perturbed at having to recalculate my route. So, I did the logical thing. I switched it off. After all, I knew where I was going.

Fifteen minutes later, I saw a sign: Lexington, 24 miles.

Okay, all you long time Kentuckians are getting a

good chuckle at the new guy, aren't you? You know that I-75 and I-71 split a short piece below Florence. I obviously wasn't paying attention and missed the sign. My mistake took us more than an hour out of the way, and it doubled the trip time returning home. Had I only listened to my GPS!

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



How many times have we been guilty of not listening to God's Positioning System? When His Word plainly warns us that we are headed in a wrong direction, we argue with God. After all, we know better where we want to go, we declare. When His voice speaks to our hearts, telling us to turn around, we choose to ignore Him, blindly heading onward. Worse still, some may decide to switch Him off all together.

How many times have we been guilty of thinking we do not need God's Positioning System? We think: "I've got this one, Lord." "I've seen this all before." "I can take care of it on my own." Only to learn later, we were sadly mistaken for we are all in desperate need of His infinite mercy, compassion and grace.

Proverbs 3:5-6 advises us, however, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths" (HCSB).

Sadly, like Caleb and me, we often realize too late that we are on the wrong road, and it is a costly error. We lose valuable time and experience needless pain. Take it from two road-weary travelers: Don't turn off God's Positioning System. Lexington was not such a bad place to wind up—even if you are from Louisville—and an hour or so is not such a great loss. Abundant life, however, is a terrible price to pay.

That's why the North American Mission Board is planning a strategic national media campaign in 2010 that has been dubbed "GPS." But in this case, GPS stands for "God's Plan for Sharing." Kentucky Baptist churches are being encouraged to join in this media effort, and individual church members are being urged to be actively involved in sharing their faith.

"So far our research shows us there is no approach more effective than an individual personally sharing Christ with a friend or family member," NAMB President Geoff Hammond said recently. Indeed, the media can only till the soil of a person's life, preparing them to hear God's Positioning System, but one-on-one witnessing to family, friends and neighbors is still the essential key in God's Plan for Sharing.

We all need a vision for reaching teens

By Charlie Warren

While visiting a small town church recently, I was cornered by two church women. I make a distinction here between regular women and church women. Regular women can be Christians who are quite godly and active in the church. But church women have a look about them—an "I'm-more-godly-than-regular-women" look.

I could tell these two were church women who were upset about something.

I introduced myself, although they already knew who I was. They had cornered me, thinking I had authority.

"I'm Neda Vishun," said the first, "and this is Eura Trubble."

"Eura Lotta Trubble," said the second, explaining she was a Lotta before she married Bubba Trubble.

"We want you to tell our pastor to quit planning activities that attract teenagers," Mrs. Vishun said.

"Don't you WANT teenagers to come to church?" I asked.

"No, I certainly do not," she said.

"They mess things up, and their music is loud and of the devil."

"Why just look at these scuff marks on this linoleum floor," added Mrs. Trubble. "We didn't have those before the teenagers came."

"And look at these scrape marks where they bump against the wall," Vishun said. "And someone wrote 'Angie loves Marshall' inside one of the bathroom stalls."

"This is God's house and teenagers are messing it up," Trubble charged. "It's just awful."

I gently—OK, maybe sheepishly—suggested it was good that the church is reaching young people.

"Well let someone else reach them," Vishun said. "Let 'em mess up some other church."

I swallowed hard to get up my courage.

"Neda Vishun, what you need is a vision for reaching youth," I said. "If the church doesn't reach them, Satan has plenty of foot soldiers who will."

I hurried on before they could interrupt.

FIRST PERSON

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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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"Did you know that 56 percent of Southern Baptist churches didn't baptize a single young person last year, and only 46 percent of teenagers in America are evangelized? Did you know most people are saved before the age of 13? Did you know teens are very receptive to the gospel?"

I was on a roll and getting braver. "What these teenagers need is folks like you, Mrs. Vishun, and you Mrs. Trubble, to love them and encourage them so they will learn to love God and His house like you do. If you don't reach out to them and encourage them, who's going to lead this church 25 years from now?"

Mrs. Trubble was troubled. "Well, who's going to clean up the messes they make?" she asked.

But Mrs. Vishun had a twinkle in her eye. "You are absolutely right. Why I am going to volunteer to help our pastor and youth minister. This church needs a vision for reaching, winning, baptizing and getting youth involved in missions. And our state convention needs to catch the vision, too."

Warren is editor of The Arkansas Baptist News. Reprinted with permission.

Changing patterns of stewardship

By Doug Strader

A few years ago, Brian Kluth identified several emerging patterns of financial stewardship in the local church. The phrase we hear repeatedly is that "the times are changing." Most of us would agree with that perception related to most everything in our world. The church is no exception. However, it appears that the church is one of the last places where changes are made. Consequently, the church sometimes recognizes the need to change too late to make the best impact on the community.

As you read about these changing patterns related to financial stewardship take note of how your congregation is doing in these areas.

Stewardship—*Previous Pattern:* Budget, bills, and buildings. *Emerging pattern:* A vital aspect of Christian discipleship.

Focus—*Previous Pattern:* The church needs money. *Emerging Pattern:* Christians need biblical financial teaching.

Christian Education—*Previous Pattern:* Little or no biblical, financial, or stewardship teaching. *Emerging Pattern:* Stewardship teaching is integrated into curriculum.

Membership Orientation—*Previous Pattern:* Financial and giving information is basically ignored. *Emerging Pattern:* Financial and giving information and guidelines integrated into membership orientation and materials.

Preaching—*Previous Pattern:* Once-a-year stewardship message. *Emerging Pattern:* Annual stewardship series and/or stewardship and financial principles woven into messages.

Giving Statements—*Previous Pattern:* Sent out annually with no appreciation expressed and no accompanying information. *Emerging Pattern:* Mailed out quarterly with appreciation and church financial information included.

Staff—*Previous Pattern:* Stewardship is in no one's job description. *Emerging Pattern:* Lay leaders or associate pastor of stewardship oversees integration of stewardship teaching in Sunday school, small groups and seminars. Lay counselors are utilized for identifying spiritual gifts, career guidance and debt counseling.

Worship Service—*Previous Pattern:* Announcements are made about church bills, budgets and shortfalls. *Emerging Pattern:* Three-minute lay testimonies, dramas and skits.

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

The source and cure for what ails us

By Dick Staub

For more than a decade I hosted a nationally syndicated talk show. I read five newspapers a day, 30 journals a month and a few books a week. All of that helped me learn to spot certain trends, and all of them, I think, contribute to our nation's current crisis.

I'll mention just three.

■ **The rise of unbelief:** The number of people who say they have no religious affiliation has doubled in the past 20 years.

■ **The decline of Christianity:** The percentage of American Christians has shrunk from 86 percent to 76 percent since 1990, according to a new survey, and the decline is not entirely undeserved.

■ **Widespread dehumanization:** In what management guru Charles Handy calls "The Age of the Hungry Soul," there are signs of widespread spiritual, creative, intellectual, relational and moral impoverishment.

Like all ideologies, unbelief has consequences, but our current crises cannot be laid at the feet of unbelievers. Instead, I lay it at the feet of the faux Christianity that dominates American religious life.

Catholic, mainline, evangelical, Pentecostal, fundamentalist and other churches share the blame, as each has failed in its own way to represent Jesus to the world.

Look at the list of obvious failures:

■ **The hypocrisy of sex scandals** including Catholic priests, televangelists and faith leaders, including the former president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

■ **The spread of greed, consumer-**

ism and "affluenza" instead of caring for the poor as Jesus commanded.

■ **Instead of practicing the Augustinian rule of "In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity,"** we've offered the spectacle of more than 38,000 Christian denominations.

■ **Instead of loving "outsiders,"** many Christians declared war on them, seeking political power over spiritual power and personal renewal.

■ **In a culture characterized by diversion, mindlessness, celebrity and propped up by technology and clever marketing strategies,** churches have become consumer-driven entertainment centers or faddish demographically shaped special interest groups divided by age, ethnicity, education, income or worship style.

Sadly, in an age of spiritual hunger most of American Christianity offers an unbearable lightness. Coming at all this from a Christian tradition, I'd like to suggest a few elements in the road to recovery.

First, we must restore God to the central place in our lives and churches. This is not a new problem. In the first century, St. Paul told the church at Ephesus that it was time to return to its first love.

The lukewarm church at Laodicea, meanwhile, was chastised as "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked, so be earnest and repent." We'd do well to listen up.

Second, we need to rediscover a holistic gospel that is boiled down to its essentials. We must be reminded of the good news that all humans are created in God's image with ex-

traordinary spiritual, intellectual, creative, relational and moral capacity. Jesus didn't come to make us Christians, but to make us fully human by restoring all that unraveled in our rebellion against God.

Third, we need to rediscover a sense of authentic community that fosters unity in diversity. The church of my youth required proper belief and behavior as preconditions for belonging. It is obvious that Jesus' disciples misbehaved and possessed inadequate or incorrect beliefs, but Jesus stayed with them. He was more interested in the direction of their lives than the immediate perfection of their lives.

Finally, we must serve our local community like Jesus served His, in both word and deed. Last year, a young woman in our community named Darlene Pohl died suddenly and her boss spoke at her memorial service. Here's what he said:

"Darlene loved her God, her faith and her church. We didn't talk about it a lot, but it was clear she had an extraordinarily deep faith. A confident faith. This was clear in her lack of a need to talk about it. Perhaps from her faith came a remarkable moral compass. Her ethics were sharp and accurate and fair. This you would see everyday in how she talked to the kids. How she dealt with the kids when they made mistakes. Her instincts were always on target and I learned a lot from her."

- A moral compass.
- Sharp ethics.
- Faith lived out instead of talked about.

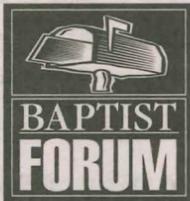
Sure sounds like a way out of the storm to me.

Staub is the author of "The Culturally Savvy Christian" and the host of The Kindlings Muse.



Volunteers should be accountable

In your recent article, "Kentucky lawmaker proposes bill to protect disaster relief workers," there is an important point that needs clarification. The article focused on the bill's protection of volunteers doing good deeds at disaster sites; however, it is critical that the public understand that this bill would grant immunity to potentially negligent activities, something for which everyone, including volunteers, should be held accountable.



Everyone agrees that volunteers at disaster sites are a vital component of the relief process. However, when an individual, business, or corporation is participating in that effort and acts in a negligent way that causes injury or harm, shouldn't they be held accountable for their actions? If a utility company is working a disaster site and incorrectly connects utility lines that cause a fire and injure a family—or worse—shouldn't that

company be held accountable? Or would we let it slide because they were working in a disaster area?

Kentucky has a strong civil justice system that understands right from wrong. A jury of our peers can understand whether someone was acting in the public interest or simply being negligent. This bill has good intentions, but if passed, those good intentions could have grave consequences. We should continue letting our civil justice system determine these cases and serve as our primary means of accountability.

Maresa Fawns, executive director, Kentucky Justice Association

Take time to stop, drop and pray

By Diana Davis

You have an important appointment—a meeting with the Creator of the universe. It's called prayer (see 1 Thessalonians 5:17) Need a few fresh prayer tips?

Stop, drop and pray. When someone mentions a need or concern, stop right there, drop what you're doing and offer a verbal prayer. God's listening.

Shower power. For a daily prayer reminder, keep a plastic-covered prayer list on your shower wall or by the treadmill, ironing board or computer.

Pray during church. See Mr. Quip checking his watch during worship? That won't happen to you if you are busy praying. During the service,

pray silently for the guests, the sermon, childcare workers, ushers, even the announcements.

Pray by name. Use a church directory to pray for members from A to Z. Check off names with a colored pen. Finished? Use a different pen and begin again.

Pray when you minister. Delivering a casserole? Pray silently before ringing the doorbell. Voice a prayer before you leave from a hospital, homebound, outreach or bereavement visit.

Sunday prep prayer. While dressing for church each Sunday, think about everything that will occur in God's house, and pray specifically.

Pray on the phone. When someone calls about a need or problem,

pray aloud for them, right there on the phone.

Keep a prayer journal. List requests and highlight answered prayers. Your journal will soon be full of yellow.

Get caught praying. Allow your family to see and hear you pray. Pray with them for specific requests.

Pray on your way. Talk to God during everyday moments of life, such as driving, exercise, shopping, waiting or walking.

Celebrate answered prayer. When God answers a specific prayer, invite a friend for coffee to celebrate.

There are thousands of ways you can impact ministry in your church. Prayer is the big one.

Diana Davis is the wife of Stephen Davis, executive director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. Author of three books, she is a frequent inspirational speaker at women's ministry events and other conferences.

Preparing a teen for college

By Scott Wigginton

Q: My teenage son is approaching his high school graduation this May. I am concerned that we have done all we can to prepare him for the next stage of college. What might he need most at this juncture?



Richard Foster begins his best-selling book, *Celebration of Discipline*, by noting that "the desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people." Assuming that your son has a personal relationship with Jesus, perhaps his greatest need at this point is that the gospel transforms all of him, so that he is wholly Christian in his thoughts, behavior and attitudes.

Talk with him regularly about his future, and aid him in realizing that this next stage will come with at least two very important questions. First, he will need to answer the question, "Where am I going" and second, "Who will go with me?"

Help him to understand that it is often quite critical to answer those questions in the right order. Having some idea of his call to vocation and direction will serve as a guiding principle as he pays attention to discerning God's will for a life partner. Conversely, answering the second question first may place him at risk for a marriage to a woman who does not agree on direction and vocational calling. Remember the words of Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?"

Talking and praying with your son consistently around the twin themes of love and work will deepen your friendship and serve as an investment in his future. Remember that your task is not to lecture or dictate, but to empower him through your adult friendship, support, and guidance to become a spiritually vibrant, emotionally healthy Christian man.

Scott Wigginton is associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.

Southern Baptist faith-based advisor to Obama 'frustrated'

By Michael Foust

Taylor, S.C.—A member of President Obama's faith-based advisory council said he has been "frustrated" at the administration's policies concerning life issues, and that he plans on seeking clarification as to whether the president opposes all or only certain types of human cloning.

Frank Page, the immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, told Baptist Press he wonders at times whether the administration truly is listening to pro-lifers. Page is one of 25 members of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

During Obama's March 9 order overturning past restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, the president said he was opposed "to the use of cloning for human reproduction." Many pro-life leaders fear that while Obama may oppose reproductive cloning—that is, the making of a cloned baby—he may quietly support

research or therapeutic cloning, which involves cloning an embryo in order to destroy it and harvest its stem cells.

In both cloning methods, a scientific method known as somatic cell nuclear transfer is used. The only difference between the two methods is what is done with the embryo once it is cloned.

Seeking "clarification"

"I am going to personally deal with that issue with the council, because (research cloning) simply was not mentioned by Obama," noted Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylor, S.C. "He was very specific in (opposing) reproductive cloning but not in research cloning. And I am going to assume at this point that he meant both—but I am going to seek clarification of that."

The council takes part in a conference call once a month led by Joshua DuBois, head of the White House Office for Faith-

Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. It also will meet in person four times within the next year.

The pastor said he has not been pleased with some of Obama's policies thus far.

"At this point I would have to say I have been very frustrated that what little protections there are for the unborn have been quickly and systematically removed," Page said. "I have been somewhat encouraged that he has promised that he would not force someone—a health-care worker, for example—to be involved in an abortion if he or she should object on a conscience basis. But other than that, there has been the removal of protections and policies that would have protected the unborn."

Obama's order concerning embryonic stem cell research came on the heels of several moves that have frustrated pro-lifers, including the administration's over-

turning of the Mexico City Policy, which prohibits international family planning organizations from receiving federal funds unless they agree not to perform or counsel for abortion.

Obama's administration also has moved to reverse Bush administration regulations meant to protect health-care workers from being forced to take part in procedures to which they morally object.

Asked if he feels he still can do some good on the council, Page responded, "I am beginning to wonder if my voice is being heard. But we haven't even had our first full meeting yet. We've had conference calls. ... So I am going to wait a little while longer to see if indeed voices that are being raised are being truly listened to."

Page has been assigned to two advisory council task forces: an abortion reduction task force and a fatherhood task force. He said he still has hopes that the administration will make progress in those two areas, as well as poverty. (BP)



Frank Page

Stetzer: Sense of community, purpose critical to reaching 20-somethings

By Shawn Hendricks

LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—Many of today's churches could learn a thing or two from Starbucks, contends Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research.

Though Stetzer does not drink coffee, he finds himself going to the coffee chain regularly for meetings and fellowship. With its low lighting, intimate seating and easy-listening music, it does not take long to figure out that Starbucks' success is not all about the coffee.

"It sells community," Stetzer wrote in his latest book, "Lost and Found: The Younger Unchurched and the Churches that Reach Them."

Stetzer said young adults classified as "unchurched"—those who have never been to church or stopped going—hunger for something deeper than upbeat music and a pep talk.

"If the body of Christ will provide opportunities for these types of relationships to develop with this generation, the doors of evangelism and life-changing ministry could be flung wide open," the author claimed.

In the book, Stetzer and co-authors Jason Hayes and Richie Stanley, focused on why most young adults—those in the 20- to 29-year-old age range—are avoiding church and what churches are doing (or could do) to reach them.

"We're calling it 'Lost and Found' because we want you to know that lost young adults are being found—effectively engaged in their culture, coming to faith in Christ and being incorporated into congregational life," Stetzer wrote in the book's introduction. "This book is not titled 'Lost and We Just Wanted to Tell You' (and it's the church's fault, by the way)."

The writing team pulled its data from a series of polls; more than 800 surveys with church leaders, church and unchurched people; and

nearly 100 face-to-face interviews. The book also includes surveys with 149 churches that are reaching young adults.

And the book reveals some sobering statistics. While 94 percent of unchurched individuals believe God has impacted their lives in a positive way, half of those believe that the biblical God is no different from gods of other world religions such as Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Sixty-seven percent believe the church is full of people who criticize others for doing the same things they do themselves.

Still, there are bright spots. Seventy-three percent believe the church is generally helpful to society as a whole. Seventy-seven percent of young unchurched people believe in Jesus and that He makes a positive impact on a person's life.

"The unchurched are not staying away from church because they have a problem with Jesus," the authors wrote. "That is good news if we are interested in living like Jesus and sharing Jesus with people."

Believing in Jesus, however, does not get people into the church, they added.

The authors point out that young adults also are looking for depth, roles of responsibility and relationships that cross generational lines.

Right now, churches are segmented into different age groups. From a historical perspective, the authors claimed, this is not normal and is ultimately harmful to the church. In fact, young adults prefer the opportunity to cross the generational boundaries and learn from the spiritual journeys of those who have already walked the path.

"The potential of this generation is hard to fathom," the authors wrote. "If we can connect them to God and the church, the world could truly be changed forever."



Slain pastor's widow not angry at gunman

Maryville, Ill.—The widow of slain Baptist pastor Fred Winters said she harbors no anger toward her husband's alleged murderer.

"I do not have any hatred or even hard feelings toward him," Cindy Winters said March 16 on the CBS Early Show. "We have been praying for him."

She said one of the first things her daughter said after the attack was that she hoped the accused gunman, 27-year-old Terry Sedlacek, would somehow come to "love Jesus" because of the experience.

She said she does not have any opinion about what should happen to Sedlacek in the legal

system but she hopes that he "finds peace with God."

"I hope that he understands that God loves him in spite of his sin, and he can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

Winters said she did not know Sedlacek and had never seen him before, but now she would like to reach out to his parents.

"In some way we have been united through this crisis, and when they are ready I have a desire to meet them and let them know personally that I love them and in some way I feel their pain. I feel like we're united together in our pain." (ABP)

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Celebrating 400 Years of Baptist Heritage
Thursday, April 2, 2009
Location: Louisville Campus of Campbellsville University

Registration: 1:00 p.m.; General Session 2:00 p.m.; Adjourn by 8:30 p.m. (EDT)
No Pre-Registration Required -- FREE to All

Key Note Speaker: Dr. Bill J. Leonard, dean and professor of church history at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Winston-Salem, NC, will present "Conscience and Dissent in a Believers' Church: Renewing Baptist Identity".

Breakout Sessions include:

- "African American Baptist History"
- "Varieties of Baptists in Kentucky: An Overview"
- "Kentucky Baptist Contributions to the Larger Baptist Community"
- "Future Directions for the Baptist Movement"

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What camp means to me

Camps offer perfect setting for spending time with God

By David Rouse
Jonathan Creek director

One month before my first year of college, I attended a retreat with my home church at a Christian camp and conference center in North Carolina. Away from the distractions of the world and alone with God in that environment, I surrendered to God's call to ministry and committed to go wherever He led me. At that moment I never dreamed that one day I would be the director of a camp offering that same environment.

Several times in Scripture, Jesus exemplified the need to spend time praying and resting at a solitary place (Mark 1: 35, Mark 6:31-32). I believe that our Crossings camps and conference centers at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore offer a unique setting—that solitary place—that allows people the opportunity to escape from the hectic routines of life and spend time communicating with God.

Though each summer camp week at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore is full of activities that

are Bible study and theme driven, students also are challenged and given the opportunity to have a quiet time each day. It is inspiring to witness the lives of students and adults changed through Jesus Christ during each of Crossings' camp weeks and during our retreat seasons throughout the year.

At Crossings, we have the incredible opportunity to provide facilities, food service, guest services, recreation activities and summer camp ministry that God uses in bringing great numbers of people to Jesus Christ and a growing relationship with Himself. I am convinced God uses the ministries of Crossings at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore as a way of fulfilling the Great Commission—that is exciting and rewarding.

I invite you to visit one of our Crossings camps. For more information, contact the Crossings central office at (502) 491-7000, or visit the Crossings Web site at www.CrossingsCamps.org. We look forward to serving you.

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

'Fearfully and wonderfully made'

Sunrise helps children move past the hurt to a safe future

For children who have suffered abuse and neglect, it is difficult for them to believe that their lives have value. They struggle to grasp the Psalmist's words to his Creator: "You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-14).

Cindy came to Sunrise's Morehead Center at age 15, having endured sexual, physical and emotional abuse. She believed she deserved that abuse and that her family's problems were directly related to her existence. As a result of her self-loathing, Cindy often mutilated her body.

The Sunrise staff also learned she struggled with substance abuse.

At first, Cindy was quiet because for so long, she had not been able to trust those caring for her. Gradually, she began to confide in the Sunrise staff about the incidents of abuse. We helped Cindy understand that she was a victim—none of the abuse was her fault. She began to see herself as a young wom-

an of beauty and ability. She also realized that her family's problems were the result of their choices and behavior.

As Cindy progressed, she acquired the tools for a substance-free future and worked hard in school to return to her grade level. When she was ready to leave the Morehead Center, she valued her life enough to insist she not return to her family. Cindy wanted to continue to be safe and healthy. Sunrise was able to move her to a foster home.

In April, we observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Just last year in Kentucky, there were more than 74,000 reports of abuse and neglect involving 88,000 children.

Part of our role at Sunrise is to prevent future child abuse. We accomplish that in many ways, such as working with girls like Cindy to restore their self-worth and keep them from becoming victims ever again. When that happens, we have helped a child to see themselves from God's perspective—as "wonderfully made."

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Deface
- 4 A seal or official stamp
- 8 Like a black pearl
- 12 Poetic before
- 13 Aesop's foolish fellow
- 14 Great Lake
- 15 Masculine nickname
- 16 Son of Jerahmeel (1 Chronicles 2:25)
- 17 Darius the _____, one-time ruler of Babylon
- 18 Far _____
- 20 Bane of insomniacs (pl.)
- 22 Grammar-school essay
- 24 Liquid measure
- 25 "They may teach the young _____ to be sober" (Titus 2:4)
- 26 Sheltered side
- 27 FBI agent, familiarly
- 30 Symbolic sign
- 31 Owns
- 32 Harsh breathing
- 33 Meditation by preacher (abbr.)
- 34 "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a _____ of thieves" (Matthew 21:13)
- 35 "Thou shalt not bear _____ witness" (Exodus 20:16)
- 36 Trench surrounding fortified place
- 37 "So I swear in my wrath, They shall not _____ into my rest" (Hebrews 3:11)
- 38 "Except ye _____, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3)
- 41 Make a judgment
- 42 "The fire shall _____ be burning upon the altar" (Leviticus 6:13)
- 43 "Father, save me from this _____" (John 12:27)
- 45 River or Sea
- 48 Close by
- 49 Ultimatum word
- 50 Blunder
- 51 "I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine _____ child" (Luke 9:38)
- 52 "For ye have _____ of patience" (Hebrews 10:36)
- 53 Actress Laraine

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- 2 Linking verb
- 3 "I know that my _____ liveth" (Job 19:25)
- 4 "A good name is rather to be _____ than great riches" (Proverbs 22:1)
- 5 "Then shall the lame man leap as an _____" (Isaiah 35:6)
- 6 Mine find
- 7 Common cents
- 8 Forgive or pardon
- 9 Greek god of war
- 10 Let it _____
- 11 Shoe sizes
- 19 "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him _____" (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- 21 "One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of _____" (Isaiah 30:17)
- 22 Jesus sent His disciples out by _____ (Mark 6:7)
- 23 Base in baseball
- 24 "They shall _____ vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof" (Zephaniah 1:13)
- 27 Wavered
- 28 In addition
- 29 The _____ Slayer (J.F. Cooper novel)
- 31 "The idols of the _____ are silver and gold" (Psalm 135:15)
- 32 Throw a fit
- 34 Puzo's Corleone
- 35 "The Lord ... is to be _____ above all gods" (1 Chronicles 16:25)
- 36 "A _____ heart maketh a cheerful countenance" (Proverbs 15:13)
- 38 First woman to be U.S. Attorney General
- 39 "Let me be weighed in an _____ balance" (Job 31:6)
- 40 Ring out
- 41 Masquerade of sorts
- 44 Corrida cry
- 46 Age
- 47 "He turneth ... the watersprings into _____ ground" (Psalm 107:33)

Last week's solution

1	B	E	E	T	O	G	S	P	A	R	T	
12	A	S	A	A	L	O	E	I	L	A	I	
15	Y	E	S	N	I	L	E	A	I	M	S	
	K	I	N	G	O	F	K	I	N	G	S	
	E	E	L	S	I	R	O	N				
23	W	A	S	T	E	G	N	U	A			
26	A	N	T	S	T	A	G	D	O	W	N	
32	N	Y				W	H	Y	T	O	W	E
	S	T	A	R		S	H	O	E			
	L	O	R	D	O	F	L	O	R	D	S	
41	H	I	R	E	N	A	U	M				
45	A	N	T	E	Z	A	R	A	I	R	E	
48	M	E	S	S	S	E	S	S	M	E	N	



Because the Web was made for more than just singing cartoons and buying stuff.



Missionaries seek to penetrate Kenya's wounded urban heart

Continued from page 1
hundreds of cults."

Nairobi's size and importance are remarkable when you consider that the city did not even exist little more than a century ago. It was born in 1899 on swampy Maasai tribal land as a way station for the railroad built by the British from Mombasa on Kenya's coast to Lake Victoria in Uganda.

In the Maasai language, "Nairobi" means "cool waters." Today it is a roiling cauldron of people, cultures and classes. The city counted about 350,000 residents when it became the capital of a newly independent Kenya in 1963. The population has multiplied at least tenfold since, a source of its vitality—and its growing problems.

Unemployment hovers at more than 50 percent. Five thousand new arrivals—and 3,000 additional cars—flood the city's already-overwhelmed roads each month. Crime grows increasingly violent and brazen. The wealthy take cover in gated communities. The poor have no such option.

Christian missions long focused primarily on rural Kenya. Still, Nairobi has many vital evangelical churches. Kenyan Baptists count some 60 congregations in the city. But Nairobi has grown too large and chaotically diverse for its existing churches. They are "dwarfed by the degree of loss," Southern Baptist missionary Doug Lee said. "You take those 60 churches and add up their attendance and it's just not even beginning to have an effect on this large city."

Another problem: 80 percent of all Kenyans claim to be "Christian." But the mile-wide, inch-deep nature of their Christianity was revealed by the bloody inter-tribal violence after the December 2007 elections. Most of the killing unfolded outside Nairobi, but more than 100 people died within the city; thousands more were driven from their homes. "Where were the '80 percent' of 'Christians'?" Baptist leader Shem Okello asked. "Christians' were burning churches."

In Nairobi, the number of self-identified evan-



WORSHIP The congregation at a Baptist church in Nairobi's Lucky Summer slum reflects the city's majority demographic: young and poor. "The biggest challenge for the city is so many young people with nothing to do," Southern Baptist missionary Jerry Stephens observed. "So they find something bad to do." (IMB photo)

gelicals is about 16 percent, according to Lee. Partnering with Kenyan Baptists, the International Mission Board's metro missionary teams are working to reach the rest, including university students, the business class, Asians and especially slum dwellers, which comprise the majority of the population.

"We realized that a tenth of the whole country now lives in Nairobi," Lee said. "We're not going to win the country until we win the city."

The key to winning Nairobi, Stephens explained, "is discipleship. We're not going to reach this city without mature believers." Believers who immediately pass on what they learn from God's Word.

Believers like William Ochienga, who sells mobile-phone minutes from a kiosk near a busy roundabout in Baba Dogo, another of the city's sprawling slums. "Everyone around here knows me," he said, and he knows everyone.

He came to faith in Jesus through "T4T" (Training for Trainers) teaching. Now he closes his kiosk once a week and opens a tiny room in back. There he teaches the stories of truth so that others may teach in turn. (BP)

Why do students come to Oneida?

The need for Oneida Baptist Institute shines through in its students' lives

If I were to come to your church and have a question-and-answer session, I am certain that one of the first questions would be, "Why is there a need for Oneida?" It is likely that many Kentucky Baptists and others who know at least a little about OBI may wonder why there is a need for our ministry.

I have been asked that question more than a few times over the years. It is not always worded the same, and some are a little embarrassed to ask for fear they may offend me. But I consider it a great privilege to tell interested people why the Oneida ministry is needed. I often have to apologize for giving what I call "a long answer to a short question." And while I consider the question to be a valid one, the answer is anything but short. I never have been able to explain who we are and what we do briefly.

Each April and May I use most of my Western Recorder columns to write about the seniors who will be graduating. By sharing things such as why they came to Oneida and what is the most important thing they have learned here, I hope that those who may not understand why there is a need for Oneida will come to recognize that OBI is needed and provides a unique ministry.

Occasionally I am asked why I do not use real names when I write my articles. There are legal and personal reasons for this. Since I am writing about minor-aged young people, it can get a little sticky when I reveal their real names. Rather than running the risk of writing something that someone may find offensive, I just use a fic-

titious name. Secondly, no matter how appreciative parents may be about the success their children have had at Oneida, there are times when they would prefer others not know some things about their children. I have no idea what one parent may consider offensive and another may not care about. I use an alternate name simply to provide some anonymity about the student so that hopefully no one is offended.

Some of our seniors enrolled during their senior year; others have been here since the sixth or seventh grade. Some began the road to success quickly, while others took more time. Normally, one or two have not put forth much effort to find the success that was well within his or her reach. It is much easier to give attention to those who have shown the most progress. However, often the student who is struggling or showing little interest is much more demanding of our time.

We often have to remind ourselves that every person is created in God's image and His Son died for every sinner, not just those who are the most contrite. We also know from years of experience that those who showed little progress while at OBI became the most grateful for their Oneida experience later in life. They often tell us how thankful they are that we continued to love and care for them even though they did not show much interest in improving while they were here. I hope you enjoy their stories and I thank you for making it possible for us to help those who come our way.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

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Putting a face with a name

CP rallies are opportunity to say 'thank you' to Kentucky

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my service at Clear Creek is the opportunity to travel around the state preaching in churches and sharing about the college. I see these opportunities as a way to "put a face with a name" for a lot of people who support Clear Creek but may not know much about us. I also see the Cooperative Program rallies currently taking place around the state as a way to say "thank you" to all Kentucky Baptists for your support.

I am scheduled to be at many of the rallies myself; but just in case I don't get to speak to you, let me take this opportunity to say "thank you" for your support of the Cooperative Program.

I am a cheerleader for CP. Here are some reasons why:

- Clear Creek Baptist Bible College has been a recognized educational institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention since 1946. Cooperative Program funds allocated to us through KBC churches account for one-fifth of our total operating budget. These funds are a major part of why we are able to operate debt-free.
- Your Cooperative Program sup-

port allows us to offer our students an affordable and quality theological education. We are able to keep our tuition costs at the lowest level of any Southern Baptist accredited college.

- Your CP support has an immediate impact on Kingdom work through Clear Creek. We require all of our students to be involved in practical ministry opportunities during their time here. You provide opportunities for them to study here and for them to be involved in ministry. This year, our students have been involved in preaching 1,556 gospel messages in local churches and other ministries. That has allowed our students to be involved in leading 149 people to professions of faith so far.

- Your Cooperative Program support also has a future impact on Kingdom work. The majority of our graduates each year go directly to the local church field to serve, or out onto the mission field.

Thank you Kentucky Baptists! Your support of the Cooperative program is making an impact on Kingdom work.

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.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Survey: United States growing less religious, less 'Christian'

By Adelle Banks

Hartford, Conn.—The nation has grown less religious in the last two decades, a new study shows, with a 10 percent drop in the number of people who call themselves Christians, and increases in all 50 states among those who are not aligned with any faith.

Between 1990 and 2008, the percentage of Americans who identified themselves as Christian dropped from 86 percent to 76 percent, reports the new American Religious Identification Survey, a wide-ranging survey released this month.

The group that researchers call the "Nones"—atheists, agnostics, and other secularists—have almost doubled in that time period, from 8.2 percent to 15 percent.

And, in a further indication of growing secularism, more than a quarter of Americans—27 percent—said they do not expect to have a religious funeral when they die.

"Historically, people are interested in their immortal soul, salvation, heaven and hell," said Barry Kosmin, co-author of the survey and director of the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

"If you don't have a religious funeral, you're probably not interested in heaven and hell."

Significant survey

The survey of more than 54,000 respondents followed similar large studies in 2001 and 1990. Though the largest increase in

"Nones" occurred between 1990 and 2001 (from 8.2 percent to 14.1 percent), Kosmin said more people have been willing to identify themselves as atheist or agnostic in the last seven years.

"There's the anti-religious group among what we call the 'Nones,'" he said, "but then the kind of nonreligious, the irreligious ... have also increased."

In the past, the typical "None" was a young, single male living in the West, but the image of the nonreligious is broader now, even if it remains 60 percent male.

"It's increasingly middle age and relatively across the board, less specific now," Kosmin said.

The research echoes findings of a recent Gallup Poll that revealed that 42 percent of

Vermonters said that religion is "an important part" of their daily lives—the lowest percentage of state residents polled across the country.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said the findings—including that more than one quarter of Americans do not expect a religious funeral—really bring home the secular nature of a sizable slice of the U.S. population.

"As an evangelical Christian, I see this as further evidence of the fact that American Christians live in the midst of a vast mission field," he said, "and this should be a wake-up call ... to the magnitude of our task in sharing the gospel in modern America." (RNS)

LITERACY MISSIONS... BORN IN THE HEART OF GOD

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April 25, 2009
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\$30 per participant after April 15

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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




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For more information: call (866) 489-3530 (toll-free in KY) or (502) 489-3530 or e-mail ministries@kybaptist.org.

NATIONAL NOTES

Museum opens natural selection exhibit—The Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky unveiled an exhibit March 15 that affirms Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection even as it rejects his teachings on evolution. Natural selection was Darwin's explanation for how organisms gain new traits over time. Museum founder Ken Ham said the exhibit was added to the museum to show that creationists can believe in natural selection without having to embrace evolution. The exhibit, titled "Natural Selection is Not Evolution" features a cave aquarium with blind cavefish to show how organisms possess traits specific to their environment. Ham said he believes creatures can gain new traits to fit their surroundings within their own families. He asserted, however, that changing from one organism to another, such as an ape evolving into a human, does not occur.

Ind. allows reference to God on license plates—Indiana officials have dropped a provision that bans references to religions or deities on personalized license plates after a woman sued when her "BE GODS" personalized license plate was not renewed. Liz Ferris had the license plate for nine years, but when she reapplied for the plate in March 2008, the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles refused to renew it because of the reference to God, according to a release by the Alliance Defense Fund. Attorneys with the ADF filed a lawsuit challenging the policy in November 2008. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles decided to settle the case last week and return to an earlier policy that did not prohibit license plates referencing a religion or deity, according to the release.

Judge dismisses inaugural God references suit—A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit in which an atheist attempted to halt the use of references to God during President Obama's inauguration. Judge Reggie Walton of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia already had denied Michael Newdow's initial request for a preliminary injunction days before the Jan. 20 swearing-in. On March 12, Walton dismissed the entire case, saying the California emergency room physician lacked standing to challenge the prayers at the ceremony because previous courts had determined he lacked standing. Newdow had sought to prevent Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts from saying "so help me God" during the presidential oath of office. He also wanted to stop clergy from presenting the invocation and benediction. The American Humanist Association, whose legal center worked with Newdow on the case, intends to appeal.

Groups protest restrictions on prison books—A coalition of religious organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union have joined forces to protest a proposed rule by the federal Bureau of Prisons to allow officials to ban religious materials from prison chapel libraries if they could possibly promote "violence or criminal activity." The outcry comes two years after federal prison officials were widely criticized for trying to push a list of "acceptable materials" that restricted several popular books, including megachurch pastor Rick Warren's "The Purpose-Driven Life." Anger over that move prompted Congress to pass the Second Chance Act, which forbids prisons from restricting access to religious materials—with an exception for works that could incite criminal behavior. The ACLU and others are concerned that under the proposed rule, prison officials would have the power to confiscate sacred texts or other works that could, in one way or another, be interpreted to promote violence. Critics say it is not the bureau's role to make that determination.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Mission Service Corps missionary Morris Norfleet of Berea. Morris serves as president of Mountain Missions Development Corporation, a ministry committed to meeting the physical and spiritual needs of individuals and families in Eastern Kentucky. MMDC seeks to share Christ through educational opportunities, job training and The Attic, a low-cost clothing store. Pray that God will provide financially for MMDC and its many ministry partners. Pray that God will provide a way for The Attic to address the new government standards related to lead testing in used clothing.

Upward Sports ministry of Olive Baptist Church in Benton. Annette Nimmo shares that Olive Baptist is partnering with other churches to form Marshall County Upward, a ministry designed to reach children and their families through basketball, flag football and cheerleading. Pray for the volunteers and coaches as they share Jesus Christ during every game and practice. Pray that the participating children and their families will gain an understanding of God's love for them.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Pleasant Ridge Church recently called **Ken Wiloughby** as pastor.

■ **BARNESVILLE, GA.**—**Richard Stokes**, who served as minister of education and youth at First Church of Pineville from 1980-83, died March 12. He was 58. Stokes was a graduate of Southern Seminary in Louisville and served at churches in Georgia and West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Cathy, three children and eight grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 14 at Pine View Church in Barnesville, Ga., where Stokes served as interim pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Poplar Grove Church recently ordained Pastor **Jimmy Perkins** to the gospel ministry.

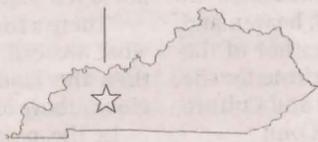
■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will hold revival services March 29-April 1 with **Mitch Dowell**, urban strategist for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, as evangelist. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Acton Church will hold revival services April 1-4, 7 p.m.; April 5, 11 a.m., with **Haywood Riner**, associate pastor at Elk Horn Church in Campbellsville, as evangelist. **John Batcher** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Decoursey Church recently called **Charles Barton** as pastor.

Spotlight on ...

South Carrollton



South Carrollton Church will hold revival services March 30-April 3, 7 p.m., with **Ron Noffsinger**, pastor of New Cedar Grove Church in Elkton, as evangelist. **Greg Brooks** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Middle Creek Church recently called **John Routh** as pastor. He previously was an International Mission Board missionary to the Czech Republic.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church recently called **Nick Webb** as minister of youth and children. **Chuck Fuller** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Mid-Continent University recently celebrated its 60th anniversary with an alumni banquet. The school conferred Mid-Continent graduate and longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor **Aubert Rose** with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—The 2009 Refor-



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

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

mation Conference for youth and youth leaders will be held March 28, 1:30 p.m., at the Mountain Arts Center. **Gary Almon**, professor of youth ministry at Southern Seminary in Louisville will be the keynote speaker. Rapper **Lecrae** and illusionist **Brock Gill** will perform, and **The Glorious Unseen** will lead

worship. Tickets purchased before the event are \$18, or \$15 for groups of 10 or more; \$20 at the door. For tickets, call (888) MAC-ARTS or visit www.macarts.com.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church will hold revival services March 29-April 1 with **Ron Bradley** as evangelist. **Dale Darley** is pastor.

Campbellsville University to host career fair April 1

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University will host a career fair April 1 from 2-4 p.m. at the school's Student Activities Center.

The exhibition is sponsored by Campbellsville's career services office as a service to "students, graduates and alumni seeking full- and part-time employment opportunities," according to Teresa Elmore, director of career services at CU. "Because of the harsh economic times, the job fair will also be open to the public."

Nearly 30 companies have confirmed their participation in the event. As of last week, the following companies were confirmed: Air Force Recruiting in Elizabethtown; Amazon.com; Bankers Life & Casualty Co. in Bowling Green;

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elizabethtown; WLK Radio in Elizabethtown; Branch Bank & Trust Co. in Springfield; Campbellsville Career Center; Commonwealth Broadcasting; Commonwealth Health Corp.; Dart Container Corp. in Horse Cave; Edward Jones of Campbellsville and Greensburg; Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Louisville; Ephraim McDowell Health Center in Danville; First Investors in Lexington; Life Skills Inc. in Bowling Green; MarketAmerica.com; Mary Kay; McDonald's in Elizabethtown; Monumental Life Insurance; Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Louisville; Social Security Administration; Spring View Hospital in Lebanon; Taylor Coun-

ty Bank in Campbellsville; Taylor Regional Hospital in Campbellsville; U.S. Army; Wal-Mart; Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society in Lexington; YMCA's Camp Piomingo in Brandenburg; and Campbellsville University's graduate school.

"I knew the participation company-wise would be down due to company cutbacks and hiring freezes, but I'm fairly pleased with the representation of companies confirmed to attend," Elmore said. "Many employers at this fair will be accepting resumes, and it is my hope that several (job seekers) will make it to the next level and be interviewed for positions."

Elmore offered a few tips for those attending the career fair:

- Research the companies.
- Dress professionally.
- Bring several copies of an up-to-date resume.
- Present yourself with confidence when offering your skills, education and experience to a prospective employer.

Elmore said the demand for jobs is growing and while her career services office is not a job placement service, she said the department does help connect Campbellsville students with companies and employers that might be hiring.

For more information about the upcoming job fair, contact Campbellsville's office of career services at (270) 789-5192, or e-mail career@campbellsville.edu.

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

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 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: Part-time campus pastor for the Franklin campus of Woodburn Baptist Church in Franklin, Ky. Primary responsibilities involve leadership in pastoral care ministry, worship, proclamation and Christian education. Complete job description may be downloaded from www.woodburnbaptist.org. Submit cover letter and resumé via mail to Personnel Committee, Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170; or via e-mail to warrenweeks@woodburnbaptist.org before April 17, 2009.

SEEKING: A God-led man to become part-time youth minister at Mill Creek Baptist in Bardstown, Ky. Call Pastor Gary Chesser, (502) 275-1320.

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: 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.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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.

'Special women'

LifeWay, Moore focus on encouraging wives of pastors, ministers at two Nashville events

By Polly House
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—The life of a man in the ministry can be taxing to say the least, but at least he signed up for it. What about life for his wife? In some cases all she did was marry the guy she thought hung the moon.

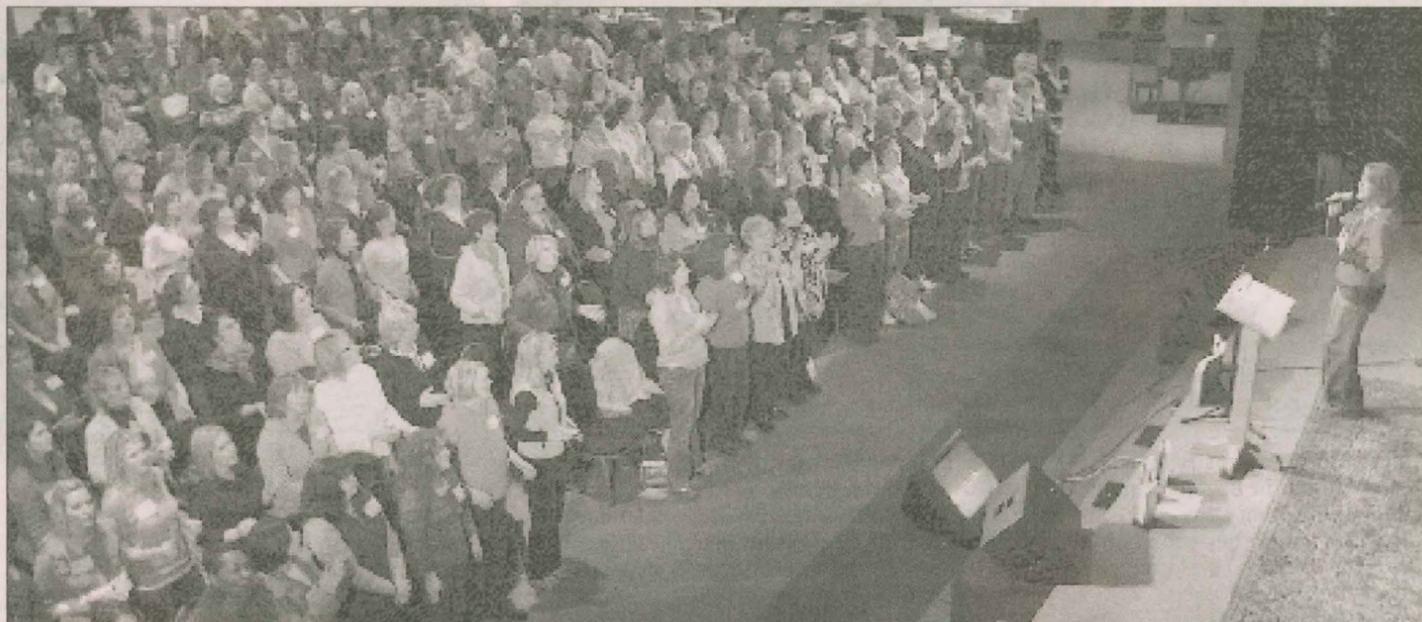
About 300 ministers' wives from across the United States and as far away as Japan met at the "Between Us Ministers' Wives" equipping event March 12-13 in Nashville. LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention organized the event preceding a Beth Moore "Living Proof Live" event for ministers' wives.

Chris Adams, LifeWay's senior lead women's ministry specialist, said, "LifeWay has wanted to host this equipping event for ministers' wives for some time. We thought having it in conjunction with the Living Proof Live event for ministers' wives was ideal. I think the women agreed.

"Ministers' wives are such special women," Adams continued. "They deal with all the issues that being married involves, but in a fishbowl. ... That's a lot of pressure for anyone."

Interviews with a panel of ministers' wives, past and present, opened the event. Becky Badry, director of women's missions and ministry for the Colorado Baptist General Convention and a chaplain's wife from Centennial, Colo.; Pam Case, director of LifeWay's women's ministry area and a pastor's wife from Nashville, Tenn.; Karen Alexander-Doyel, a LifeWay Ministry Multiplier, author and pastor's widow from Lenoir City, Tenn.; Jennifer Landrith, a LifeWay Ministry Multiplier, conference leader and pastor's wife from Hendersonville, Tenn.; Rachel Lovingood, a writer, teacher and student pastor's wife from Hendersonville, Tenn.; and Leighann McCoy, author, coordinator of prayer and women's ministries and pastor's wife from Thompson's Station, Tenn., sat on the panel.

The panel offered advice based on their



JUST FOR WIVES About 300 women from across the country, and as far away as Japan, join for praise and worship at the "Between Us Ministers' Wives" equipping event March 12-13 in Nashville. The conference preceded a Beth Moore "Living Proof Live" event just for ministers' wives. (Photos by Kent Harville)

own experiences and wisdom:

"Be real. Be who God designed you to be," Landrith said.

"Never forget that you are the absolute best, perfect minister's wife for your church because God specifically placed you there. It's no accident you are where you are," Alexander-Doyel said.

"Your first call is to walk with God. Your second is to take care of your husband and your family. Your third is to the ministry," Badry said.

"Every day when something hard comes up, remember that there will be something awesome on the other side," Case said.

"Remember that you are only responsible for you. I can't control anyone else's spiritual growth," Lovingood said.

"Wear only waterproof mascara," said McCoy, getting a hearty "amen" from the crowd.

A number of breakout sessions were offered, running the gamut from "laughing at yourself" to "balancing life" and "dealing with difficult people."

Alexander-Doyel led a session on making Sunday the best day of the week.

"Start on Monday thinking about getting clothes ready, getting your house clean, (and) getting an after-church lunch plan. If you are ready for Sunday on Saturday afternoon, you can have your day of rest and worship."

Laughing at situations that come up in church can help ministers' wives maintain sanity, according to McCoy.

"You have to be willing to laugh at yourself and at all the truly bizarre situations that will come up in your life with your church," she said. "And you need to have a friend who will laugh with you."

Badry reminded wives that ministers

rely on their spouses for comfort and support. "You know him as a man, a husband and a father," she said, "but do you know him as a minister? Ministry is not an occupation; it's a calling. He probably feels like he's always running for office."

During the closing panel time, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions. One young wife asked, "How do you handle being jealous of your husband's time?"

Lovingood said, "We have to have some parameters, of course, but we also have to remember that ministry is a 24/7 job. You need to develop some cues to let him know that you need him. Never forget, though, that you are his wife and you have a relationship with him that nobody else has."

Ministers wives can find resources specific to them at www.LifeWay.com/Women by clicking on "ministers' wives" under "helpful resources."

Panelists decided 'if the shoe fits, make a Bible study out of it'

By Polly House
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—If a woman is like a shoe then a minister's wife is like a tan suede open-toe dress shoe with a two-inch wedge heel in a size 8 narrow. In other words, a minister's wife is a very specific woman.

Recognizing this, two ministers' wives have written a Bible study aimed specifically at women such as themselves.

"In Our Shoes," by Jennifer Landrith and Rachel Lovingood and published by LifeWay Christian Resources, began as a Bible study for wives of the ministerial staff at Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn. Landrith's husband, David, is senior pastor; Lovingood's husband, Jeff, is student pastor.

"When we got into it, we decided if this were good for our ministers' wives, it'd be good for other ministers' wives, too," Lovingood said. "We want to encourage wives with the Word (of God). We want it to be empowering, real and relevant."

Both women were conference leaders at the recent "Between Us Ministers' Wives" equipping event hosted by LifeWay. Landrith said as they began looking at what resources were available for ministers' wives, they found the pool to be lacking.

"Too many of them just said what to do," she said. "But not many of them said anything about how to live as a minister's wife. We obviously wanted to use the Bible as our

foundation for the book but as we began working, we decided the need was for a Bible study, not a book of advice."

One of the first issues Landrith and Lovingood tackle in the study is the "calling" on the life of a minister's wife.

"Some people don't really like the word 'calling,'" Landrith said. "We tend to think about calling in terms of how our husbands decided on their particular jobs. But the word 'calling' applies to all believers."

Landrith and Lovingood categorized a minister's wife's calling into four descriptions:

A specific calling The woman felt a clear, distinct call to ministry.

A general calling The woman felt called to serve but didn't know specifically in what capacity.

An unexpected calling The woman was surprised by the call to ministry.

An impersonal calling The woman saw the calling to ministry as her husband's job that doesn't apply to her.

"How she views her calling is going to influence how she views her role," Lovingood said.

The authors also address a list of "hot topic" questions, such as the financial strain that can come with serving in ministry, developing friendships with other women in the church, and balancing home life and church participation.

In its eight chapters, "In Our Shoes" ad-



THOUGHTS FROM THE FISHBOWL Ministers' wives past and present shared stories of laughter and heartache as part of the recent "Between Us" event in Nashville. From left: Karen Alexander-Doyel, Becky Badry, Pam Case, Jennifer Landrith, Leighann McCoy and Rachel Lovingood. Landrith and Lovingood wrote the Bible study, "In Our Shoes" especially for wives of pastors and ministers.

dresses the blessings and influence that are unique to a minister's wife. The book also provides information on everything from buying gifts for deacons and cooking for unexpected guests. It also gives suggestions on connecting with other ministers' wives such as hosting a monthly party for the staff wives in the church, planning a denominational or associational dinner, forming an online community or creating

a ministers' wives book club.

Whether a minister's wife sees her shoe of choice as a strappy sandal, a solid running shoe, a sturdy flat or a high-top combat boot, she needs to find the style that is most comfortable and appropriate to her life. The same applies to her life as the wife of a minister.

Access the "In Our Shoes" blog at <http://inourshoesthestudy.wordpress.com>.



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