

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

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## Baptists: Past, present & future

*Campbellsville University forum explores 400 years of Baptist heritage, looks ahead at what's to come*

By Todd Deaton & Drew Nichter  
Editor & News Director

Louisville—In the early 17th century, a group of refugees seeking religious freedom from the Church of England fled to Amsterdam, Holland. Led by Anglican minister John Smyth, the group formed a church based on the core tenets of a confession of faith in Jesus Christ, followed by believer's baptism.

Many regard that church as the origin of the Baptist movement.

Today, many scholars and historians are celebrating the ideals that Baptists still hold to 400 years later.

But how can the Baptist past offer insight into the Baptist future?

That is the question dozens of Baptists sought to answer at last week's Baptist heritage forum at Campbellsville University's Louisville campus.

The event, sponsored by Campbellsville and the Baptist History and Heritage Society, featured a number of Baptist historians, scholars and denominational leaders. Other groups participating in the event included the Kentucky Baptist Convention,



Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, Long Run Baptist Association and General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

A re-examination of Baptist history, according to keynote speaker Bill Leonard, reveals the "heart of Baptist identity in the modern, post-modern world: the importance of uncoerced faith grounded in the power of conscience, and the inevitability of dissent."

Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University's School of Divinity and a professor of [See Campbellsville forum explores ... Page 2](#)

Participants in a panel discussion exploring the "Future Direction for the Baptist Movement" listen as Bill Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University's School of Divinity and professor of church history, responds to a question from the audience. The discussion was part of a heritage forum celebrating 400 years of Baptists held at Campbellsville University's Louisville campus April 2. The panel also included (from left) Campbellsville University President Michael Carter; Pamela Durso, associate executive director for the Baptist History and Heritage Society in Atlanta; Greg Wills, director of the Center for the Study of the Southern Baptist Convention and professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; and Russell Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville and moderator for the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

## Economy challenges churches, but provides opportunities

Nashville—Protestant churchgoers in America remain generous during difficult economic times, and their churches have increased their ministry to the needy. Despite the country being in recession for the past year, giving in 2008 was up an average of 4 percent over 2007 according to a survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors by LifeWay Research.

"While many sectors of the economy have taken a clear step back in the last year, Protestant churches have held their own," noted Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research.

Still, more than half of pastors interviewed say that the current economy is negatively impacting their churches, but only 7 percent of Protestant pastors say the economy is "very negatively" impacting their churches. Thirty percent of pastors say the economy has had no impact on their churches.

LifeWay Research surveyed 1,000 Protestant pastors in February. Respondents were asked how the economy is impacting their churches, how giving levels compare to budget, how 2008 offering totals differed from 2007, and what changes have taken place in their congregations as a result of the economy.

The average church saw offerings grow by 4 percent in 2008. Growth in offerings of 10 percent or more was experienced by 26 percent of church-

es. In contrast, 12 percent of churches saw their giving decline by 10 percent or more.

Pastors are almost as likely to report giving ahead of current budget as behind it. The largest group of churches (45 percent) reported offerings since the beginning of 2008 have been about what they budgeted. Twenty-six percent of churches are receiving more than they budgeted and 27 percent are receiving less. Seventy-one percent of Protestant churches around the country are either meeting or exceeding their budgets, according to the survey.

### Ministries continue

"While the public's faith in almost every other type of investment has crumbled, faithful givers continue to support churches," noted Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research. "If current trends continue, the majority of churches will likely meet their budgets this year."

Because of the financial crunch, 35 percent of churches held salaries for the new year at last year's levels, while 12 percent delayed construction or other large capital expenses that were planned. Still, 31 percent of churches explored starting a new ministry to help people who are disadvantaged, and 37 percent increased spending from the church

budget to help the needy.

Churches willing to meet financial needs almost certainly will find increased opportunities to do so, according to the survey. A majority (62 percent) of churches have had more people in the community request financial assistance in the last year than in previous years.

"When times are tough, the church can be at its best—being, doing and telling the good news of the gospel," Stetzer said. "Though the church has not been hit as hard as many sectors of society, the data is showing some real challenges. Churches are having to be much more cautious."

Even within congregations, needs increased. Nearly a third of churches have received more requests from within the congregation for financial assistance in the last year than in previous years. Within the last year, 4 in 10 churches have had more people than normal within the congregation lose their jobs.

This last year also brought changes in how those within congregations approach expenditures. Thirty-five percent of churches reported a heightened sense of caution within their congregations about trying new things that cost money. A small number of congregations (11 percent) have seen increased reluctance to attend church functions or church-sponsored events that carry

a cost or admission charge.

Among the other findings:  
■ Seven percent of churches delayed hiring that was planned.  
■ Six percent reduced staff salaries.  
■ Four percent laid off one or more employees.  
■ Four percent reduced insurance benefits for staff.

### Economy brings sacrifice

Some pastors reported making personal sacrifices to continue ministering in the slumping economy. Twenty-seven percent have paid for ministry items out of their own pockets more often than usual. That figure jumps to 34 percent among pastors whose salaries held at last year's levels and to 55 percent among pastors with reduced salaries.

In rare cases, ministers have supplemented their incomes to make ends meet. Five percent recently added a non-ministry job for more income.

Only 1 percent of pastors reported seriously considered leaving the ministry for financial reasons during the economic slowdown.

"It's easy to hunker down with what money you have left," McConnell said. "Yet Jesus Christ told his followers that giving out of your poverty is worth far more than giving out of your surplus. Pastors are living this truth."

# Preparations coming together for Crossover Louisville 2009

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Louisville**—When Crossover 2009 concludes it may be another 50 years before Kentucky Baptists again team up with so many fellow Southern Baptists to share the gospel on a grand scale with residents of metro Louisville.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Charles Barnes who is coordinating the evangelistic emphasis prior to this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 23-24 in Louisville.

The River City hosted the SBC annual meeting once before in 1959, the centennial of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This year marks the seminary's 150th anniversary. Special events are planned in conjunction with the annual meeting to celebrate the milestone. Southern Seminary also is one of the sponsors of Crossover.

Launched in 1989, Crossover mobilizes Southern Baptist volunteers to share the gospel with residents of the host city the weekend before the annual meeting.

In addition to Southern Seminary, Crossover Louisville is a joint effort of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, Long Run Baptist Association and the North American Mission Board.

Barnes estimated 2,500 to 3,500 volunteers are needed for a variety of projects ranging from the construction of a learning center in the inner city to prayer-walking.

"We're not interested in things that will have some glamour for only a week or so and then die," Barnes said. "We want to go at things in a way that will not only win people to Christ but will disciple them thereafter."

J.W. Hutchens of NAMB has served in each Crossover event since its inauguration in Las Vegas 20 years ago. He said the Louisville event is unique for a couple of reasons.

"This is the first time we've had a seminary that has gotten so involved," Hutchens noted. Southern students are survey-

ing areas where the witnessing teams will serve. They also are working with churches to plan events that will be most effective in specific neighborhoods.

"We're also making more emphasis on follow-up so every person who makes a decision at Crossover is in a local church and beginning discipleship immediately," Hutchens said.

Through follow-up and the efforts of church planters, as many as 10 new metro-area churches may be launched in the year following Crossover, Barnes predicted.

Metro Louisville's population of 1 million includes some 50,000 Hispanics, with several hundred living right around Churchill Downs, working as jockeys, trainers, groomers and in other capacities, said Joshua Del Risco, NAMB's coordinator for multi-ethnic evangelism.

With help from Yurian Santiesteban, a chaplain at Churchill Downs, Crossover volunteers will visit the racetrack, witness to the Hispanic horsemen and invite them to nightly revival services at 10 area Hispanic churches, including a new church plant located almost across the street from the famous racetrack, Iglesias Baptista Victoria.

"When we leave Louisville, these 10 young Hispanic churches will be expected to continue their growth and keep implementing the things we learned during Crossover," Del Risco said.

## Variety of projects

Most projects will occur June 20. Construction/repair projects will start earlier, as will the work of Intentional Community Evangelism, or ICE, Teams. Those teams are specially trained; other ministries also require some training but most do not.

"We will have 12 different ministry activities going on," Barnes pointed out.

Crossover volunteers will serve in:

- Door-to-door witnessing.
- Block parties.
- Follow-up coordination.
- International festivals—events featuring native dress, displays and food from various ethnic groups.



**FUNNY FACE** Joy Williamson (left), a member of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, paints a mustache on a girl attending a block party at Elim Baptist Church in Fishers, Ind., during last year's Crossover event in Indianapolis, prior to the SBC annual meeting. Plans currently are being made for this year's Crossover Louisville to be held the weekend before the June 23-24 annual meeting. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

- Church-planting survey—plan and develop potential congregations among unreached people.

- Kindness Explosion—distributing bottled water labeled with the plan of salvation at parks and other venues.

- Kentucky Builders—through private donations and funds from the Louisville Metro government, volunteers will construct a learning center in the Shelby Park area.

- Kentucky Changers/Crossover Changers—a number of home repair/renovation projects for the needy are planned.

- Kentucky Baptist disaster relief—feeding units will support construction/repair volunteers throughout the week.

Although not the most visible activity, prayer and prayerwalking are keys to Crossover's success and something every Kentucky Baptist can do, Barnes said.

Wesley Pitts, director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association, said with the tight economy, Crossover could be the perfect mission trip for some congregations.

"Most Kentucky Baptists could drive in on Saturday morning and drive back Saturday evening," Pitts said.

Walnut Street Baptist Church will be the host church for the Crossover initiative, with eight other Louisville churches serving as ICE "anchor churches," including Galilee Baptist Church, Bible Community Fellowship, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Guiding Light Baptist Church, Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, Immanuel Baptist Church, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Temple of Faith Baptist Church.

Church teams can register or get more information about Crossover at [www.CrossoverLouisville.com](http://www.CrossoverLouisville.com).

Individuals who want to be assigned to a team are encouraged to sign up through The Bridge, NAMB's volunteer connection Web site, at [www.TheBridge.namb.net](http://www.TheBridge.namb.net).

A Crossover office has opened at Long Run Baptist Association. The phone number is (502) 635-2601 or (502) 523-1675.

With additional reporting by NAMB's Mickey Noah

## Campbellsville forum explores Baptists' past, present and future

Continued from page 1

church history, pointed out that Baptist identity was characterized by such principles as:

- Biblical authority.
- Regenerate church membership.
- Believer's baptism by immersion.
- Congregational church polity.
- Religious liberty.
- Priesthood of the laity.

Those who founded the church in Amsterdam in 1608-09 "began as an unashamed, Christian sect, born of the idea that the church should be composed only of believers—those who could testify to a work of grace through faith in Jesus Christ," he added.

In his address, Leonard pointed to the 16th and 17th century Baptists' focus on conscience and dissent. They understood these principles "in light of the need for sinners to be ... made new through conversion to Jesus Christ," he said, adding, however, that "conscience could not be compelled by either state-based or faith-based establishments."

"Baptists began as a community of dissent," Leonard stated. "They challenged political and religious establishments."

However, conscience and religious liberty did not equate to silence or unity, Leonard stressed.

"Baptists argued unashamedly with



**BAPTIST HISTORIAN** Bill Leonard addresses an audience member's question during a panel discussion at last week's Baptist Heritage celebration at Campbellsville University's Louisville campus. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

their opponents and each other," he said. "They spoke their views freely and passionately, but asserted the right of others to do the same."

Today, with the increasing expansion of religious pluralism, "many Baptists and Protestants are deeply divided over the meaning of religious liberty and the influence of the church in political and public society," Leonard said.

Some see secularism as the new religious establishment, he stated, while "others fear that in the panic over marginalization, religious majorities will demand state

action to protect their privileged status."

But the question becomes: "How might Baptists consider matters of conscience and faith in ways that inform the future of an increasingly diverse, pluralistic, secular and global culture?"

The future direction of the Baptist movement was explored during a panel discussion featuring Leonard and other Baptist historians and leaders.

"I think if we are going to survive as a denomination ... we need to restore our Baptist identity," said Greg Wills, director of the Center for the Study of the Southern Baptist Convention at Southern Seminary in Louisville. That identity is being threatened because of churches' focus on worldliness, he noted.

Churches "are more concerned with the world we see than with the world we don't see," Wills explained.

He also lamented Christians' fear of standing for truth at the risk of appearing rude or offensive. "We're afraid to do some of the things that the Scriptures require us to do because we're afraid we're going to cause an offense."

That likely is due to the rise of secularization in North America, according to Campbellsville University President Michael Carter. He said that churches must seek to define a relevant sense of community for future Baptists. "That sense of com-

munity is going to be over and against these very powerful secularization forces that are facing us," he said.

Pamela Durso, associate executive director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society in Atlanta, illustrated the future of Baptists as her 12-year-old daughter, Alex.

Durso described her daughter, who was adopted from South Korea at 8 months old, as a young Asian woman who surfs the Internet daily and therefore, is a global citizen. Alex also is "impatient with Baptist churches that are irrelevant," Durso said. "She cares nothing about Baptist battles or doctrinal clashes."

Durso pointed out that if Baptists do not focus more on being relevant, become more globally minded and "connect with our Baptist brothers and sisters around the world," Alex Durso will explore other faith alternatives. "I believe that if we do not give her a reason to stay Baptist, Alex will walk away from the Baptist tradition, with no regret, to find a place that is meaningful to her," Durso said.

Russell Awkard, pastor at New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville, agreed that the "table has to be lengthened or widened" if Baptists are to survive.

But, he added, "It's still the Lord's church ... and it will thrive because He will raise up men and women who will be able to identify with people in their present day."

## Prison chaplain, MSC missionary Adamson dies

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Russellville**—Leonard Adamson Jr., a prison chaplain and Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps missionary, died March 31 in Russellville after a long illness. He was 58.

"We've lost a man that truly set an example of how God can change darkness into light," said Mike Humble, president of Agape Service Foundation, where Adamson served as director of prison ministries for about 15 years.

As a former inmate, Adamson developed a special rapport with prisoners at Green River Correctional Complex in Central City, Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville and other facilities.

"The inmates loved and respected him," recalled Brian Crawford, who serves as a chaplain to prison guards. Crawford said inmates often shrug off spiritual conversations with outsiders by saying, "You're not in my shoes." ... They couldn't tell Leonard that."

In a 2004 article in the Western Recorder, Adamson described how he became a Christian after escaping Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange in 1978. He was serving two life sentences for armed robbery, drug trafficking and auto theft.

Adamson began a new life with a new name and false identification card. "No one was looking for him," Crawford noted, yet Adamson said he was far from free.

In 1979, outside an all-night Christian coffeehouse in Minneapolis that Adamson had been frequenting, he accepted Christ as his savior; then he turned himself in to the next police officer he saw.

Adamson was returned to Kentucky and incarcerated at the Eddyville prison. There he met Humble.

Chaplains began mentoring Adamson who was paroled in 1985.

"He was probably one of the most honored chaplains in the state of Kentucky," Humble said. "Everybody knew he walked his talk."

In addition to the prison ministry, Humble said Adamson was care minister for Crossroads Church at Logan in Russellville, counseling people in times of crisis, and organizing benevolence ministries.

A native of Ottumwa, Iowa, Adamson was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He is survived by his wife, Sue, a daughter, four stepsons and five grandchildren.

The funeral was held April 3 at Crossroads Church at Logan. Memorial gifts supporting Agape Service Foundation in Russellville are suggested by the family.

## Conferences encourage local church missions

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Bowling Green**—Jeff Crabtree, Warren Baptist Association director of missions, said that before associational meetings, he likes to show a video.

The six-minute feature highlights photos and home video footage of dozens of baptisms from the association's nearly 50 member churches; dozens of individuals of all ages being raised from death to life.

The reason for the video? "We've bought into the concept of (reaching) our Jerusalem," Crabtree asserted.

The DOM shared what his association is doing to fulfill God's Great Commission at the first of four Acts 1:8 Challenge conferences last week at the Warren Association office in Bowling Green.

Launched in 2004, the Acts 1:8 Challenge is a cooperative effort of the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board to help mobilize local churches to get involved in missions.

The emphasis comes from Jesus' commandment in the Book of Acts calling all believers to be "witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

What that means for the local church today, noted NAMB's John Lay, is to reach people in four places: community (Jerusalem), state (Judea), continent (Samaria) and world (ends of the earth).

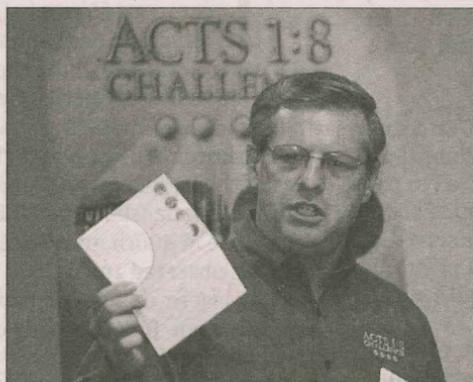
He called the Challenge a "more intentional and comprehensive approach" to missions.

"What does the world look like to you?" asked Lay, who serves as the Acts 1:8 Challenge mobilizer for NAMB. "We have a tendency to only see the world from the perspective of the culture that we're in."

He explained that any church can get involved with the Acts 1:8 Challenge—regardless of its size—with the help of state conventions and organizations like NAMB and the IMB.

"Denominational entities exist to assist local churches in fulfilling their Great Commission responsibility," Lay said.

While insisting that churches can participate in missions in all four areas, involvement will not happen immediately, according to Scott Pittman.



**CHALLENGED TO GO** John Lay, the Acts 1:8 Challenge mobilizer for the North American Mission Board, encourages church leaders to fill out a card pledging their commitment to accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge. The emphasis is a joint effort of NAMB and the International Mission Board to get local churches more involved in missions.

"You may not get to the uttermost parts of the earth until five years from now, but you can start planning now," noted Pittman, Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions director. "The idea is to grow in your involvement."

Lay explained that there are eight responses to the Acts 1:8 Challenge. They are:

- Prepare—Elect leaders and make plans.
- Learn—Create missions awareness among the congregation.
- Pray—Seek God's direction through prayer.
- Give—Increase financial support for missions involvement.
- Go—Mobilize Christians to be on the mission field.
- Tell—Be involved in evangelism.
- Send—Respond to vocational mission service.
- Multiply—Participate in church-planting movements.

"It's hard to get away from the Great Commission," Lay said. "Our mission basically is to go and make disciples."

For Warren Association, that means reaching the 80 percent of the population in Warren and Edmonson counties who without Christ, Crabtree said.

## KBC focuses community event on preparing for disasters

**Louisville**—Those who want to learn how to prepare for disasters are invited to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention's upcoming Disaster Preparedness Fair May 12.

Open to the public, the event will feature WAVE-TV Meteorologist Kevin Harned, as well as representatives from local government and nonprofit organizations. The outdoor fair will run from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

"Everyone knows just how devastating disasters can be and that preparedness is incredibly important, but many people are asking what that should look like," said Robert Reeves, KBC communications director. "Our goal is to help those in our community prepare themselves and their loved ones for future disasters."

Additional groups scheduled to participate include the American Red Cross, Middletown Fire Department, Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness and E.ON U.S./LG&E. Free lunches will be served by a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief feeding unit to the first 250 participants.

Among the topics that will be addressed during the fair include: how to prepare an emergency kit; portable generator safety; fire safety for home and business; how to prepare for power outages; electrical safety and power restoration; food safety tips; and pandemic precautions.

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief communications and recovery units also will provide demonstrations.

"Kentucky Baptists have a long history of aiding people in need," Reeves noted. "We planned this Disaster Preparedness Fair as a proactive way to help our community, and give residents a chance to meet some of the organizations that play a key role in disaster situations."

Kentucky Baptists are part of a larger network of Southern Baptist volunteers trained to respond to disasters. Together, they comprise the third largest relief organization in the United States.

For more information and directions to the Baptist Building, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/Prepared](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Prepared), or call (502) 489-3578 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3578.

This is done through a number of ways including church planting; a 17-acre recreational complex that hosts softball leagues; international ministries; missions education; and administrative help for churches.

"When people hear the word 'missions,' they think of other countries," said Teresa Parrett, KBC's missions mobilization coordinator. "Unevangelized people are right here in our state."

Parrett identified dozens of ways local churches could get involved in reaching their state (Judea).

Among them is the work being done in preparation for the World Equestrian Games coming to Lexington next year. Several hundred thousand people are expected to descend on the Bluegrass State from all over the world, providing an unprecedented opportunity for Christians to reach the world from home, she noted.

Parrett also urged participants to consider short-term missions in areas throughout the state. "We're finding that for every 10-12 volunteers coming, there is one profession of faith," she said.

Lay insisted that modern-day travel has made it much easier for Christians to take the gospel anywhere it is needed. Starting at his living room, he said he can be anywhere in the world in just 36 hours.

But, he noted, in just 36 minutes, "I could walk across the street and share Christ with my neighbor." Or, in 36 seconds, "you could share Christ with someone in the parking lot of a Walmart," he said.

While churches may have global missions aspirations, Lay maintained it starts at home.

"We won't be effective in sharing the gospel around the world if we're not willing to take it across the street."

Acts 1:8 Challenge conferences also were held at Big Creek Baptist Church in Hazard, Owenton Baptist Church and Pinckneyville Baptist Church in Salem.

At each conference, church leaders were invited to accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge. For more information, contact the KBC's partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529, or online at [www.KyBaptist.org/Partnership](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Partnership).

## Projected CP shortfall is concern for KBC leaders

**Louisville**—Kentucky Baptist Convention officials are concerned they may be facing a Cooperative Program shortfall of approximately \$900,000 if the giving pace set by churches during the first six months of the 2008-09 budget year continues.

Church receipts through February totaled \$11,541,217, meaning that \$12,458,783 is needed to make the 2008-09 CP budget of \$24 million, according to a chart presented by Lowell Ashby, KBC's business team leader, to the state convention's Administrative Committee March 26. If current giving patterns continue, projected CP gifts will total \$23,082,434, subsequently resulting in a reduction in the convention's missions and ministry efforts.

Complicating giving during the first half of the year was not only the slowed national economy, but also a significant ice storm that paralyzed much of the state with the loss of electricity and heat, making it difficult for many churches to hold services. During recent CP rallies held across the state, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey has repeatedly affirmed churches for still giving \$1.7 million of the needed \$2 million budgeted amount in February.

Nevertheless, the KBC staff has begun bracing for a potential CP shortfall by preparing a list of more than 20 cost-saving measures, reported Steve Thompson, KBC assistant executive director. For example, in addition to reducing travel expenses to conduct church training events, some convention departments may be forced to drop conferences based on registration, and a temporary hiring freeze would mean that some positions will not be filled.

## Crossover Louisville '09

Exciting plans have been developed for Crossover Louisville prior to the SBC annual meeting, June 23-24. There will be opportunities for all Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists from other states to be involved.

Here are just some of the activities:

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

■ Inner City Evangelism (ICE) teams will share the gospel each day, June 15-27. More than 500 people are expected to participate, including a youth group of about 150 young people. Meals will be served at Walnut Street Baptist Church. (Various churches are needed to help with meals for volunteers.)

■ Door-to-door witness will be conducted in partnership with local churches June 27. Volunteers are urgently needed.

■ Twenty-eight block parties have been scheduled with local churches throughout the city.

■ An international festival will be conducted near Iroquois Manor on Third Street Road.

■ Ten Hispanic churches will be conducting daily witness in their communities, June 15-19. Revival services at alternating churches will be held nightly following witnessing. A big festival will be held on June 20 with activities and Christian bands.

■ The Kindness Explosion Committee plans to hand out bottles of water with the plan of salvation on special labels in six areas: the Great Lawn, the Extreme Park, Smoketown/Shelby Park area, the West End of Louisville and other high traffic areas.

■ Baptist Builders will construct a learning center and remodel another facility.

■ Adult Changers and Youth Changers will remodel 20 homes badly in need of repair. These construction projects are coordinated with the Louisville mayor's office. Disaster relief teams will provide food for the volunteers.

■ A free Youth Evangelism Conference is planned for Sunday night, June 21, at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, 6-9 p.m.

Follow-up actions have been planned in cooperation with local churches. All survey cards from persons making decisions will be recorded and given to local churches for follow-up. Several church plants are expected to come out of Crossover Louisville.

The local coordinator for Crossover is Charles Barnes, assisted by Wesley Pitts, director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association, and Ross Bauscher, KBC evangelism growth team leader.

The North American Mission Board is providing national leadership and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is providing opportunities for students to be involved. Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is helping to financially support possible new church plants.

Please ask God to show you how you can become involved and plan now to participate. You may contact the Crossover Louisville office at (502) 635-2601 or visit the Web site at [www.CrossoverLouisville.com](http://www.CrossoverLouisville.com) to learn more.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Whose birthday was Campbellsville celebrating?

The Baptist Heritage Forum on the Louisville campus of Campbellsville University may have left some people scratching their heads, wondering exactly whose birthday was being celebrated, since Baptists in America have generally traced their roots to the preaching of Roger Williams and the founding of the First Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, around 1638. In that case, a 400th anniversary would not be observed until 2038. So what exactly were dozens of Baptists, led by historian Bill Leonard, observing last week?



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Many historians date the beginnings of Baptists to a group of dissenters in 1609 led by John Smyth and Thomas Helwys. Described by Leonard as "the first identifiable Baptist group," these dissenters fled the persecution that was instigated by the Church of England and King James I, who viewed their insistence for religious conscience as treachery since it denied the crown's right to determine the religious convictions of all English subjects.

In his book, "Baptists in America," Leonard asserts: "In Amsterdam they became convinced that baptism should be administered only to those who could testify to a work of grace in their lives and that infant baptism had no precedent in the New Testament church." This repudiation of the practice of baptizing infants set them at direct odds with the Church of England.

Fleeing first to Amsterdam, these dissenters were among the Pilgrims who set foot in Plymouth in 1620 and others who would follow in search of religious freedom. Roger Williams was one of those who made his way to Massachusetts just 11 years later. Williams, who served congregations in Plymouth and Salem, held some radical theological and political views that brought him into conflict with the Puritans of New England. Leonard explains, "[L]ike Thomas Helwys in England, Williams declared that God alone was judge of the conscience and each individual was responsible to God for the religious decisions he or she made. There were no Christian nations; there were only Christian believers who practiced their faith without the need for approval from the governmental powers of this world."

Exiled from Massachusetts, Williams established Providence Plantation as "a shelter for persons distressed of conscience," Leonard told the Campbellsville forum. Rhode Island's colonial charter, where Williams founded the first Baptist congregation in America, granted religious freedom to all of its residents, he noted.

During the next three decades, Baptist congregations appeared in Newport, Boston and Kittery, Maine. The first Baptist church in the South was established when some members of the Kittery congregation, led by William Screven, settled in Charleston,

S.C., in the late 1690s.

Yet, it should be noted that all Baptists do not agree with the 1609 date of origin, and in this, they must be allowed freedom to exercise one of Baptists' cherished principles: the right of dissent. For some Baptists, particularly—but not exclusive to—those who are endeared to tenets commonly associated with the Landmark movement, the concept of a "true church" is a sacred ideal. This view maintains that the true church is traceable through New Testament doctrines and ecclesiastical characteristics

that are shared by an unbroken lineage of various sectarian groups all the way back to the time of the apostles and the early church.

Taking its name from Proverbs 22:28, which states, "Remove not the ancient Landmark, which thy fathers have set," Landmarkism also was concerned initially with such matters as whether Baptists should recognize preachers who baptize infants as gospel ministers and whether only members of a local church should participate in the Lord's Supper, according to Robert Baker's history, "The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People." Landmark views, particularly those concerning immersion, were an extremely powerful force at the turn of the 20th century, leading to the dismissal of a Southern Seminary president.

Regardless of whether one traces Baptist origins to its English roots 400 years ago or some 1,600 years beyond the Protestant Reformation, we all can agree that the cherished tenets that shaped Baptists into who they are today, indeed, are something worth celebrating.

In "A History of the Baptists," Robert Torbet surveys these principles held by Baptists which he maintains were inherent within the early Christian church. His list includes the insistence upon Holy Scripture as the sole norm for faith and practice, opposing the inclusion of church tradition; the necessity of believer's baptism and regeneration for church membership, rather than practicing infant baptism and confirmation; a strong advocacy of the priesthood of believers and individual competency under God, allowing for the believer to interpret the Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and promoting religious liberty and the separation of church and state, restricting government from interfering with or determining the religious beliefs of an individual or a congregation.

In drawing our attention back to these cherished hallmarks of Baptists, Campbellsville University and the Baptist History and Heritage Society are to be commended in their efforts to ensure that future generations appreciate the significance of these distinctive doctrines and do not lose sight of the cost that their forbearers paid, even to the extent of risking imprisonment, exile and death.

## Audit work group finds KBC agencies, institutions sound

The audit work group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention mission board's business and finance committee met Dec. 9, 2008, to perform its annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's affiliated entities and its mission board as reflected in their 2008 audited financial statements.

This annual audit review process is an important way Kentucky Baptists receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists can be pleased that this procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an accounting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them.

These entities include Campbellsville University, University of

the Cumberlands, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Sunrise Children's Services, Baptist Healthcare System, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Kentucky Baptist Mission Programs and Subsidy.

Kentucky Baptists also can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of the institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them.

The work group complimented the board and administrative leadership of the convention and each of its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit work group were: chairperson Charles Barnes (Louisville), Steve Fegenbush (Danville), Larry Harder (Leitchfield), Doug Miller (Hardinsburg), Wesley Noss (Versailles), Jerry Oakley (Bowling Green), Royce Pile (Oneida), Susie Stivers (Shelbyville), KBC Business Manager Lowell Ashby, Accounting Services Director Cathi Roy-Sanders, Accounting Services Senior Accountant Tonya Penick, Executive Associate Steve Thompson and Executive Director Bill Mackey. In addition, a certified public accountant met with the group.

The work group's report was made to the business and finance committee on March 27 and approved.

Charles Barnes, chairperson  
KBC audit work group and business  
and finance committee

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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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## Durable power of attorney

By Laurie Valentine

Estate planning is part of our Christian stewardship responsibilities. Being a good estate steward requires that you not only plan for how your assets will be distributed at death, but also how personal and financial matters will be handled in the event you become incapacitated as the result of a stroke, accident or illness.

"Incapacity planning" must be done while you have the mental capacity to understand what you are doing. It requires careful consideration of your particular situation to best assure that the documents used and the powers granted would enable the person you are empowering to do all that needs to be done on your behalf.

A key incapacity planning document is the durable power of attorney (DPOA). A power of attorney is "durable" if it states "this power of attorney shall not be affected by the disability of the principal," or words to that effect. If those words are not in the power of attorney document it cannot be used if you become incapacitated.

Both financial management powers and personal decision-making authority can be granted under a DPOA. Certain powers must be specifically granted in order for the person you are empowering (your "attorney-in-fact") to have legal authority to take action.

Financial management powers that must be specifically granted include the power to sign tax returns and deal with tax matters; to make contracts; to buy, sell, lease or convey real estate; to carry out banking and security transactions; to access your safe-deposit box; and to make gifts.

Including personal decision-making powers makes the DPOA a "full service" incapacity planning document. Authority to make health care decisions, including the power to consent (or withhold consent) to medical treatment and the power to contract for health care services should be specifically included. A DPOA should also include specific authority to request, review and receive any oral or written information regarding your physical and mental health.

If your power of attorney is not durable or does not contain all necessary powers, an expensive and time-consuming court-monitored guardianship may be the only way someone can gain authority to manage your affairs if you become incapacitated.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

## Quick tips for saving money

By Judy Woodward Bates

Want to know the quickest way to save money? Stop spending what you already have.

For instance, if I gave you the choice between a fast-food meal and a cruise, which would you choose? By refusing to "count the cost," most people actually pick the fast food. Here's how: If you work outside the home Monday through Friday and occasionally stop for breakfast, buy a drink or snack or two at work, and eat a modest lunch out, you spend an average of \$2,500 a year, or \$12,500 in five years.

That is enough for a nice cruise.

But by brown-bagging leftovers from home and allotting yourself \$2 a day, or about \$44 a month, you can buy at the grocery store a generous selection of foods, snacks and drinks to keep on hand for workdays and still save \$2,000 a year, or \$10,000 over the course of five years.

Here are just a few other ways to save:

- Just by consistently choosing a gas station that charges five cents a gallon less than one you may prefer, you will save an average of around \$80 a year, or \$400 over five years.

- If you are a woman who wears acrylic nails, start using your own nails and doing your own manicures. This will save an average of \$520 a year, or \$2,600 over five years.

## Baptist movement much older

In reading about the Campbellsville Baptist History Forum, I noted that the J.H. Spencer Historical Society was listed among participating groups. Most of us involved in the society so far are celebrating nearly 2,000 years of our Baptist heritage and do not agree that "the Baptist movement began in 1609."

Even W.H. Whitsitt, whose innovative theory marked the beginning of the "Seventeenth Century view" of Baptist history, did not hold that "the Baptist movement began" in that century. He simply said that our

principles, as stated in the New Testament, had died out in Great Britain and had to be started over there, in his view, in 1641. This did not deny the possibility that our views may have continued elsewhere, but whereas British Baptists are ancestral to those in America, that was of special importance.

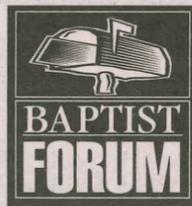
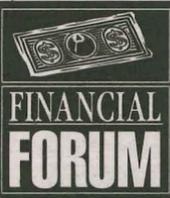
Still, John Christian, in a scholarly two-volume study, refuted this new theory with much documentation. A large part of it was the result of intensive research in Britain.

Nevertheless, Whitsitt's work has

become the "holy grail" for many, as if it were the only possible view. In fact, Leon McBeth, holding some form of the Whitsitt position, gives four possible views, three of which involve some form of succession or perpetuity—variously defined, but all with continuity of our principles from the New Testament.

If our participation in the Campbellsville forum involves an opportunity for the older view of some form of continuity to be considered, I will be pleased; for the J.H. Spencer Society exists to further the study of Baptist principles, with special attention to our history in Kentucky.

R. Charles Blair, vice president  
J.H. Spencer Historical Society



## Making sure our kids are ready

Spring promises to be a busy time in our house. My daughter, Karen, will graduate from the University of the Cumberlands; My son, Jordan, will turn 18 and graduate from North Bullitt High School.

As Jordan finishes high school and spends his last summer as a kid, I wonder if we have done enough to prepare him for college and for adulthood. There is a small window of time left to teach him some things that he will need to know before he goes off to make his way in the world.

While by no means is this an exhaustive list, here are a few things that Gina and I, as parents, and we, as a church family, need to make sure they know before our students head off to college.

**Practical**—As I picture Jordan heading off this fall with that 2006 electric blue Nissan Altima loaded down with his clothes, two things enter my mind.

One, does he know how to wash those clothes? For years they have been tossed into a clothes hamper and set in the hall on wash day. OK, they have been tossed on the floor, then put in the hamper to set in the hall on wash day. Does he know how to separate lights from dark, cold from hot?

Two, can he do the simple check-

ups on his car? Is he comfortable, checking the oil and the air pressure in the tires? Can he change the bulb in the tail light?

**Financial**—Have I taught him how to budget his money? He already has a better understanding of finances than I did at his age. But does he know how to save, how to balance a checkbook, how to spend wisely?

**Spiritual**—I remember when he was a small boy in a high chair and took the spoon to feed himself for the first time. It was a big day. It was messy and

it brought a whole new set of concerns, as he then had a little more control over what and how much he ate.

I wonder, as he graduates high school and heads off to the university, if we have taught him how to feed himself spiritually. Have we taught him about the spiritual disciplines?

Does he know the importance of having a daily quiet time, praying with passion, journaling? Have we taught him how to defend his faith, or at least know heresy when he hears it?

From the observations I have made traveling the state, most youth ministries spoon feed spiritual truths to students until they

graduate the youth ministry. Our students are taking AP English and advanced Calculus, and we still are teaching Scripture to them like they are in the second or third grade. Have we taught him enough to be strong in his faith as a young adult?

**Church**—I intentionally separated this from spiritual matters. While they are interconnected, they are not the same thing.

It is amazing to hear parents talk about their students who had gone off to college and how the adjustment was going. They talk about roommates, grades, friends and fraternity/sororities that had been pledged, but very little about where they had become plugged into a local church. Plenty of churches all across the state have excellent college/young adult ministries.

When we took Karen to Cumberlands and moved her in on a Saturday, we stayed over and went to church with her on Sunday morning. I think it set the tone of expectation, plus it gave us a few more hours with her before we had to pull out and head home.

It is April and in four months this year's senior class will head out into the world to make their mark. There is still time for us to prepare them for what is ahead—but that time is growing short.

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

## Ending a 'battle of ugly words'

By Valerie Vincent

**Q:** Our marriage has dissolved into a battle of ugly words. There seems to be nothing good to say about each other. It is so easy to just throw it back when I get bombed. How can we stop?

**A:** The apostle Paul often would open his letters by complimenting the readers on some action. Then he would shift toward areas requiring correction. He tended to end his letters by affirming his readers' most positive behaviors and encouraging them to continue.

It can be challenging in marriage to focus on the strengths of our spouse. We must discipline ourselves to envision our spouse as Christ would see him or her. Jesus looked at Peter and saw his potential, his possibility and his promise. Can we discipline ourselves to look at our spouse and see her or his potential, possibility, and promise?

The plethora of reality shows demonstrates the world's approach to criticism. This approach in marriage is dangerous and destructive. Paul said, "If there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." We have to look for these things and desire to see these things.

Sometimes I have couples face a wall and imagine all the things they don't like about their spouse. Then I have them turn and face the opposite wall and ask them to think about all the things they appreciate about their spouse. Then I challenge them to choose one wall on which to focus. They cannot view both at the same time. They must choose one or the other to focus on in their marriage.

Any harmful or destructive behavior must be gotten rid of, and the marriage must be protected in the future. Choosing how we see our spouse and what we focus on helps a marriage grow strong and in accordance with God's will, or it will destroy any loving bonds. So, choose your words wisely.

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

## Dozens prayerwalk Campbellsville's new education building



By Christina Miller  
Campbellsville University

Campbellsville—Administrators, faculty, alumni and students gathered March 30 to celebrate the past, present and future of Campbellsville's education department and dedicate the new School of Education building to Christian servant leadership.

All in attendance had the opportunity to pray for the building and the educators who would come through it and eventually go out into the world to teach others. Many wrote their prayers and favorite Scriptures on the floors and walls of the unfinished building.

"Campbellsville University has been in the business of preparing educators since the very beginning," President Michael Carter told those who participated in the prayerwalk.

Carolyn Garrison, professor of education, read a quote from the 2004 yearbook: "There are so many memories that are made throughout life and what makes those memories special are the people."

In her address, Garrison referred to several students she had taught at Campbellsville. One student had returned to thank Garrison for teaching him how to study, and had introduced her to his children as the teacher who taught him how to study.

The professor recalled another former student who invited Garrison into her classroom. The student introduced Garrison as "her teacher."

Don Cheatham, an alumnus who now serves as an instructor of education and computer information systems, remarked, "CU is family to me." Seven of nine members of his family attended Camp-

bellsville University; six of them have received teaching certifications from the school.

"With God's guidance ... we will continue to produce those teachers. We are training our youth for tomorrow," he noted.

"It's a pleasure to have students come back and say, 'You made a difference,'" said Beverly Ennis, a Campbellsville alum who now serves as an assistant professor of education.

She described education as a circle. "You influence lives and they influence lives," she said. "I can't think of a better place to end my career but here in this building."

Donna Irwin, another alumna and associate professor of education, recalled receiving her very first paycheck as a teacher. "I can't believe I get paid to do this," she remarked. "I could do this without getting paid, if I could afford it."

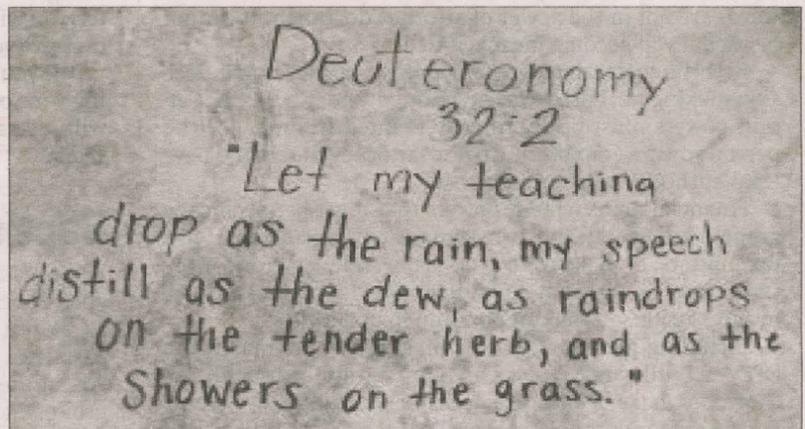
Mallory Farquhar, a senior elementary education major from Columbus, Ohio, who currently is student-teaching at Campbellsville Elementary School, talked about the future of educators who will be taught in the new building.

"As Christian educators we may make a difference in a student's life, even if only for one fleeting school year," she noted.

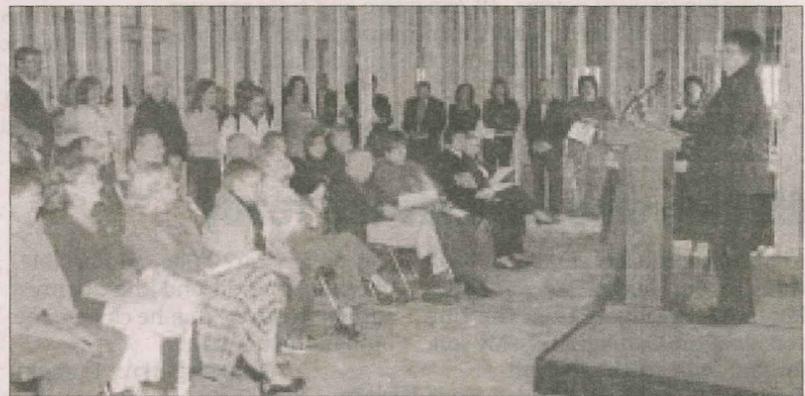
In closing, Farquhar quoted John C. Maxwell: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Frank Cheatham, vice president for academic affairs, offered words of wisdom for all educators: "The best teachers teach from the heart, not the book."

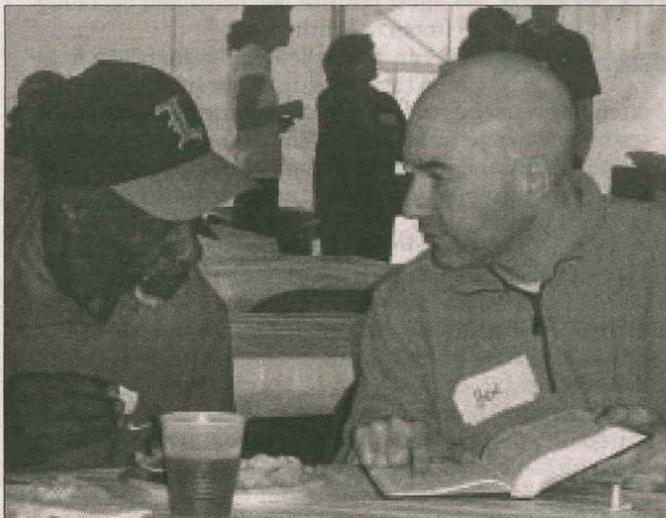
For more information on Campbellsville University's School of Education, call (270) 789-5252 or e-mail [education@campbellsville.edu](mailto:education@campbellsville.edu).



**HOLY GROUND** ■ Above: The words of Deuteronomy 32:2 mark the unfinished floor of Campbellsville University's new School of Education building. (Photo by Ashley Holt) ■ Below: Carol Garrison, professor of education at Campbellsville, addresses the dozens of students, faculty, staff and alumni who gathered to prayerwalk the new education building, which is set to open in the fall. (Photo by Memo Quintana)



## Free medical clinic promotes urban-suburban church partnerships



**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION** Volunteer Ben White (right) talks about the Bible with Howard Spencer during a free medical clinic March 28 at Sojourn Community Church in Louisville. Volunteers knocked on 4,000 doors to promote the event in their community. The event, which drew more than 180 people, was co-sponsored by several Louisville-area churches and ministries, including Sojourn, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Bates Memorial Baptist Church, Crossing Church and Touched Twice Ministry. The congregations paired the clinic with a conference Sojourn hosted to promote urban-suburban church partnerships. (Photo by David Winfrey)

By David Winfrey  
State Correspondent

Louisville—Seven Louisville-area churches and ministries sought to serve a neighborhood, share the gospel and show the importance of church partnerships with a recent free medical clinic.

More than 180 people saw nurses, dentists and doctors at the four-hour clinic hosted by Sojourn Community Church in Louisville's Germantown neighborhood.

The mostly Anglo, in-town, Baptist church sponsored the event in partnership with two African-American congregations—St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Bates Memorial Baptist Church—two suburban churches—The Crossing and Southeast Christian Church—as well as Here's Life Inner City Ministry and Touched Twice Ministry.

"We wanted to demonstrate the power of urban-suburban partnerships," said Nathan Ivey, director of Sojourn's Seed ministry. "That's the only reason we could do it. It's the power of unity. It's remarkable."

The event was organized with the help of Touched Twice, which helps churches organize and host community medical clinics. "Touched Twice is an evangelistic tool that churches can use to do local outreach in their communities by meeting basic human needs in Christ's name," noted President Mike Ware.

Volunteers knocked on 4,000 doors to spread word about the event, Ivey said. The clinic was intended to display "the whole gospel to the whole person," he explained.

"When you meet the physical need of someone it exposes the reality of the spiritual need," he added.

On the morning before the clinic began, organizers instructed volunteer "advocates" on how to help clinic guests navigate the various stops with visiting nurses, doctors, dentists, a food tent and a clothes closet. Advocates were encouraged to give tours of the church building (a renovated school) and art displays as guests waited to be seen.

"Get to know people. It's about the relationships you're building,"

Ivey said.

Nurse Donna Roberts said the clinic provided a way to combine her job skills with her spiritual gifts. "I wanted to find a place to serve again," said Roberts, a nurse at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville. She said she was recruited by a co-worker to help out. "My spiritual gifts are mercy and encouragement. I just really want to serve and see the Kingdom of God go forth, and I feel this is a good way to do that."

The multi-church effort followed the day after Sojourn hosted a conference on effective urban-suburban partnerships. That event, co-sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, addressed such topics as keys to successful partnerships and the characteristics of externally focused churches.

Sojourn is looking for ways to deepen the relationships it already has with both urban African-American congregations and suburban churches, Ivey said, "and do it in a way that draws in their relationships."

## Missouri court will not re-hear Windermere case

Kansas City, Mo.—A Missouri appeals panel announced March 31 that it will not re-hear the Missouri Baptist Convention's argument against Windermere Baptist Conference Center, nor will it transfer the case to the state's highest court.

Convention officials had hoped for an opportunity to argue that a three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Western District erred in a Feb. 3 decision. The appeals court had upheld a lower court's ruling that Windermere trustees had acted legally in 2001 when they changed the agency's articles of incorporation, removing the convention's control over appointment of the Windermere board.

In their February ruling, the appellate judges agreed with Cole County Circuit Court Judge Richard Callahan. He originally ruled that the MBC is not a member of Windermere's corporation and that no contract exists between the two entities.

The MBC may directly petition the Missouri Supreme Court to hear the case, but must do so by April 15. The convention may face a hard sell to the higher court, though. The Supreme Court's procedural rules call an appeal to that body "an extraordinary remedy" in most cases. The high court usually will only hear cases of broad general interest or importance, or cases that re-examine existing law.

The appeals-court action is the latest in the nearly seven-year-long legal battle that began when the convention sued five formerly affiliated institutions in an effort to force the entities to rescind corporate charter changes. (ABP)

## Hunt, state Baptist leaders address SBC health

By J. Gerald Harris  
Georgia Christian Index

Duluth, Ga.—Baptist state convention presidents were called together March 19 to discuss the health of the Southern Baptist Convention with the president of the SBC, Johnny Hunt. The meeting at the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center in Duluth, Ga., drew 26 of the state convention presidents.

The convocation was the brainchild of Georgia Baptist Convention President Huck Kennedy as a forum to determine how the national convention could position itself for revival and a "Great Commission resurgence" in the days ahead.

"I want us to build stronger relationship within our denomination and bring the younger generation along as we work and witness together," Hunt said. "We are indebted to the generation that championed the cause of the conservative resurgence. They were in a struggle against the odds, paid a price for the victory, but won the battle over the Bible. We must not ignore the generation that brought us to the dance, but we want to engage the present generation and bring them into the heart of our convention's operations."

### "Great Commission resurgence"

"When the conservative resurgence was launched in 1979 at the Houston convention with the election of Adrian Rogers, many of the messengers left with determination to fight for the integrity and authen-

ticity of the Bible," Hunt added. "It would be wonderful if we could leave the convention in Louisville this year with a commitment to fight for a Great Commission resurgence."

"The resurgence that started 30 years ago made our seminaries safe for our young men and women to attend," Hunt continued. "If the conservative resurgence was a hill to die on, the Great Commission resurgence is a hill to die on as well. In fact, we have missionaries willing to die for the privilege of proclaiming the gospel in difficult places."

Kennedy said state convention presidents would love to see a new enthusiasm for the gospel mission across the SBC.

"Those presidents of the various state conventions are very much aware of where we are as a denomination," he noted. "They long to see a spiritual awakening in our convention and nation. They also have a desire to see us engage in an aggressive church-planting movement."

The state presidents were "in one accord," Hunt said.

"I did not hear any kind of disagreement expressed. The presidents from both of the Texas conventions were present and sat together," he noted. "To me that was symbolic of the kind of harmony and togetherness we can experience as a denomination."

The Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget, also became a part of the discussion during the presidential powwow. While a strong commitment to the Coop-

erative Program was apparent among the men at the Duluth gathering, they also agreed that CP should not be a requirement of fellowship or a litmus test for serving in the denomination.

### Measuring SBC faithfulness

Hunt asked: "How do we measure faithfulness to the convention? Is giving 10 percent to the CP worthy of a badge of honor? Is giving less than 10 percent to the CP deserving of a badge of dishonor? I think we need to celebrate those churches that are growing and headed in the right direction."

"A church that is declining in numbers and giving, but committed to giving 10 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program, is headed in the wrong direction and will be giving less even though their percentage of giving is strong," Hunt observed. "But a church that gives only 3 percent, but is growing in numbers and giving—buying land, constructing buildings and adding staff—will consistently be increasing their dollar amount to the CP."

At the same time, giving 10 percent of all undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program "should not necessarily be the ceiling," Kennedy added.

One state convention president said to Hunt: "I didn't vote for you for president of our convention, but I can easily support you now, because I know what you are doing to advance the cause of Christ around the world." (BP)

## Renowned church musician William Reynolds dies at 88

Nashville—William Reynolds, church musician, composer, arranger, editor, hymnologist and distinguished professor emeritus of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died March 28. He was 88.

Among Reynolds' hundreds of compositions and arrangements, Southern Baptists are most familiar with "Share His Love" and "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus."

Reynolds composed more than 700 choral anthems, hymn tunes and children's songs. Hymns he composed were published

in the 1956, 1975, 1991 and 2008 editions of the Baptist Hymnal.

Reynolds served as music director for meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance, and he was the first Baptist elected president of The Hymn Society of America.

In 1980, Reynolds was appointed to the faculty of Southwestern Seminary as professor of church music, serving there until his retirement in 1998.

"He was one of, if not the most gifted songwriter in the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion, and his legacy lives in the great hymns he wrote and in the students who learned from him the extraordinary value of hymns in worship," said Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Reynolds was hospitalized recently in Nashville after suffering from heart failure and pneumonia. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Mary Lou, two sons and three granddaughters.

A memorial service was held April 1 at First Baptist Church of Nashville. (BP)

## LITERACY MISSIONS... BORN IN THE HEART OF GOD

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April 25, 2009  
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- 502.489.3409 or 800-266-6477 ext. 3409



## LifeWay's Glorieta center operating under new model

Glorieta, N.M.—"LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center is not closing." That's the message Byron Hill wants to plainly communicate in the midst of coming changes at the 56-year-old conference center located near Santa Fe, N.M.

"There have been some rumors and erroneous reports out there that Glorieta is closing," said Hill, LifeWay's executive director of conference centers. "Nothing could be further from the truth. We are making changes that adjust the way we operate Glorieta, but nothing about our ministry or the mission will change. We've been here for more than 50 years and we believe the changes we are making will position Glorieta for the next 50 years."

Under the new model, Glorieta will continue to offer the same facilities and level of service from mid-May through September. From October through mid-May, only New Mexico Hall and Hall of States will be in operation, with a focus on more effectively serving smaller off-season groups. The only planned exception will be Fuge Winter Camps, which will continue to be offered four times during the winter.

"We are adjusting operations to better fit demand," Hill said. "With a focus on smaller off-season events such as ministry staff and board retreats, our new operations plan will provide a more efficient model throughout the year."

Glorieta has undergone major capital improvements in recent years. In addition to the newly built Hall of States, there has been renovation to Holcomb Auditorium and its adjacent meeting rooms; to all youth dormitories; and to the Chaparral, Texas and Oklahoma hotels.

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Vermont House passes gay marriage bill**—Vermont's House passed a bill last Thursday that would legalize gay marriage, but also falling just short of a veto-proof majority. The bill passed on second reading by a vote of 95-52, five votes shy of the veto-proof number of 100. Republican Gov. Jim Douglas has promised a veto of the bill. It is still possible for supporters to get the votes to override a Douglas veto. At least two Democrats told the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press they would switch to a "yes" vote on an override simply because they thought Douglas had interfered in the legislative process with his veto pledge. If it becomes law, Vermont would become the first state to legalize gay marriage without a court order.

**Pro-lifers send red envelopes to Obama**—Thousands of red envelopes flooded the U.S. Postal Service en route to the White House March 31 as part of a grassroots "Red Envelope Day" to represent lives lost to abortion. "This envelope represents one child who died in abortion," some of the envelopes said on the outside. "It is empty because that life was unable to offer anything to the world." According to the campaign's Web site, more than 150,000 red envelopes were pledged to be sent last week on an arbitrarily chosen day, though many more are believed to have been sent. The project received endorsements from Concerned Women for America, Eagle Forum and Coral Ridge Ministries, among others.

**States bucking embryonic stem cell trend**—In the days since President Obama ended the ban on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, legislatures in Oklahoma, Texas, Georgia and Mississippi have taken steps toward restricting or prohibiting the practice. Additionally, Oklahoma's legislature passed a bill that could provide more than \$1 million to adult stem cell research, and a Texas Senate committee considered a bill that would establish an adult stem cell research consortium to help coordinate ethical forms of research. In Georgia, a bill that would ban reproductive and therapeutic cloning already has passed the Senate.

**Senate Dems want conscience rules retained**—Two Democratic senators have sent a letter to President Obama urging him to keep intact Bush administration regulations that protect health-care workers from being forced to take part in medical procedures—such as abortions—to which they morally object. The letter from Sens. Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania notes that both men consider themselves pro-life and that they "understand that substantial disagreements exist on abortion and other related issues upon which we hold strong beliefs." In late February, the Obama administration took the first step toward discontinuing the Bush conscience regulations which took effect just as Bush left office.

**NAE president joins immigration debate**—The president of the National Association of Evangelicals took a rare step into the immigration debate last week, saying that the long waiting period for citizenship must be shortened. "There are inconsistencies and many outdated aspects of immigration laws, and I think they are therefore unjust and unfair," said Leith Anderson, president of the National Association of Evangelicals. The NAE consists of 79 different member denominations, which is one of the reasons Anderson said he is hesitant to make strong statements on immigration. Anderson, a megachurch pastor in Eden Prairie, Minn., acknowledged the economic challenges facing lawmakers, but said government leaders can begin with the most obvious issues—one of them being the long waiting period to gain citizenship.

**Prosecutors agree to unorthodox plea deal**—A Baltimore mother accused of starving her son to death and whose attorney says belonged to a cult has agreed to plead guilty after prosecutors promised to drop the charges if her son is resurrected. The woman, Ria Ramkissoon, pleaded guilty to one case of child abuse resulting in death. She also agreed to testify against four members of the now disbanded Baltimore-based religious group 1 Mind Ministries. All four are charged with first-degree murder. The members of the group stopped feeding 1-year-old Javon Thompson in early 2007 after he refused to say "Amen" before a meal. After he died, they stuffed his decomposing body in a suitcase, according to The Washington Post. Members thought if the body could travel along with them, it could be resurrected sometime in the future, Silverman said.

## Religion, so far, playing low-key role in the Obama White House

By Daniel Burke

Washington—Approaching the 100-day mark, the Obama administration is treading carefully through hot-button religious issues, unveiling key policy changes late in the week and giving its revamped faith-based office a low public profile.

The Obama policies that most inflame religious groups—embryonic stem cell research, lifting restrictions on international family planning and reversing conscience protections for health-care workers—were all disclosed on Fridays.

Even less controversial issues, like the overhaul of the White House faith-based office or where the First Family attends church, have been kept outside the public eye.

Mark Silk, a professor of religion in public life at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., said the White House may be cautious because of the campaign controversy involving Obama's fiery former pastor, Jeremiah Wright, and the inauguration uproar over conservative pastor Rick Warren.

"Religion hasn't been a fabulous thing for Obama," Silk said. "It really seems they're a little gun-shy."

Every modern White House has, to some extent, disclosed potentially incendiary news on Fridays, when attention spans and news staffs tend to slacken. The Obama administration denies any attempts to bury controversial news.

Still, some aren't buying it.

"It must be Friday night because word leaks of yet another deadly executive order by President Obama," Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, a frequent conservative critic of the president, said March 6 when word of the stem cell change was leaked.

Obama alluded to the "difficult



**UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE PEW?** First lady Michelle Obama and President Barack Obama are joined by Vice President Joe Biden and Jill Biden at a National Prayer Service at Washington National Cathedral in January. (RNS photo courtesy Donovan Marks/Washington National Cathedral)

and delicate balance" between enacting liberal policies and appeasing religious conservatives when he officially unveiled the stem cell order the following Monday.

"Many thoughtful and decent people are conflicted about, or strongly oppose, this research," he said in televised remarks. "I understand their concerns, and we must respect their point of view."

That is part of why the White House has moved cautiously, noted Shaun Casey, a former adviser to the Obama campaign and an ethicist at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington. He warned against rushing to judgment so early in the new administration.

"I think they're aware of sensitivity to these issues," Casey said. "They're trying to do what Obama said he would do, but not trying to do it in somebody's face. There's no

playbook for how a Democratic president does this."

But some observers wonder if the Friday leaks, the low profile of the faith-based office and the absence of the First Family from Washington pews means religion will play a smaller-than-expected role in the new administration.

Obama said during the campaign that a new and improved White House office for faith-based and local charities would be "a critical part of my administration." But when the president unveiled details about the program in January at the invitation-only National Prayer Breakfast, it was followed by a White House ceremony that was also closed to the media.

Silk noted that the White House has its hands full with a deep economic recession, but wonders why faith-based social service groups have not been prominently called on to help.

"Social service providers have got to be a big part of any dealing with economic hard times," he said.

White House officials insist the faith-based office is deeply involved in domestic policy planning behind the scenes. "In just a month of operations, the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships has made unprecedented progress and is a central part of the president's agenda," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki remarked.

On a personal level, Obama has attended church services in Washington only once, a service at Nineteenth Street Baptist Church on January 18. A White House aide said the administration is still trying to work out the logistics of sending a massive security detail to Sunday service without disrupting the congregation. (RNS)



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## N.C. church ministers to community after shooting

By Steve DeVane  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

**Carthage, N.C.**—First Baptist Church of Carthage, N.C., designed its fellowship hall to be used in a disaster. But church leaders expected it would be a hurricane or a flood—not a mass shooting at a local nursing home.

Officials in the south-central North Carolina town used the hall March 29 to speak to about 300 people who had relatives at the nearby Pinelake Health and Rehab facility, where a gunman killed eight and wounded two others earlier that day.

Thomas Herndon, the church's pastor and a chaplain for the town's police department, said state Rep. Jamie Boles, whose district includes Carthage, came in to the back of the church just as the 11 a.m. worship service was ending. Boles, who also serves as the area's medical examiner and owns a local funeral home, told Herndon that the town needed a place to talk to the relatives, who were then in the parking lot of the courthouse nearby.

Church members made tea and coffee for the relatives, who did not have much information about the shooting then. "The whole place was in turmoil," Herndon remarked.

Boles asked Herndon if he would pray, which he did. "People just calmed down after that," he said.

County officials read out a list of names and asked those related to them to step outside. "Those were the ones who were either killed or wounded," Herndon acknowledged.

Those relatives were taken to separate rooms in another building, where they received counseling.

Herndon said church members

felt God's hand guiding them as they ministered to the relatives. "We were able to share our faith and help them with their needs."

The pastor said he first heard about the shooting from a church member who is a resident at Pinelake. She called the church at about 9:55 a.m. and told Herndon that there was a shooting going on at the facility.

In the worship service, the pastor announced that there had been a shooting but that he did not have details. He preached from Matthew 12:9-14, which tells about how the Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus. The sermon was titled, "The Beginning of Hostility."

At the end of the service, church members prayed for those involved in the shooting.

Herndon said he talked with Chris McKenzie, the town's police chief, whom he described as a "well-respected, fine Christian man."

McKenzie's parents, Tommy and Worthy McKenzie, are active members at the church. Herndon said the chief is "under a tremendous amount of pressure."

At a March 30 press conference, McKenzie noted the Carthage community has strong faith on which to draw in coping with the tragedy.

"Faith will get this community through this," he said. "I believe that."

McKenzie said the officer who stopped the shooting was the only one on duty when the call came in on what would normally be a sleepy Sunday morning in the town of approximately 1,800. The number of officers on duty, he noted, is based on the average call volume at those times. (ABP)

## Baptist chaplain designates day to pray for U.S. military

**Washington**—April 8 has been proclaimed as a day of prayer and fasting for the U.S. Army's 200,000 deployed soldiers and their families by the Army's chief of chaplains.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, a Southern Baptist, said the prayer and fasting proclamation coincides with a 120-day "stand down" and unit training period to address the Army's top-priority emphasis on suicide prevention and awareness.

"April 8 is a Wednesday and prayer meeting night for Southern Baptists, so we really encourage not only Baptists but all local churches to pray for the military," Carver told Baptist Press.

The two-star general from Rome, Ga., said the Army noticed a spike in its suicide rate among soldiers, and that top Army leadership asked its chaplaincy if it could do more to mitigate the suicide number and take care of affected Army families.

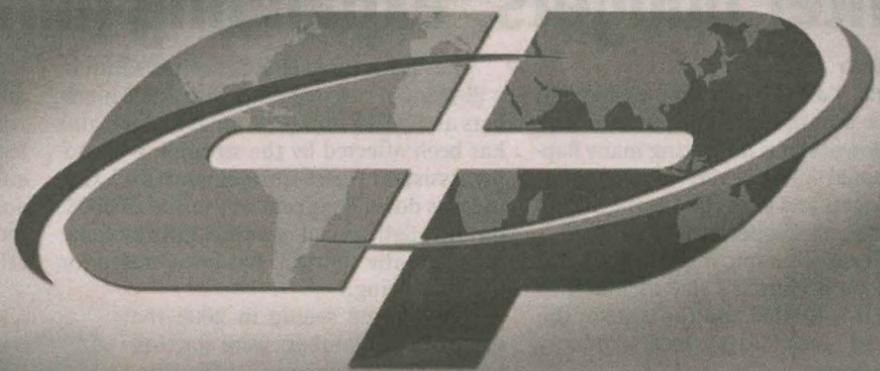
"This has been a long war we've been in—for eight years since" Sept. 11, Carver said. "The war has been on an up tempo and at an almost unsustainable rate, with fighting on two fronts. Suicide is something we're now seeing as one of the residuals of this long war."

"So we came up with the idea of having a time of concerted prayer to pray for the Army and its challenges, our soldiers and their families, and our senior leadership making decisions. We also have a new commander-in-chief and his new staff we need to pray for."

Last year the Army marked 140 suicides, the highest number recorded since the early 1980s, Carver noted.

"Life is difficult right now, with all the chaos in the world, all the challenges, the economy. This is affecting our forces," he said. "Since 2001, the U.S. Army has had all the challenges of multi-deployments. ... Obviously, the stress and strain of constant deployment, rotations, going in and out of combat zones, and trying to keep their families together, have affected our soldiers."

The Army has some 3,500 chaplains in the active Army, the Army Reserves and the National Guard, Carver pointed out. The Army's goal is to have a chaplain in each battalion of 500-600 soldiers. Every unit deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan has an assigned chaplain. The Army has 200,000 deployed soldiers in 80 locations around the world. (BP)



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# Tighter budgets, expanding ministry squeeze SBC churches

By Mickey Noah

Alpharetta, Ga.—The nation's deepening recession is not overlooking Southern Baptists. The downturn is impacting many Baptists' personal giving and employment, church budgets and even the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program.

The adverse economic impact seems not to depend on a church's size as much as where the it is located and the state of the surrounding community's local economy and employment.

California pastor Ray Jones, who has led Family Bible Fellowship in Newark, Calif., the past 20 years, said offerings have declined \$6,000 a week or \$24,000 a month. At its peak, the church's budget was \$1.3 million, but it recently had to lay off two staff members.

Located across the bay from San Francisco, the church is a young, largely African-American one, and 90 percent of the members are professionals and middle class.

"Newark is in a perfect storm," Jones explained. Major layoffs regularly affect the San Francisco Bay area. "First it was the 'dot.com' bubble. Then it was AT&T, Mervyn's and a local auto manufacturing plant. We've had members who've been laid off or forced to take transfers. I had one member who told me his income had dropped 75 percent. Many members also have been hurt by the mortgage crisis. We are a high-foreclosure area.

"We haven't had to cut any ministries yet," Jones added. "But we are rethinking our ministry, trying to be more effective with fewer resources."

Family Bible Fellowship places a strong emphasis on community outreach, such as block parties, housing the homeless each winter, and food and clothing ministries. The church also plans to expand its ministry into the local Hispanic community, Jones noted.

"You have to focus on the vision and purpose of the church," the pastor said, "because ultimately, God is going to provide. The revelations of God in the Old Testament always came in the valleys, never in the promised land. It's always a struggle. But God ministers in the midst of the struggle."

The Atlanta-area First Redeemer Church, a 10-year-old congregation with 3,500 members and a \$5.7 million annual budget, also has been affected by the struggling economy, Assistant Pastor Chris Holdorf said. Giving was down 8 percent at the end of 2008, but through special one-time gifts by some members the shortfall has been erased for the time being.

"We started seeing in 2008 that some of our members were starting to experience economic difficulty or job loss," Holdorf noted. An estimated 17 percent of the church's top 100 givers were affected by economy.

First Redeemer members hit hardest were those owning or working in local manufacturing, car dealerships, real estate, securities and investments, financial services and banking.

Although the church has no plans to eliminate any of its 160 ministries, Holdorf said the budget for its fiscal year beginning April 1 will be flat or only modestly increased.

"Our senior pastor, Richard Lee, believes that it's not the time for the church of Jesus Christ to retreat but a time for it to grow," Holdorf insisted. "And First Redeemer has always had a culture of growth. If anything, we need to expand ministry because there are more and more people hurting today."

## Cutting costs

However, First Redeemer is examining and minimizing expenses that do not positively contribute to vital ministries, Holdorf said.

"We have no plans to cut staff because we believe that leads to a downward spiral. But that doesn't mean we won't go over every expenditure line and look for ways to do things differently, smarter and cheaper."

While lean times have squeezed giving at churches such as First Redeemer, the same poor economy has generated the need for new counseling and networking ministries to help members cope with their financial plight.

Holdorf said he is meeting weekly with families that are wrestling with job loss or with decisions they have to make about relocating. "People are having to make difficult choices," he noted. "At the same time—and this isn't just preacher talk—I'm also seeing their faith acted out in these situations."

Holdorf mentioned he is working to define First Redeemer's new counseling ministry made necessary by today's tough financial times. In addition, he said the church might offer a new ministry involving practical help with job skills, interviewing, resumé writing and networking. "We might even try to match up church members who own firms that are hiring with those members needing a job—or at least make people aware of opportunities and needs."

If the level of Cooperative Program gifts is an accurate gauge, the nation's recession also has shown up on the ledger of the SBC itself.

At the end of February, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman reported that year-to-date contributions to the Cooperative Program were 3.27 percent lower than the same time last year. The year-to-date total of more than \$85.2 million for CP missions was nearly \$3 million less than last year during that time.

And in anticipation of a tighter economy and lower giving in 2009, considerable belt-tightening also is under way at a number of SBC entities.

The North American Mission Board staff, for instance, has been instructed to operate at 90 percent of approved budgets this year. The International Mission Board announced in January it would tighten its 2009 budget, cut administrative costs, reduce travel expenses and forgo any salaried wage adjustments—steps designed to avoid eliminating overseas missionaries.

Three of the SBC's seminaries, LifeWay Christian Resources and Woman's Mission-

ary Union also have announced budget cuts, while GuideStone Financial Resources has announced a 10 percent workforce downsizing and hiring freeze.

Saying that Cooperative Program giving is a good indicator of the convention's overall financial health, Karl Dietz, NAMB's corporate strategies team leader, said, "We know receipts are down and churches are struggling in some areas." He added that there also are pockets in the Southeast where CP giving is flat although church attendance may be up.

"Needs are growing. More people are going to church but not necessarily giving more. With a recession, you expect that to happen," he noted.

## Bright spots

But all is not doom and gloom throughout the SBC. In tiny Loveland, Ohio—just north of Cincinnati—60-year-old pastor Bill Hounshell said he cannot "whine about the recession so far."

Hounshell, who has led New Hope Baptist Church the past 14 years, said his congregation of 350-400 is baffled at what God is doing.

"We don't know what's going on," the pastor said. "Over the past four months, we've had record-setting giving. January was the third-highest month of giving in the history of the church. Our growth is unbelievable. Sunday school has grown by 40 over a year ago. Worship attendance is up 35-40 over last year. We ended 2008 with \$34,000 in the bank and all our bills paid."

With an annual church budget of \$498,000, Hounshell said he and his small staff were good-naturedly "threatened" by church leaders if they did not accept an overdue 4 percent raise, the first in years.

"We're seeing people saved every Sunday," Hounshell claimed. "We've been baptizing folks for the last six Sundays in a row. We're averaging two or three visiting families every Sunday."

"We're hearing about churches not being able to open their parking lots because of offerings going down," he added. "We're just sitting here in Loveland, Ohio, saying, 'Thank you Jesus,' every day, 20 times a day." (BP)



## Down economy doesn't equal boost in church attendance

Washington—When the economy declines, pastors sometimes expect the pews to get a little more crowded.

But an analysis of polling data by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life indicates that, in general, worshippers are not reporting a corresponding increase in attendance as the stock market has fallen.

While the market has dropped precipitously over the last two years, the percentage of Americans attending worship services at least weekly has stayed relatively stationary, Pew researchers found.

In January 2007, 39 percent of Americans said they attended religious services at least weekly; that figure remained exactly the same two years later.

"What we see is that there's really a steady number of people who tell us that they attend religious services on a weekly basis," said Greg Smith, research fellow at the Washington-based Pew Forum.

Still, Dave Travis, managing director of Leadership Network, a Dallas-based church think tank, said pastors of churches affiliated with his organization often report growth in attendance.

"I work with aggressive churches and they're reporting attendance growth of about 10 percent, which is roughly the same as they've reported for the last few years," he said of his mostly evangelical clientele.

Though he said some "frontline pastors of large churches" might exaggerate their numbers a bit, the Pew data and his network's findings are based on two different ways of seeking attendance information. (RNS)

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## Jesus and Paul warned us

### Treasure is lost if stored on earth rather than in heaven

The events of the past 18 months in the world's financial markets have been unprecedented and unsettling to say the least.

Household wealth in the United States has declined \$20 trillion. You and I, our children and grandchildren are learning biblical stewardship lessons we could not have learned in what became the normal circumstances of American life.

Remember Jesus' teaching to His disciples recorded in Matthew 6:19-20? "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

I feel like modern-day thieves have broken into and stolen from my retirement and savings accounts and my real estate, don't you?

However, I realize I failed to heed Jesus' warning, and I was storing up too much and should have used more of it to advance

the Kingdom here on earth. What a missed opportunity and disappointment for me in financial stewardship.

And, what about the Apostle Paul's reminder in 1 Timothy 6:17-19? "Do not be arrogant or put your hope in wealth which is so uncertain, but put your hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. ... Do good, be rich in good deeds and be generous and willing to share. In this way you will lay up treasure for yourselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that you may take hold of life that is truly life."

Does anybody today question the uncertainty of wealth? Does anybody need any further warning of the arrogance and futility of putting one's hope in wealth?

According to Paul, true wealth consists of generosity toward others, and the only way to get our treasures into heaven is to invest in that which is going to heaven.

May God help us heed His warnings in the future as we steward what He has entrusted to us.

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

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 Linking verb
- 4 Makes like the sun
- 9 Possesses
- 12 Insane
- 13 Lovable nerd on TV's "Family Matters"
- 14 Honest one
- 15 French conjunction
- 16 Land from which the Lord will recover the remnant of His people (Isaiah 11:11)
- 18 Live for the moment
- 19 Like food and clothing
- 21 Held with a certain tool
- 23 Frost, for one
- 25 Pitch in
- 26 High priest in Shiloh
- 28 More reliable
- 30 Director Lupino
- 33 Poetic contraction
- 34 "Then \_\_\_\_ brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 16:2)
- 35 Spat
- 36 Likely
- 37 TV's "Get \_\_\_\_"
- 39 Frozen water
- 40 "Thy word is a \_\_\_\_ unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105)
- 42 "And he ... cast him into prison, till he should pay the \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 18:30)
- 44 At a certain location
- 46 Organic substance from plants
- 49 Concerning

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13							14	
15			16						17		18	
19		20						21		22		
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36				37				38		39		
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44	45						46			47	48	
49			50		51	52	53				54	
55		56			57					58		
59					60						61	

- 50 "While the bridegroom \_\_\_\_ they all slumbered and slept" (Matthew 25:5)
- 54 Therefore
- 55 Vein contents
- 57 What hobos rode
- 58 In the manner of
- 59 Benign skin tumor
- 60 Lacking originality
- 61 O.T. book (abbr.)
- 22 "Who maketh his angels \_\_\_\_; his ministers a flaming fire" (Psalm 104:4)
- 24 Trudge along
- 25 "I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast \_\_\_\_; O my soul, the sound of the trumpet" (Jeremiah 4:19)
- 26 Greek letter
- 27 \_\_\_\_ service
- 29 Team \_\_\_\_, e.g., at the Olympics

### Down

- 1 So be it
- 2 Per diem, for one
- 3 Before PCs, one who used a blue pencil (abbr.)
- 4 Particular potato
- 5 April correspondent (abbr.)
- 6 TV's "\_\_\_\_ King"
- 7 Poetic contraction
- 8 Splinter
- 9 Half a laugh
- 10 French cleric
- 11 "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 126:6)
- 16 "Why make ye this \_\_\_\_, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- 17 To pain, discomfort, or trouble
- 20 Letter from Paul

- 31 Halliday, for one
- 32 Reverence
- 37 Rips one's reputation
- 38 Feminine name (var.)
- 41 Masculine nickname
- 43 "Arise, take up thy \_\_\_\_, and go unto thine house" (Matthew 9:6)
- 44 Believe or think (arch.)
- 45 In or at this place
- 47 Man, for one
- 48 Father of Japheth
- 51 Tell on
- 52 Inlet
- 53 Feeling poorly
- 56 \_\_\_\_-Gedi, city of Judah (Joshua 15)
- 58 Article

## Last week's solution

1	N	A	I	L	S	6	B	R	E	E	D	13			
11	L	E	A	V	E	N	12	R	E	N	T	E	D		
14	E	A	R	S	A	R	A	I	A	L	E				
18	A	R	T	R	A	I	N	19	U	B					
21	V	E	I	L	E	N	D	24	M	L	X	I			
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51	S	A	D	D	L	E		53	E	R	R	A	N	D	
		55	S	E	V	E	R		56	S	N	I	T	S	

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## NAMB updates, streamlines church planting Web site

Alpharetta, Ga.—It takes a “village” to plant a church. And the “village” has undergone an extreme makeover.

Although it has been around for a decade, the North American Mission Board’s Church Planting Village Web site, [www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net](http://www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net), has been streamlined, updated and made more user-friendly.

“The Church Planting Village is one of the largest Web sites dedicated to church planting in the nation,” said Greg Penna, church planting consultant for NAMB and editor for the site. “It’s a real treasure for church planters in the U.S. and even around the world.” Penna estimated the Web site generates 1 million page views per year.

The new site, which went live earlier this year, is optimized for information-searching using Google.

Another key change: Church planters no longer need to know English to enter the site. It now is navigable in eight languages with two more to be added.

The site now is organized into three distinct areas, depending on the user:

- Church planters.
- Church partners—churches considering a church plant, launching a plant or sponsoring a new plant.
- Field partners—directors of missions or association employees, a church planting strategist or a state convention partner.

Penna said information on people groups “has always been at least half of the site’s content, but it was interspersed in different places. Now the information is all in one place. We added a people group library so now if you search Hispanics, there will be more detailed information, say on Argentineans.”

Regardless of the site user’s area of interest, the Web site includes a resource library with 22 different church planting-related topics, such as administration, assessment, church plant models, church planting fundamentals, marketing, doctrine/theology, finances/stewardship and a list of vendors for needs like Web sites, purchasing equipment and hiring consultants.

Penna said the new site also will include podcasts and videos, as well as webinars that will allow users to follow along with PowerPoint presentations online as they listen to the presenters speak. (BP)

## Warren’s ‘Purpose Driven’ magazine debuts

Lake Forest, Calif.—Rick Warren has joined with Reader’s Digest Association to produce a quarterly magazine called “Purpose Driven Connection,” which is intended to reach people who are not connected to churches.

“PDC magazine is all about transformation, not merely information. That’s what sets this magazine apart from many others. It is the purpose behind every word,” said Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of “The Purpose Driven Life.”

The premier issue, which debuted in January, has exceeded expectations in sales, said Larry Ross, a spokesman for Warren.

“Rick Warren is a big visionary, and this is one of the most ambitious projects he has ever undertaken,” Ross said, noting that Warren serves as editor in chief of the project. “Gallup and Barna have both done studies that show that 19 percent of the U.S. population—about 59 million people—has read ‘The Purpose Driven Life.’”

“This has created a whole population of people out there who have started out on a spiritual journey, but aren’t really connected with a church, to go deeper in the Christian life,” Ross explained.

One feature of the magazine is a link that directs people to the PurposeDriven.com Web site for discussion. People then have an opportunity to provide input or share their own stories related to the material in the magazine, Ross noted. Also, because the magazine is quarterly, the Web site provides additional news and feature articles between printings.

Purpose Driven Connection also offers a perspective on the news that is overlooked by the mainstream media, Ross said. For example, Warren was in Cambodia two years ago when he heard about a former Khmer Rouge leader who was responsible for the deaths of 17,000 people at a prison he managed.

A pastor in the region who was part of Warren’s network of half a million pastors trained in the Pur-

pose Driven paradigm shared the gospel with the man, and he accepted Christ, went to seminary and became a pastor himself. When Warren told Reader’s Digest about the man’s testimony, RDA sent personnel to Cambodia to cover the story for the magazine.

“The story was driven by Rick but carried out by Reader’s Digest,” Ross said. “In the last several weeks this story has been covered almost daily in the international press including The New York Times. They’ve been carrying the story where he’s now on trial by the international court for his crimes.”

For the premier issue, Reader’s Digest printed 400,000 copies of Purpose Driven Connection. The company said it plans to increase the number to half a million for subsequent issues.

“We’ve heard reports that it sold out at some of the Walmarts the first days and weeks it was available,” Ross said. “So it’s been very well received in the first few weeks, far exceeding expectations.” (BP)

## Bible wins “Christian Book of the Year” award

Dallas—The ESV Study Bible has been named the “Christian Book of the Year” by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, marking the first time the honor has been given to a study Bible.

The Bible, which is in the English Standard Version, includes study notes from evangelical Christian scholars and other reference materials. Published by Crossway, it also won in the best Bible category.

The award was announced March

19 at the kickoff for the 2009 Christian Book Expo in Dallas. The Christian Book Awards were established in 1978 to recognize Christian books for excellent content, design and literary quality.

Other winners included:

- Bible Reference & Study: “Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings,” edited by Tremper Longman III and Peter Enns (InterVarsity Press).
- Children & Youth: “For Young

Men Only” by Jeff Feldhahn and Eric Rice with Shaunti Feldhahn (WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group).

■ Christian Life: “Spectacular Sins” by John Piper (Crossway Books & Bibles).

■ Fiction: “The Shape of Mercy” by Susan Meissner (WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group).

■ Inspiration & Gift: “Holiness Day by Day” by Jerry Bridges (NavPress). (RNS)

## A different kind of war

### Oneida exists to help teenagers who have become their ‘own worst enemies’

By Michael Spencer, campus minister & faculty member

The AP English IV class I teach has been reading Shakespeare’s “Hamlet,” and recently I read a line I had never thought about before. Laertes closes a speech of advice to his younger sister Ophelia saying, “Youth to itself rebels, though none else near.” Shakespeare makes the insightful observation of human nature: Young people rebel. That’s so true as to be stereotypical. But whom do they rebel against?

All of us have the deep-seated problem of being rebels in God’s universe. The gospel is God’s message of reconciliation to rebels like us. We all know about conflicts between young people and their parents. More than a few students have turned up at our ministry after parents and others have diagnosed their behavior as rebellious.

But Shakespeare is speaking about a different kind of rebellion—a rebellion against ourselves and what is best for our own lives. We don’t hear much about that kind of rebellion, but we should.

Have you ever used the phrase, “He is his own worst enemy”? Many of us have caused ourselves far more trouble than anyone else ever has caused us. I’ve seen many young people who were determined not to let themselves succeed. They were intentionally undermining relationships, opportunities and success. The students were at war with themselves.

The apostle Paul spoke about feeling that he was at war with himself. He rejoiced that in Jesus Christ he found more than forgiveness and

heaven, he found inner peace. Peace with God and peace within as well. He later called it the “peace that passes all understanding.”

When young people come to Oneida there may be a variety of problems on the surface, but all of us face similar problems inside. We must learn to accept the love of others. We must have a healthy sense of self without being consumed with selfishness. We must face the inner fears and strategies we’ve developed to deal with our fears and make up for our deficiencies.

It is not unusual to see a student who, initially, is so at war with him or herself that they cannot keep friends or experience success. But it is also not unusual to see dramatic changes over time because the war within has changed. In some cases the student even will win a “Most Improved” award.

In talking to former students, it’s amazing how many see—with the perspective of time—that many of their decisions were made as if they were attacking and undermining themselves.

Isn’t this a tremendous reminder of why we need Jesus? At war with ourselves, we become our own worst enemies. At OBI, we believe in the power of showing a student a new kind of love: God-acceptance, acceptance by others and eventually self-acceptance. In God’s plan, from His acceptance of us comes the peace that allows us to accept and serve others.

Help us keep helping youth who rebel against themselves, as well as God and family. Stand with us in prayer and financial support as we work on the front lines of ministry with students.

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## One the road again

### Catron offers his perspective as a commuter student

When most people think of attending college they envision living in a small dorm room for a few years. That’s not necessarily the case for every student that comes to Clear Creek. In fact, a growing segment of our student body is our commuter students. The way we structure our class schedules, a student can attend Clear Creek full time on a two-day schedule.

That scenario has fit well for senior Rick Catron, who serves as a pastor in Monticello.

“I don’t live on campus with my family like some of the other students,” Rick said. “I commute 100 miles from my home to campus on Thursdays and Fridays.

“The commuter schedule has been wonderful for me,” he said. “This type of schedule allows me to be at church Sunday through Wednesday for all of our services. ... I get up and leave on Thursday morning and make the commute to campus. I go to class all day, spend one night away from home and then finish up my classes on Friday and am back home by late Friday afternoon. The commute back and forth is actually a great way for me to think

about my studies while I am on the road. God has used the commuter schedule well in my situation.

“I would highly recommend commuting to someone who just can’t leave their church to move on campus,” Rick noted. “From my perspective, the quality of education is just the same as if I were living on campus full time. Even as a commuter, I have still developed friendships with fellow students that will last a lifetime.”

Some of those friendships were formed during one of Rick’s favorite times at Clear Creek.

“I was able to go to Israel in 2008 with some of my classmates and one of my professors,” Rick recalled. “I have a whole new perspective on the Holy Land now when I read and preach about it. I don’t have to wonder what it looks like—now I know. I don’t believe I would have been able to get that opportunity if I wasn’t a student here.

“I am thankful for the opportunity God has given me to experience my education from this perspective.”

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Passion for the poor drives NBA's Korver off the court

By Joshua Cooley

Philadelphia—Adam Bruckner knows poor. He runs a homeless program at the Helping Hand Rescue Mission in Philadelphia. He works with inner-city youth and can rattle off numerous poverty statistics.

But Bruckner said he has never witnessed anything like the destitution he saw in Calcutta, India, last summer.

"The depth of poverty in India, especially Calcutta, changed everything I thought about poverty—and not in a good way," Bruckner said. "There are 500 street homeless in Philly. There are 70,000 in Calcutta. That's unsheltered homeless. It was gross, compared to American side of things."

This trip was not Bruckner's doing. He was a guest of Kyle Korver, the sweet-shooting Utah Jazz swingman. If one were to list the perks that typically come with having a multi-millionaire professional athlete as a buddy, working with the needy, crippled and dying in a Third World country would not be high on the list.

Yet in a league saturated with avarice and materialism, Korver is not typical. He ardently looks for opportunities to serve others and fulfill Scripture's mandate to help the poor.

This passion stems from the model displayed by his family, whose legacy of Christian faith dates back generations. Korver's grandfather, Harold, raised six boys, three of whom followed him into pastoral ministry, including Kyle's father, Kevin.

In the late 1980s and early '90s, the Korvers and their congregation in Southern California embarked on a massive civic restoration program in the city of Paramount. With the help of city officials, the Korvers transformed Paramount from a dangerous, crime-riddled area into a city that earned national awards and recognition.

Kyle often would accompany his father on clean-up days, which left an indelible mark on the youngster.

"That's where some of his multi-cultural, inner-city stuff cultivated," said Kevin Korver, who is now the senior pastor at Third Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa.

Despite the Christ-like examples of servanthood around him, Kyle's faith remained on slow-burn early on. He was a good kid but his faith lacked substance, which led him to dabble in NBA nightlife during the early part of his rookie season with the Philadelphia 76ers.

After reaching a spiritual breaking point, he fully committed himself to the Lord and began using his unique platform to share the love of Christ.

"They've all been great examples," Korver said of his family. "Growing up, you're not sure what you're supposed to be doing. It takes you awhile to find yourself



**HEART OF A CHAMPION** Kyle Korver of the Utah Jazz says following Christ's command to help the poor makes him feel more alive. (BP photo courtesy of the Utah Jazz)

and until you do, you find yourself in somebody else's shadow."

In 2006, he started the Kyle Korver Foundation to provide structure to all the charitable ideas floating in his head.

Korver and some buddies from Creighton University, where he enjoyed an All-American career, are involved in providing medical supplies to a South African orphanage. And his NBA-sponsored "Kyle's Coat Drives" have collected more than 3,000 coats for underprivileged children.

"It's all a big work in progress," Korver said of his foundation.

His compassion is best on display in the dark, unwanted places of the world. In 2005, he and Bruckner, a former player for the Philadelphia Kixx pro indoor soccer team, started a Bible study at the Helping Hand Mission for young Christian adults who wanted to make a difference in downtown Philly.

Because of his offseason home and love of the area, Korver remains tied to Philadelphia even though the 76ers traded him last December to Utah.

Korver's kindness is not confined to U.S. borders. Last summer marked his fourth overseas trip with the NBA's humanitarian "Basketball Without Borders" program. Before arriving in New Delhi for the NBA's structured agenda—camera-friendly basketball clinics, restaurant appearances and work with AIDS families—Korver took Bruckner and a missionary friend to Calcutta, far away from the publicity-conscious NBA representatives, where they visited the home and missions of the late Mother Teresa.

But there, in the unlikeliest of destinations for an NBA star, is where Korver said he feels the greatest satisfaction, a fulfillment that no game-winning three-pointer can replicate. He said it brings him closer to the Savior.

"The biggest thing is, I just want to feel Him more," Korver noted. "I'm just learning how to pray better and be still with God—how to listen to what He's saying and hear His voice." (BP)

## An unlikely providence

### Southern Seminary grad prepares for first season as chaplain for Red Sox

By Jeff Robinson

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Boston—The Boston Red Sox did not sign a big-name free agent this winter to help them fend off the rival New York Yankees in the American League East in 2009. But, the clubhouse presence of a man who batted .080 in his last year of organized baseball could make a significant impact on the team this season.

Bland Mason, a two-time graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and New England church planter, was named chapel leader for the Red Sox in January by Baseball Chapel, a Christian organization that has an informal relationship with Major League Baseball and places chapel leaders with each team.

Mason, who received his master of divinity from Southern Seminary in 1997 and his Ph.D. in 2005, seems to be the most unlikely of candidates to serve the Boston Red Sox; Boston is a sports-mad city with fans that number among the most ardent and baseball-savvy in America, able to sniff out a historically naïve, Johnny-come-lately fan from a mile away.

Mason has been a Boston citizen exactly four months and prefers basketball to baseball, having last played the latter in fifth grade, concluding his brief career with a batting average of .080.

Recently, the Red Sox's new chaplain encountered a friend wearing an Atlanta Braves cap with the trademark "A" emblazoned across the front. Mason asked his friend if he was a fan of the A's—as in Oakland.

While he is not ready to dominate at baseball trivial pursuit, Mason pointed out that God's ways often confound the wisdom of the wise.

"I have cheered for the Sox for the last five years and yes, I was touched somewhere deep in my soul when they won the World Series in 2004," he said. "With all of that said, as of November of this year I could not have named more than six or eight players on the Sox's roster."

"Add into this mix the fact that I just moved to Boston in November ... and it makes complete sense why I wouldn't be a good candidate for the position as a baseball chapel leader to the Red Sox. I mean, who would want a very modest Red Sox fan who just moved to Boston and never played baseball beyond little league to serve as the chapel leader to the Red Sox? It seems that God is the only answer to that question because logically it just doesn't work otherwise."

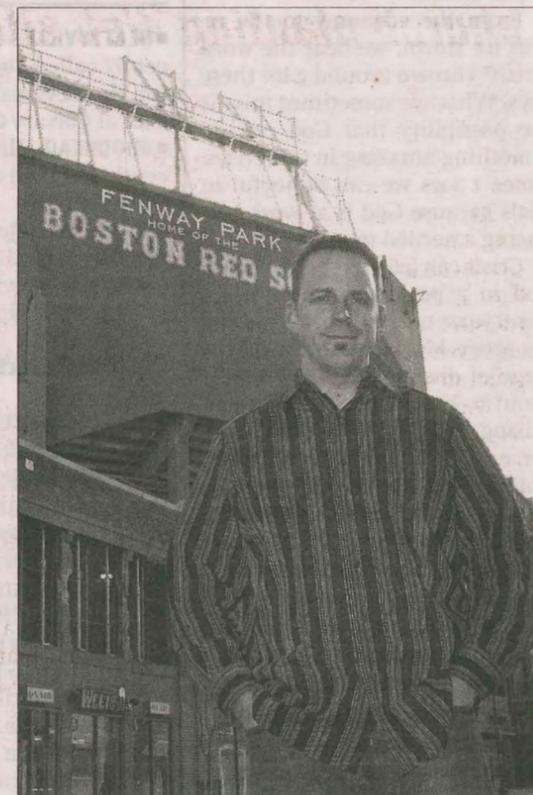
A native of Gloucester, Va., Mason did not find the chaplain position; consistent with the theology of his Puritan heroes, it found him. A friend in the Acts 29 church planting network was offered the role, but could not fill it; he recommended Mason and Baseball Chapel contacted him. Mason and his family are laying the groundwork for a church plant in Boston.

As a chaplain, Mason's duties include serving the spiritual needs of the Boston players, both those who play for the big-league club and those in the minor leagues. Each Sunday, he will lead chapel services for both the Red Sox and the visiting ballclub, and will offer Bible studies for players during the weeks when the Red Sox are playing at Fenway Park.

Baseball chaplaincy offers a profound opportunity to minister to players who play a rigorous 162-game schedule of daily games, a schedule that consumes most every minute of their time for more than six months, Mason pointed out.

Half of the games are on the road, meaning players seldom are at home with their families. In addition, games are scheduled for each Sunday, meaning Christian players seldom worship in their local congregations.

"Most of the players are not from Boston and only live here eight months out of the year," he



**NOW BATTING** Church planter Bland Mason stands outside his historic new office, Boston's Fenway Park. Mason, a Southern Seminary graduate, began his first season this week as chapel leader for the Boston Red Sox. (BP photo)

said. "Combine that with the fact that they have the most games of any major sport means that the Christians on the team don't get to their home church most of the year."

"I can offer Bible studies during a home stint for those players that are ready or interested," Mason continued. "Within that group there are usually one or more players that are open to being disciplined on a personal level. My prayer is for God to allow me to equip and encourage these guys to grow in the gospel in every area of their lives."

Since Mason accepted the position just a few months ago, he is getting acquainted with the Christian players who populate the Red Sox roster.

Mason and wife, Teresa, joined the Red Sox last month at their spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla., where he met two players who were off-season acquisitions, both of them strong Christians: former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz and catcher Josh Bard, formerly of the San Diego Padres. Both are active in Baseball Chapel. Mason also has met Justin Masterson, a second-year pitcher and Christ follower.

Not only will Red Sox players receive discipleship from Bland, but Teresa also has accepted a position with Baseball Chapel as a women's leader and will work with wives and girlfriends of players.

Though it seemed a bit of an odd fit at first, Bland Mason is embracing with vigor the new calling that God has given him to minister to the Red Sox through the ministry of Baseball Chapel.

"I have been reminded that God delights in working things out according to the counsel of His will, despite what we may think," Mason said. "If I can use my sanctified imagination for a minute, I think God smiled when he lined things up and I got the call offering the position to me."

"I honestly had never remotely considered the idea of being a chapel leader to a major league team. ... I am reminded of something Jesus said: 'Oh how small is your faith.' Knowing that I would have dismissed it, God went one step further to get me in place: have a friend call me. God showed once again that His providence will guide us exactly where we need to be when we need to be there."

"As I begin laying the foundation for a new church here in Boston, it excites me to have the opportunity to serve the Red Sox," Mason continued. "The position will afford me instant credibility with Christians and the unchurched across Boston." (BP)

PLAN OF SALVATION

By Rick Stevens

From the economy to the recent ice storm, we hear the word "crisis" thrown around a lot these days. What we sometimes miss is the possibility that God can do something amazing in our crises. James 1 says we can be joyful in trials because God is at work producing a needed maturity in us.

Crisis can lead us to experience God in a powerful way. When I was 9 years old, my world was falling apart: My parents were on the verge of divorce. With my family about to break up, God did a surprising thing. Just before the divorce, my father was involved in traffic accident and was seriously injured. There we were, crisis on top of crisis.

That was when God showed up. God used the accident and a sense of longing in both of my parents to seek help. When they reached out, God used a Southern Baptist church in another state to point them to the Good News of Jesus. God healed my father's injuries and healed my family as my parents and I accepted Jesus Christ.

Are you facing a crisis? If you have never trusted Jesus for salvation you can do that today.

**First**, we must admit that we need help (Romans 3:23 and 6:23).

**Second**, we must believe that Jesus has made a way for us (Romans 5:8, John 3:16 and 14:6).

**Third**, we must confess our faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10).

Is God calling you today?

Rick Stevens is pastor at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEATTYVILLE**—Faith Church recently called **Todd Blevins** as pastor. He previously was youth minister at Calvary Church in Irvine.

■ **BRODHEAD**—**Jimmy Perkins** recently resigned as pastor of Poplar Grove Church.

■ **CADIZ**—New Jerusalem Church recently called **Mark Choate** as pastor. He previously was pastor at New Light Church in Cadiz.

New Light Church recently called **Mike McKinney** as interim pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Saloma Church will present the Easter musical, "All Hail King Jesus," April 12 during the morning service. **John Chowning** is pastor.

Campbellsville University's theater department will present the musical "Prodigal," written and directed by graduate **Matthew Hodge**, April 16-17, 7 p.m.; April 18, 2 & 7 p.m.; April 19, 3 p.m., at the school's alumni theater. Tickets are \$3 and can be purchased by calling the theater office at (270) 789-5266.

Spotlight on ...

Henderson



Immanuel Temple celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of members **Dale and Betty Jenkins** March 28. **Michael Eldridge** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Ivory Hill ordained **Elmer Adams** and **Jerry Puckett** as deacons March 22. **Marvin Neal** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Pleasant Grove Church recently called **John Evedland** as pastor of youth and education. He previously served as youth minister at Calhoun Church. **Kenny Stone** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—West End Church recently called **Larry Lindsey** as interim pastor.

Cumberlands hears Compassion message



**Williamsburg**—Justin McRoberts, a Christian singer/songwriter and advocate for Compassion International, addressed the University of the Cumberlands community March 23.

As a spokesperson for Compassion International, McRoberts challenged students, faculty and staff to take a stand against poverty, to mend a broken world and reflect the compassion of Jesus Christ.

Compassion International is one of the world's largest Christian child sponsorship organizations, working with more than 65 denominations and thousands of indigenous church partners in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Since 1952, Compassion, through one-to-one Christian child sponsorship, has touched the lives of more than 1.8 million children. The agency has been recognized for its financial integrity with top ratings and recommendations from several "watchdog" organizations.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 14 Iron Sharpening Iron, Mr. B's Pizza and Wings, Henderson.
- 16 Iron Sharpening Iron, Georgetown College.
- 17-18 4:00, 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.
- 21 Launch One, Memorial Baptist Church, Murray.

May

- 1-3 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave National Park.

- 1 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Somerset, and Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 2 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 4-5 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Cedarmore Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 6-8 DOM Leadership Event, Cedarmore Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 8 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Russell, and St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 9 Children's Bible Drill, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 12 Iron Sharpening Iron, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Cadiz.
- 16 WMU SALT, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 18 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 18-19 Youth Minister's Spring Retreat, Georgetown College.
- 19 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

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

WMU executive board



Kay Mackey, wife of Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey, gives the charge to members of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union executive board at the group's March 27-28 annual meeting in Richmond. The following Kentucky Baptists were approved as the board's newest members: Andrea Cable, Campton Baptist Church; Marilyn Creighton, Tates Creek Baptist Church, Richmond; Laura Morris, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville; Lisa Nickell, First Baptist Church of Sandy Hook; Mitzi Noel, Cadiz Baptist Church; Patty Renfrow, Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron; Joy Roberts, First Baptist Church of Owenton; Teresa Vanzant, Popular Grove Baptist Church, Brodhead. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

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**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for White Sulphur Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ky. For details, please contact Tim Cummins at (502) 695-7160; or e-mail him at [Toloco58@aol.com](mailto:Toloco58@aol.com).

**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](mailto:troypoore@hotmail.com); or fax to (423) 869-8777.

**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](mailto:hazardfbcpastor@windstream.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music director (blended style) for Belleview Baptist Church in Burlington, Ky. Applicants should have the desire and skill to honor and serve God in worship, and grow, develop and maintain a comprehensive worship ministry that includes all ages. Interested applicants are asked to submit a resumé to Alan Walters at [alan\\_walters@adp.com](mailto:alan_walters@adp.com) before May 29, 2009.

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

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time individual to coordinate and minister to youth (grades 6-12) at Eubank Baptist Church, Eubank, Ky. This individual also will assist pastor in other pastoral duties. Interested individuals are encouraged to submit resumé's. E-mail: [Shelby.Reynolds@eubankbaptist.org](mailto:Shelby.Reynolds@eubankbaptist.org). Church phone: (606) 379-2122.

**AVAILABLE:** Pastor seeks bivocational pastorate within 40 miles of Lexington. Call (606) 269-3582.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor with the capacity to preach sound biblical doctrine and cast a vision for a 1,000-plus-member church, as well as lead and mentor a highly capable, competent and motivated staff at Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown, Ky. Please submit resumé to PO Box 755, Bardstown, KY 40004.

**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](http://www.fbchodgenville.org). Mail resumé to 730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or e-mail to [sally@fbchodgenville.org](mailto:sally@fbchodgenville.org).

**SEEKING:** Energetic minister to youth and children able to lead a holistic ministry program which includes students and their families. First Baptist, Corbin, is a traditional moderate church, and affirms women's leadership roles. Please mail resumé's to Minister of Youth and Children Search, First Baptist Church, 401 North Laurel Ave., Corbin, KY 40701.

**SEEKING:** Part-time pianist skilled in playing various styles of music for worship services. These styles include blending modern worship songs and hymns for congregational singing, accompanying the choir, playing with various other instrumentalists and playing some solo pieces. Position includes Wednesday evening rehearsals and two Sunday morning services. Submit resumé to 4300 S. Hwy 53, Crestwood KY, 40014 or e-mail [Darlene@BBCLife.org](mailto:Darlene@BBCLife.org) by April 29 deadline.

## Ministry that touches Kentucky residents celebrates milestone

By Charlie Warren  
Arkansas Baptist News

Little Rock, Ark.—The Southern Baptist Mississippi River Ministry has reached a new milestone: More than 20,000 people have made professions of faith in Christ since the outreach began in 1992.

MRM is a partnership between eight state conventions (Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee), the North American Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union. The ministry serves residents in Kentucky's far-west counties that border the Mississippi River.

In addition to 20,000-plus decisions for Christ, the Mississippi River Ministry has drawn the efforts of more than 100,000 volunteers.

MRM began after the U.S. government-sponsored Delta Commission conducted a study of poverty along the lower Mississippi River. Using data from the study, Southern Baptists began meeting together to explore ways to address some of the many needs.

"The Mississippi River Ministry calls attention to this great mission field along the lower Mississippi River, where mission volunteers have been serving since MRM began," said Diana Lewis, Arkansas Baptist State Convention mission ministries team member, who coordinates Arkansas' efforts. "MRM ministries serve people who are spiritually and/or physically living in poverty."

Among the 250 MRM projects in the eight-state region are evangelistic initiatives; construction and maintenance efforts; wellness clinics; vacation Bible schools; prayerwalking; Hispanic outreach; camp ministries; mentoring programs; crisis pregnancy centers and other ministries.

Lewis said she has seen God at work through MRM volunteers, recalling, for example, the time when a prayerwalking team paused in front of a home and a young woman got out of a car that had pulled up. She asked if they were there because they knew her brother.

The woman had just received word that her brother, who lived in the house, had died that morning.

"They prayed for her and asked if they

could share her name with a Blytheville (Ark.) church," Lewis said. "I think about how God ordered their steps that day so they could be right there at the right moment for her."

Another volunteer, who had prayed all week for God to give her an opportunity to share the plan of salvation with a senior adult, began visiting with an 89-year-old man at a nursing home.

"He shared that he didn't believe there could be a God who could forgive him of all he had done wrong in his life," Lewis recalled.

The volunteer assured the man there is a God who loved him and wanted to forgive him. "That 89-year-old man in his wheelchair prayed to receive Christ," she said.

### Another world

The eight-state, 165-county/parish region has been referred to as the "Third World along the Mississippi," according to the MRM Web site, [www.RiverMinistry.com](http://www.RiverMinistry.com). Low-income families in the region suffer from inadequate health care, reflected in the highest infant mortality rate in the United States, and the lowest ratio of doctors and nurses for the population. In some counties, newborns stand less chance of survival than in Chile, Cuba or Malaysia, the Web site noted.

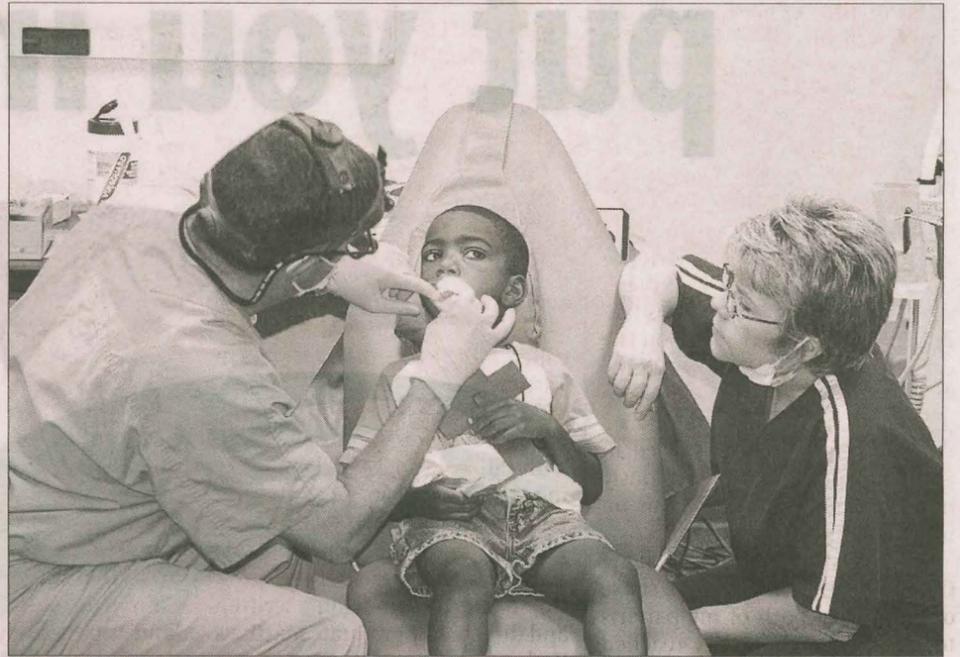
Many people in the region live in substandard or deteriorated housing or they face homelessness, the Web site also pointed out. Only about 50 percent of people 25 and older have a high school diploma, reflecting a high illiteracy rate.

Lewis said in addition to the 20,000 salvations and 100,000 volunteers involved, the ministry also has had an economic impact on people's lives in the region, but that impact is difficult to measure.

One of the Arkansas projects is in the impoverished Dixonville area, where Lewis has been personally involved for about 20 years.

"I can see economic changes there, but a lot of them are small things to celebrate," she said. "Some things are improvements we won't see in this world. These ministries are changing generations and changing a culture. Such changes are slow to come."

"Some of the people we have helped may



**THE "THIRD WORLD"** ■ Above: Dental volunteers conduct a clinic in Arkansas in conjunction with Southern Baptists' eight-state Mississippi River Ministry. The organization, which began in 1992, has recorded more than 20,000 professions of faith in Christ.

■ Right: Volunteers working in conjunction with Mississippi River Ministry refurbish an Arkansas home. MRM is a ministry partnership between eight state Baptist conventions, including Kentucky. More than 100,000 volunteers have served on a variety of mission projects through MRM ranging from construction work to helping crisis pregnancy centers. The MRM Web site refers to the eight-state area it covers as the "Third World along the Mississippi" River. (BP photos by Lisa Watson/Arkansas Baptist News)



say their lives are better economically because of this ministry, but the region is not better statistically than it was in 1992."

Missions volunteers and teams from churches and associations can get involved by visiting the MRM Web site.

"Church volunteers should get involved with the Mississippi River Ministry for two

reasons: It will change the lives of other people and it will change them," Lewis said.

"When we work with people in poverty, we are reminded of how great the Father's love is for all of us," she added. "And people's hearts are touched through what we do and their hearts are then more open to the Good News of Jesus Christ." (BP)

## Organization offers 'Open Door' out of poverty for Baltimore families

By Shannon Baker  
Maryland/Delaware BaptistLife

Baltimore—It is an economic reality: The poor are becoming poorer. Amid the economic downturn, people with little education are losing entry-level service jobs to high school and college graduates. With dwindling opportunities to work, the poverty-stricken often wind up roaming the streets in survival mode which often includes drugs, crime and despair.

Bill Simpson's office, nestled in a row house in what he calls the "poorest neighborhood in Maryland"—Baltimore's McElderry Park—is surrounded by distress.

Within one-third mile of Simpson's office, 846 households scrape by on less than \$15,000 a year—30 percent below the U.S. poverty level for a family of four. Expand out to two-thirds of a mile and the number triples to 2,559 households.

"In any given month, about 60 percent are unemployed. Our high school dropout rate is over 65 percent, and our teen pregnancy rate exceeds 80 percent," said Simpson, executive director of Open Door Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing families and neighborhoods on Baltimore's lower east side.

"Business as usual won't get it done here."

For Simpson, who moved his office into the neighborhood this past summer, it is worth the hour-long commute to simply "show up" and try to make a difference in the hurting community. The Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware has helped the ministry get started.

Simpson said he feels McElderry Park is "quarantined" from the rest of the city because of its overwhelming needs. But he also knows that, through Christ, much can be accomplished there.

"Emphasizing the redemptive principles of renewal, restoration and reconciliation, we believe it's wrong for 140,000 Baltimoreans to live in poverty in the nation's most affluent state," Simpson asserted. "We are strong advocates for addressing the generational poverty that devalues life, immobilizes families and communities, and feeds a cycle of failure and futility."

Open Door's mission, he explained, is three-fold: "One: to be a source of hope and encouragement for people who need a new start; two: to be a community hub that links folks to positive and constructive activities; and three: to be a safe haven where God's heart for hurting people and strug-

gling families is made real every day."

Open Door's initiatives include adult learning; workforce development; life-skills training; computer literacy; family services, information and referral.

"We also place a strong emphasis on emergency compassion outreach and strategic community organizing," Simpson added. "In the final analysis, we're convinced that if you help parents and adults with their education, employment, housing and other 'felt need' issues, you really are helping the whole family and the larger community."

Simpson saw that happen when Open Door helped a 45-year-old man find a full-time job for the first time in his life.

"We helped him develop a resumé, strengthened his soft skills (appearance habits, ability to fill out forms, communication and motivation skills) and practiced interviewing with him," Simpson recalled. "It felt really good to know that we helped him get meaningful employment."

In spite of the great challenges they face, the people Open Door serves are remarkably proud, resilient, determined and optimistic, Simpson said.

"Most believe life can be better for their families. Nearly all just need a helping hand

from someone who cares," he noted.

Because the need in the community is so great, Simpson described Open Door's ministry as a "long-term proposition."

"Our goal is to not only provide short-term emergency relief, but to also form relationships that can help lead to larger life solutions for those in need," he said.

It is necessary to build trust in the community, and it takes time for Open Door to be a place people turn to if they need food for the day or simply somebody to talk with, Simpson added.

"We may not be fully resourced, but they can see us work to help them," he said.

As part of their mission to offer compassion and encouragement to hurting people, Open Door provides limited "emergency" food, clothing and financial assistance to families in crisis. Like other nonprofits, Open Door can keep its doors open only through the generosity of others. Sometimes that generosity takes the form of encouraging others to help, Simpson noted.

"Never underestimate your influence with others," he said. "Many of our current individual and congregational donors first became interested in supporting Open Door because someone encouraged them to get involved." (BP)

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