

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
*Philippians 2:15*

# WESTERN Recorder

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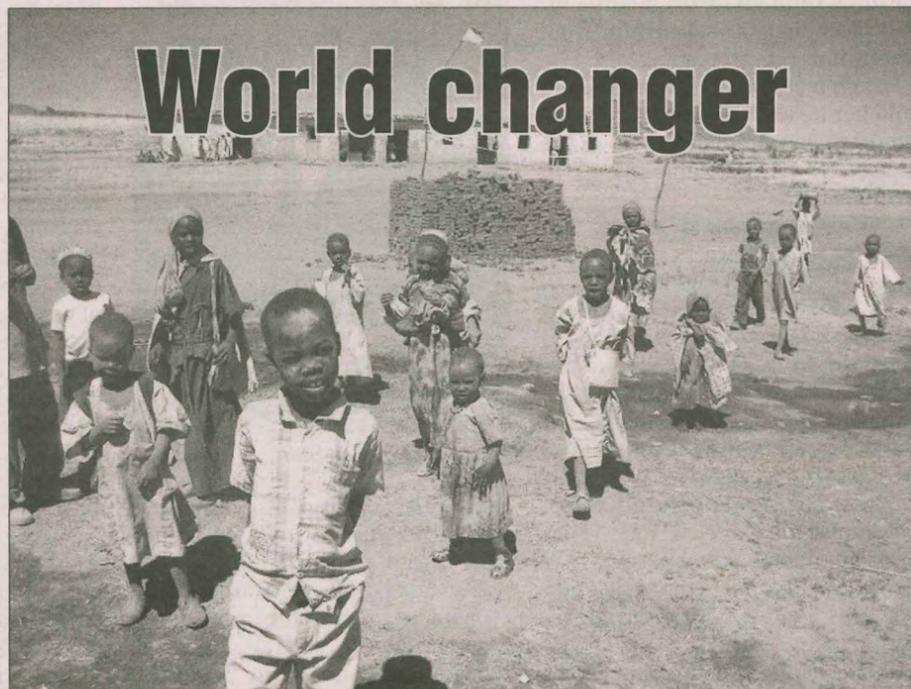
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## World changer

Children in the Darfur region now enjoy safe drinking water thanks to the vision of one teenager. Clean water is a life-or-death issue for nearly 900 million people around the world. Water-related disease kills more than 3.5 million people each year—the vast majority of them children, almost half of them because of simple diarrhea. (BGR photo)

## Tennessee teen follows through on vision to supply clean water to people in need

By Mark Kelly

Milan, Tenn.—Joshua Guthrie was a troubled teen. Like many others of his generation, the high school sophomore was troubled by the needless suffering of so many people in so many places. Hunger and poverty. Wartime atrocities and sex trafficking. AIDS orphans and genocides.

It seemed so impossible for a 16-year-old in West Tennessee to make a difference.

Then Joshua read "Do Hard Things," a best-selling book by twin brothers Alex and Brett Harris, who at 20 years old are just barely out of their teens themselves. The book challenges young people to rebel against "the myth of adolescence"—the notion that teens are by nature irresponsible, immature and rebellious.

"By breaking the mold of what society thinks we are capable of, teens can achieve so much more than what's expected," the brothers write in their book. "We've seen 'average' teenagers transformed from channel changers to world changers who are accomplishing incredible things."

The book rocked Guthrie's world.

"For as long as I can remember, my family has supported children through World Vision, and we have gotten their catalogs, which list items you can buy for needy people around the world," Guthrie said during an interview at his parents' home near Milan, Tenn. "I had always wanted to be able to buy one of the really big items, like the largest well, which was \$10,000."

Guthrie said he knew that clean, safe water is a life-or-death issue for nearly 900 million people around the world. He found it deeply disturbing that water-related disease kills more than 3.5 million people each year—the vast majority of them children, almost half of them because of simple diarrhea.

Guthrie's desire to help grew even more when Jeff Palmer, executive director for

Baptist Global Response, came to the Guthrie home for dinner in the spring of 2008. Palmer and Joshua's dad, George, had been friends since their college days at Union University in nearby Jackson, Tenn., where George Guthrie now serves as a Bible professor. Joshua said he learned that Baptist Global Response, an international relief and development organization, needs ministries he cared so much about.

"Mr. Palmer told me Baptist Global Response was helping drill water wells in Sudan and he gave me some tips about how to go about raising money for a project like that," Joshua recalled. "I thought that paying for a well would be a really cool thing to do, but a teen really can't save up \$8,000 or \$10,000 for a well. I knew I would have to raise it with the help of others. When I read 'Do Hard Things,' I thought, 'I really need to get going on this. I actually want to do anything.' So I kind of took the step to get started."

### "Dollar for a Drink"

Joshua zeroed in on the idea of giving other teens an achievable goal: giving up one drink so they could give \$1 to help build one well in Sudan. He set a goal of raising \$8,000 by Christmas. With his parents' help, he reserved an Internet domain—DollarForADrink.org. They registered the new organization as a nonprofit, secured a post office box and set a launch date of Oct. 1. They got a basic Web site up and running, and Joshua started talking the project up in the forums at the Harris brothers' Web site, TheRebellion.com.

"It's a wonderfully run Web site," Joshua noted. "I got lots of advice, encouragement and suggestions, even before I started the project. Then the Harris brothers announced they would match all do-  
□ See Teen's vision helps bring ... *Page 8*



Joshua Guthrie

## Kentucky BCM students see spring break as a time for missions rather than parties

By Erin Roach  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Panama City, Fla.—Hundreds of students from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Campus Ministries used their spring break as an opportunity to share the hope of the gospel on mission trips, including a project known as BeachReach in Panama City, Fla.

Bill Noe, campus minister at the University of Louisville, led 45 students on a trip to BeachReach, an annual event coordinated by LifeWay Christian Resources.

"A lot of over it seems like it takes a couple of nights to kind of get over the shock of being down there and taking in the atmosphere," Noe said, "but this group did a great job even from night one of turning conversions into spiritual ones."

Baptist students typically provide free van rides and pancake breakfasts for their peers who are partying their week away on the beach. BCM students also hit the streets and the sand, hoping to strike up new relationships that might lead to a gospel presentation.

"On the first night, one of the guys who got in one of our vans accepted Christ," Noe recalled. "Then it kind of went up from there. We had so many conversations, sharing the gospel with students down there and have them really ask engaging questions about our faith."

Noe said some of his students encountered a couple of international students from Europe and kept crossing paths with the two throughout the week.

"Every time, they just wanted to know more and more about Christianity," he said. "One night in particular, our students had given one of the guys a ride, and when they got back to his hotel, he just sat in the van for almost another hour asking questions about Christianity and the gospel."

"They ended up walking into his room, and his roommate, the other European guy, was in there," Noe said. "The roommate said, 'Hey, I want to come talk to you all.' So he just sat in the van for another hour and talked to them about Christianity."

Noe said he could share countless stories of people noticing that the BCM students cared about them because of the services they offered.

"They wanted to know what made us different and why we were doing this, and that gave us an opportunity to talk about our faith in Christ and the difference he has made in our lives," Noe explained.

After three weeks of BeachReach, manned by students from across the country, LifeWay representatives reported that more than 12,000 people ate free pancakes, more than 13,000 people took advantage of the van rides and nearly 100 people made first-time decisions for Christ.

□ See BCM students use spring break to serve ... *Page 2*



**ROADSIDE ATTRACTION** A group of Baptist Campus Ministries students from Kentucky colleges advertise a free pancake breakfast for their fellow students who spend the week partying in Panama City, Fla. The meals and the BCM students are (from left) Martin Perkins, a student at Eastern Kentucky University, Macarena Toro and Anthony Gramaglia, both students at Northern Kentucky University. (Photo courtesy of the NKU BCM)



**GETTING READY** Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union leaders, most from Long Run Baptist Association congregations, gather in the foyer of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville prior to a tour of the facilities. With them (third from left) is national WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee who came to Kentucky last week for a planning session in preparation for the national WMU Missions Celebration and annual meeting June 21-22 in Louisville, just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

## Ky., national WMU leaders prepare for annual meeting

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Woman's Missionary Union members from across the country will get a taste of ministry and Bluegrass style as Kentucky Baptists host the national WMU Missions Celebration and annual meeting June 21-22 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Kentucky WMU leaders and national WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee met last week to tour the church and discuss details of the event that will be sandwiched between Crossover 2009 and the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, also held this year in the River City in conjunction with the 150th anniversary celebration of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lee told WMU leaders, most of them from Long Run Baptist Association congregations, that the work of Kentucky Baptists will be front and center during the two-day celebration and meeting.

"We want (visitors) to experience Kentucky missions," Lee said. "Our whole focus on Sunday is Kentucky missions."

Representatives from dozens of ministries will be on hand for the missions fair at St. Matthews Baptist's gym.

### Showcasing Kentucky

Lee said a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief feeding unit will provide lunch for a donation of \$5 per person. The communications unit also will be on site. She noted that "it's the perfect time" for Southern Baptists unfamiliar with the nationwide disaster relief ministry to ask active volunteers questions.

WMU members also will be encouraged to return to Kentucky in 2010 to serve during the World Equestrian Games in Lexington. Event organizers estimate as many as 600,000 tickets will be sold for the various competitions Sept. 25-Oct. 10.

"The world is coming to Kentucky," Lee told Kentucky WMU leaders. "We hope to find some volunteers for you."

In addition to "Changing Lives in Kentucky," the WMU meeting will highlight "Changing Lives Across America" and "Changing Lives Around the World," featuring missionaries serving in Appalachia, Alaska, Russia and other locales.

This year special tributes are planned at the awards celebration in memory of two WMU pioneers who died in 2008: Dellanna West O'Brien and Alma Hunt.

Interactive displays, autograph sessions with authors of WMU's New Hope Publishers, World Crafts and dozens of breakout conferences also are planned, according to Lee, with one goal:

"We want everyone to learn something about missions and WMU."

Participants should leave with the thought, "I can do this," Lee said. "I can get serious about what God's doing around the world."

The two-day event is free. Advanced registration is not required, however, those who wish to reserve a boxed lunch for Monday are asked to complete the registration form at [www.wmu.com/Events/Annual](http://www.wmu.com/Events/Annual).

## Commentator Stein visits Cumberlands, discusses Darwinism, humans' divinity

By Sean Bailey  
Corbin Times Tribune

Williamsburg—While Ben Stein was heading through snowy mountains, his sister text messaged him from sunny Italy.

Stein text messaged her back and told her he was thankful to be headed down snowy Interstate 75 to the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg.

"It's freezing and windy, but there's a huge fireworks store just off to the right," Stein said to laughs.

"And I can see an enormous American flag above it. So what I'm going to do as soon as I get to the next McDonald's, I'm going to get down on my knees and thank God for letting me be in the United States of America one more day."

Stein, commentator for Fox News, columnist for The New York Times and cult movie star, spoke to students, faculty and alumni at Cumberlands for the 21st Century Leadership event April 17.

The event was part of the Forcht Group of Kentucky's Center for Excellence in Leadership, whose goal is to "provide programs and activities that enhance the development of leadership, character and good citizenship."

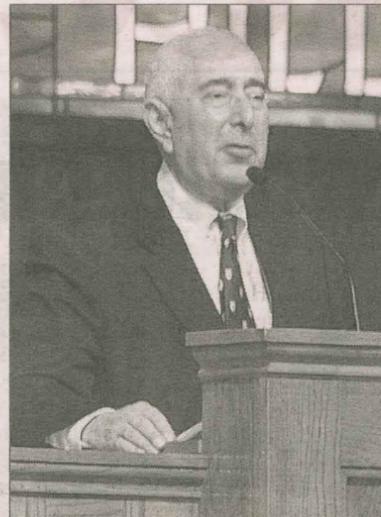
Stein, who many people know from his role as the economics professor in the 1986 comedy "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," and his game show "Win Ben Stein's Money," started his speech by saying that he felt places like University of the Cumberlands is where the "real America exists."

"When I walk around Beverly Hills, when I walk around New York and Washington D.C., I say to my wife, 'Where did the real America go to?'" Stein said during his speech. "Here it is at the University of the Cumberlands."

Stein said the "real America" is strong at UC because of the University's faith in the Divine and the school's commitment to leadership.

During his speech, Stein recalled his personal "journey" that took place during the making of the documentary "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed."

"Expelled" explores the teaching of intelligent design in schools and



Ben Stein

the stories of teachers "expelled" from academia for teaching intelligent design, or the belief that life was created by a god rather than evolving from lower life forms.

According to several published reports, including one in "Scientific America," some of the people interviewed in "Expelled" felt they were misled about the nature of the documentary. Other critics have pointed out that Stein misquotes Charles Darwin himself in the film.

After the documentary came out, Stein recalled, he was confronted with "out-of-control anger."

"People in power in the academic world do not like to be questioned. People in power in the journalist's world do not like to be questioned," Stein said. "But if they are in power because of a failed theoretical framework, they are really, really sensitive when you come near their vulnerable spots."

Stein argues that belief in Darwin's theory of evolution has created a society that does not value human life.

"If they (Darwinists) and life started when lightning struck a mud puddle, which is what they said, then man has no divine content," Stein argued. "If there is an intelligent designer, and we call him by the name of God, and if He made us in His image, then each one of us has a bit of the Divine in us."

Stein said that denial of the Divine, which he noted is implied in

theories of evolution, is the source of moral corruption.

"If we were just mud, then none of us has any moral content, and if there is no moral duty to one another, then there are no moral rules," Stein noted.

It is this denial of divinity, Stein said, that resulted in the Nazis coming to power and the atrocities that resulted from their beliefs in Aryan supremacy.

That same denial led to the current economic crisis, Stein, the son of an economist, insisted. As a guest on TV programs, he tries not to ask how the economic downturn started, but why it happened. Stein said he believes that the same denial of "divinity" in humans that led to past atrocities led to people harming their fellow man financially.

"This seems to me to be the basis of a lot of the problems we have in this world," Stein said. "Civilized people realize ... there is a divine being watching over them to be sure they act right to those other people."

The real leaders for the 21st century, in Stein's mind, are the men and women in uniform, the police, the firemen and educators—people who serve their fellow citizens.

Stein used his late father-in-law, a man who served in World War II and Vietnam, and his friend, U.S. Army Major Daphne Prewitt—who was in the audience—as examples of people who, in his mind, represent "the real America."

He closed his speech by saying the people that will lead America in the future are the ones willing to lay down their lives for their fellow citizens and recognize the Divine in those fellow citizens.

Stein ended, recalling the story of how as a young boy in Washington, he witnessed the inauguration of John F. Kennedy.

He recited the words that have "haunted" him ever since: "We all ask God to bless this great country, we all ask God to work for this country. ... We ask God to go to work for the people and principals we love, and here on earth, God's work is our work."

Reprinted with permission from the Corbin Times Tribune

## BCM students use spring break to serve others

Continued from page 1

"I was so proud of their selflessness in giving up that time, not just because it was a trip to the beach but because they were going to have opportunities to share the gospel with people who needed to hear it," Noe said of his students.

Students from Baptist Campus Ministries at the University of Kentucky, Murray State University, Eastern Kentucky University and Northern Kentucky University also served at BeachReach during last month's spring break.

Jeff Finley, a student at Murray State, said he was apprehensive about sharing his faith during his first trip to Panama City last year, but this year it was easier.

"This year, I had the awesome

experience of getting to lead a fellow college student in prayer to receive Christ," Finley wrote on a BCM blog. "To see a new life begin in an instant made the whole trip worth it. I was continually amazed at how open people are to talking about the Lord, especially when you offer them a pancake or a van ride rather than a megaphone."

Also on spring break, 19 students from Georgetown College traveled to Texas for Mission Arlington, a week of ministering to low-income families.

"Our group led 'Rainbow Express'—Mission Arlington's version of a backyard Bible club, with games, crafts, Bible stories, snacks and lots of love and affection," Katie McCracken, a Georgetown stu-

dent, wrote on the blog. "From day one, the children loved us and were so happy that we were there to play with them. It was especially touching to return each day to find them anxiously waiting for us."

"God is calling us to His people and they are anxiously waiting for us," McCracken wrote.

Keith Inman, director of Kentucky's Baptist Campus Ministries, said each year around 500 students use their spring breaks to share Christ on mission trips.

"One of our main emphases in Baptist Campus Ministries is to help students be Great Commission Christians," Inman noted. "For many students, it's their first mission experience. It's an opportunity for them to serve in community."

## KBC baptisms up slightly, ACP report 'cause for concern'

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Louisville**—Despite an overall loss of members last year, Kentucky Baptists reported a slight increase in baptisms according to the 2008 Annual Church Profile report.

A total of 15,815 new believers were baptized in Kentucky Baptist churches last year, 312 (2 percent) more than in 2007, which saw baptism numbers reach their lowest level in more than a decade.

Across the board, the ACP report (with 2,136 churches reporting) revealed only slight increases or decreases in all major categories. The areas of total and resident membership fell off 1.2 and 1.8 percent respectively, while primary worship attendance declined by a meager 0.1 percent.

Meanwhile, undesignated receipts reached another all-time high mark. Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$335 million to their local churches in 2008, despite the worsening effects of a slumping U.S. economy.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey noted that the disaster relief response during the late January ice storm is a strong indication of Kentucky Baptists' willingness to continue giving.

"Kentucky Baptists are willing to support their local churches and the Cooperative Program during very challenging times," he said.

Overall, however, Mackey acknowledged that the ACP statistics do "provide cause for concern."

That concern may lie squarely with the baptism numbers. Even with the slight uptick in 2008, the 15,815 total falls well short of the annual baptism goal set by the original Kentucky Baptists Connect initiative,

which concludes Aug. 31. That plan called for 125,000 baptisms by 2010—an average of 25,000 per year.

A three-year extension of the Connect initiative—beginning Sept. 1—reduces that goal to 20,000 baptisms annually. Since 2000, KBC churches have reported an average of just more than 17,000 baptisms per year.

Mackey said two things will be required to reach the 20,000 baptism level: revival among the churches and spiritual awakening. He also makes no apologies for Connect's ambitiousness.

"Our goals for baptisms may be high," Mackey said, "but we serve a God who does not wish for any (person) to perish, and who gave us the Great Commission to reach everyone with the gospel message."

The opportunity to begin reaching the Connect extension goals, Mackey said, arrives soon with Crossover Louisville in June, held the weekend prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

He also pointed to the ambitious Find It Here campaign, which will attempt to reach 1.5 million Kentucky homes with the gospel by 2010. Coordinators already have partnered with 70 local Baptist associations, Mackey noted.

"The key (to evangelism) is involvement at the local church level," he added.

Another area of emphasis with the Connect extension is that of Sunday school involvement. For 2008, Kentucky Baptist churches reported an increase of nearly 5,000 (1.55 percent) in Sunday school enrollment.

That did not, however, translate to more people in the classrooms. Average weekly Sunday school attendance fell off slightly,

### Kentucky Annual Church Profile Statistics

Category	2008	2007	+/-	% +/-
Total membership	770,629	780,235	-9,606	-1.2%
Resident membership	547,907	558,158	-10,251	-1.8%
Total baptisms	15,815	15,503	312	2.0%
Other additions	14,522	15,286	-764	-5.0%
Worship attendance	255,238	255,448	-210	-0.1%
Sunday school enrollment	308,431	303,721	4,710	1.6%
Sunday school attendance	171,399	171,693	-294	-0.2%
Discipleship training	65,101	63,407	1,694	2.7%
Music enrollment	61,116	62,077	-961	-1.5%
Woman's Missionary Union	38,250	39,195	-945	-2.4%
Baptist Men on Mission	13,751	13,973	-222	-1.6%
Undesignated receipts	\$335,091,508	\$324,014,087	\$11,077,421	3.4%

with nearly 300 fewer people attending last year compared to 2007.

Among the seven Sunday school age groups tracked by the ACP report, only the 54 and older bracket saw an increase in average weekly attendance (0.1 percent). All other age groups decreased between 1.8 and 6.8 percent.

Mackey said he is grateful to see an increase in the Sunday school enrollment numbers, and that as long as they stay up, the average attendance numbers will follow. "In a mobile society, it takes more people enrolled to maintain the average," he explained.

In other areas, KBC churches reported a total of 65,101 members in discipleship training, an increase of 2.7 percent over 2007. Meanwhile, participation in music

ministry fell off in 2008, down to 61,116—a decline of 1.6 percent.

Churches also reported a total of 38,250 people involved in Woman's Missionary Union last year, down 2.4 percent. In addition, Baptist Men on Mission involvement saw a 1.6 percent decrease to 13,751.

While the ACP report may illustrate areas of concern for KBC churches, Mackey said the information "does not report on the outpouring of compassion by Kentucky Baptists" in disaster relief situations, nor the work of KBC agencies, institutions and ministries.

However, the ACP does indicate "that church, associational and convention leaders have a significant challenge, and we must trust God to empower His mission through us," Mackey said.

## Ky. pastor's handbook can help churches better understand chaplaincy

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Waddy**—To prepare for a special evening service Mar. 22 to commission its music minister for his upcoming tour in Iraq, Graefenburg Baptist Church followed a plan he had written.

Jay Padgett's "A Ministry Care Plan" is a handbook for Southern Baptist churches and pastors serving as military reserve chaplains for use before, during and after their deployment.

"If it helps one chaplain or church, this plan will be worth it," said Padgett, who departed late last month for eight to 10 weeks of training before heading to Iraq with the Kentucky National Guard's 103rd Chemical Battalion.

"Most churches and chaplains I've spoken to don't have a plan. They're just ad-libbing it as they go. I would hope the document will in some way help churches and the chaplain."

The plan will be available via download later this month on the North American Mission Board's Web site ([www.namb.net/Chaplain](http://www.namb.net/Chaplain)).

"I'm hoping it's going to be a big hit for pastors and chaplains," said Keith Travis, director of NAMB's chaplaincy and evangelism team.

"We will kick this off (at the annual SBC convention) in Louisville in June. We're printing up 3-by-6 cards to hand out to pastors to tell them about this site."

Padgett, who will receive his degree in absentia May 16, completed the handbook for his doctorate in ministry from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

The 67-page plan features extensive suggestions on what churches can do when staff members depart for duty.



Jay Padgett

It covers such details as documents the reserve chaplain should provide for the church, information to provide the interim pastor, how to care for the candidate's family and how to conduct a commissioning service before the chaplain departs.

Padgett said he also hopes it will help educate Southern Baptists about the chaplaincy.

During his research, he learned that a majority of SBC members do not know NAMB endorses chaplains, their required qualifications, or that the chaplaincy is rooted in the United States Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom.

Such information is relevant in helping Kentucky Baptists and other Southern Baptists understand how reserve chaplains act

as missionaries, Padgett said.

"It's God's timing," Graefenburg's associate pastor of music and pastoral care said of completing the plan on the eve of leaving for his second tour in Iraq. "I just completed the project and heard rumblings about the possibility of me getting deployed again."

Six members of his church helped him with the plan, serving as a work group that brainstormed about what Graefenburg Baptist did right the first time Padgett served overseas and how to improve.

They had to "think outside the box" and project how to address senior pastors and other staff members so the final product would apply to any size church, Padgett noted.

### Strategy sessions

Senior Pastor Sanford Hill, a work group member, said it was beneficial to strategize without being under stress. When they held weekly meetings last fall, Padgett had not yet received deployment orders.

"It enabled us to think through a lot of things we otherwise would have overlooked," Hill suggested. "Now we are able to have a guide to help us through it. There were things we got approved in (a Mar. 11) business meeting."

Those steps included appointing Beth Dunn and Nancy Cheek as interim music ministers and approving continuing payments to Padgett's retirement plan.

During the year he is away, his salary and health benefits will come from the National Guard.

Padgett, who has a Master of Divinity degree in church music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, spent 15 months away on his first overseas tour.

While in Iraq in 2003-04, he received nu-

merous cards, letters, prayer support and care packages from his home church and family members. The packages included boxes of Rice Krispy treats after he mentioned in an e-mail to a friend how much he liked them.

"The church supporting chaplains in their prayer life and practical ways is the absolute best you can possibly get," Padgett said.

However, he watched others fall short, such as one chaplain whose church expected him to continue counseling members and tending to other business while on the field. Others returned home from active duty to find they had no position waiting for them since the church had moved on.

"Those things didn't get talked about beforehand," Padgett said. "One chaplain came back and the interim pastor had changed a lot of stuff. It really posed some problems for him. There's a lot of difficult issues the chaplain and churches have gone through, especially after deployment."

Travis, who as a pastor was called to active duty the day after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, said NAMB endorses 2,900 chaplains in all military branches. That includes 1,150 in the National Guard and reserves.

He said the points that Padgett brings out are worthwhile for all churches to consider, regardless of denomination.

"If (pastors) mobilize and leave, it is difficult for churches and pastors to work out how they're going to make the transition and what's going to happen," Travis pointed out. "His plan addresses all of those."

Hill said the plan is good for any Kentucky Baptist church.

"It doesn't have to be just a chaplain," Graefenburg Baptist's pastor said. "The ideas are good for anyone who goes. It could be someone leaving a job."

## CP missions rallies

Recently 10 very informative and inspiring Cooperative Program rallies were conducted across Kentucky. Each one included testimonies of the impact of CP giving and a special challenge for churches to observe CP Sunday with a special emphasis on April 26.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

For me, the most exciting part of the rallies was to hear the stories about the Cooperative Program's impact on lives. In some cases, I was able to hear "the rest of the story" at the rally.

For instance, Dean Whitaker, the Baptist Campus Ministries director at the University of the Cumberlands, had introduced an international student to me during the Kentucky Evangelism Conference late in February. Although this student was not quite ready to make a decision for Christ at that time, it was obvious that she was seriously weighing the claims of Christ and feeling the pull of the Holy Spirit.

At the Corbin rally, Whitaker introduced her along with 11 other international students. Her smile was radiant as she shared her testimony of confessing Jesus Christ as Lord on March 1. She plans to be baptized at Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

Bud Underwood, president of Oneida Baptist Institute, also shared a follow-up story about the roommate of an international student who had been baptized last year. The roommate visited her Christian friend over Christmas break at Cornell University in New York.

They attended church together often, including a church of their native language, which was a first for her roommate. Now the roommate has become a believer.

In Ashland, we not only saw the testimony of a young woman named Markquettia on video but also had the privilege of meeting her and her four children in person.

Jason Hutchinson, president of Mountain Fellowship in Paintsville where Markquettia is a member, said Markquettia is one example of the hundreds of lives that are being impacted by the Cooperative Program's support of new church plants.

Several pastors shared testimonies of the special time when they discovered the great value of the unified budget plan to support missions through the Cooperative Program. Each expressed thanks for CP support of their theological education.

Space does not permit a full report, but I want to share with readers my gratitude to God and Kentucky Baptists for their ongoing support of the Cooperative Program.

I also want to encourage each church to plan a special emphasis on the Cooperative Program during your service on Sunday, April 26.

Brief video testimonies (two to three minutes) and various printed resources are available to order or download at [www.KyBaptist.org/CPMissions](http://www.KyBaptist.org/CPMissions). You also may contact Wanda Karolyi—(866) 489-3374 or (502) 489-3374—to request materials.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## The God of Endless Possibility

In his Gospel, John may not have intended to interject a bit of humor into his retelling of the story of Lazarus' return from the dead. Nevertheless, I chuckle every time I read Martha's objection when Jesus instructs her to remove the stone from in front of Lazarus' tomb, especially when it's in the King James English.

"Lord, by this time he stinketh!" she exclaims.

Does anyone else see the amusing irony here? Yes, Lazarus had been dead for four days. But his sister is standing before the Lord of life and all creation, whom she had summoned to Lazarus' bedside. She obviously was hoping that Jesus would perform a miracle. Yet when Jesus instructs her to open the tomb, what is she thinking about? "Not me, Lord. Gross! It's going to stink in there." That's how we would have put it in modern English.

Was she holding her nose squeamishly? I wonder. It apparently hadn't occurred to Martha that a greater miracle than she could have ever longed for was taking place before her very eyes. She was about to meet the God of Endless Possibility.

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her" (John 11:23).

Martha affirmed her belief in the afterlife, but what Jesus really wanted her to see was a far greater truth: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever" (John 11:24-26, HCSB).

His next question is not just for Martha though: "Do you believe this?"

Yes, Easter is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection. But, for believers, it is also about, oh, so much more, isn't it? Easter is a celebration of the God of Endless Possibility.

In John 20-21, Mary Magdalene, Thomas and Peter make this marvelous discovery for themselves after Jesus' resurrection.

Standing outside his tomb, Mary was so distraught that she didn't even recognize Jesus when He first spoke to her. In perhaps another touch of John's humor, Mary mistakes Him for the gardener and begs Him to tell her where He has put Jesus' body. What a surprising twist! Mary is speaking to One who has just risen from the grave.

At the sound of her name, she knew. Mary ran to

tell the disciples: "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18).

Mary had just met the God of Endless Possibility. So did Thomas.

"If I don't see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!" he declares (John 20:25, HCSB).

### After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Imagine the surprised look on Thomas' face when Jesus appears in the room, even though the doors were locked. Can't you almost see John still chuckling at Thomas' startled reaction? You can almost hear Thomas gasping, "My Lord and my God!"

But don't miss Jesus' instruction in verse 27. His words there also are not just for Thomas: "Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer" (HCSB).

Thomas had just met the God of Endless Possibility. Peter would, too.

Peter must have been an avid outdoorsman, for when things got tough he headed for his boat and a beautiful lake. "I'm going fishing," he decides. Not wanting to miss out on the fun, the other disciples join in: "We're coming with you."

But, alas, the fish weren't biting that day. In yet another ironic twist, the Risen Lord Jesus—standing on the shore—calls out to the hapless disciples, "Men, you don't have any fish, do you?"

Of course, Jesus knew their luck. More importantly, He knew where to find the fish. "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you'll find some," He instructs them.

Amazing! Their net becomes so full that they can't haul it in. Peter had seen this all before. That's how Jesus had first called him to become a disciple in the first place. He knew: "It is the Lord!"

But this isn't just another fish story. Again, Jesus' next words are not just for Peter, either. "Do you love Me?" Jesus asks. "Follow me!" He urges.

Peter had just met the God of Endless Possibility. Have you?

People all around us today are searching for a word of lasting hope. It is urgent that we share with them that Easter is never over. Easter must become more than just a holiday that we observe on a designated Sunday each year, and then dismiss its powerful message. For all believers, Easter should be a continual celebration of the eternal hope found only in knowing the God of Endless Possibility.

## Open wide the church doors

"Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled."—(Luke 14:23)

There is an invisible sign on your church door. Does it read "Stay Out!" or "Please Come In"?

The date and time for worship services is clearly posted, but a church must constantly watch for other ways to invite the lost inside the doors. Need some fresh ideas?

■ **Capitalize on building location.** A downtown church invites firefighters and police to exercise in their gym. One rural church hosts a welcome celebration for migrant workers. A church adjacent to a school serves breakfast to kids and a church near a prison helps released inmates transition. An urban church plans

inspirational businessmen's lunches. A church in a residential area hosts neighborhood coffees and a mom's day out program.

### Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

■ **Study census demographics.** Become knowledgeable about people and needs in your area. If one-third of your population is single, provide a singles' Bible study. Is there a need for a GED or English as Second Language class? Would senior adults enjoy a low-impact exercise class?

■ **Intentionally plan ways to draw people into God's building.** Host a mom's tea on the first day of school. Open the chapel doors for a National Day of Prayer. Provide a Christian concert or art show simultaneously with the town festival. Offer a First Place weight class

or aerobics with Christian music. Plan a citywide end-of-school celebration for fifth graders, a family event, or an after-game fellowship.

■ **Seize opportunities to welcome outsiders.** Allow use of the building for weddings, funerals, community meetings, school teacher training, school banquets, etc. Create legal, hospitable parameters for building use. To ascertain that guests visually learn about your church and your God, attractively display current church brochures, witness tracts, missions facts, event information and worship service invitations.

If God has blessed your church family with a church building, why not open its doors and invite the lost inside? Then, when they walk through those doors, welcome them warmly and introduce them to Jesus

Davis is author of *Fresh Ideas for Women's Ministry* (B&H Publishing, 2008).

## WESTERN Recorder

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

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## Six steps for financial security

By Don Spencer

**Step 1:** Invest in yourself. Your earning power is an important asset. Seek opportunities to develop skills that will increase your earning power. These new skills might be related to another job, but often they are simply improving the skills required in your current work. As you accumulate some financial assets, be sure to learn good money management skills.

**Step 2:** Protect your loved ones and your assets. Have adequate insurance to cover possible major expenses due to illness, disability, liability and death. Without adequate insurance, you are betting your financial security that nothing bad will happen.

**Step 3:** Control the use of debt. This is a major problem for many people today. If debt is a problem, then it controls your life. You will never have financial freedom as long as debt controls you. Many studies have proven that people spend more when using credit than when using cash.

**Step 4:** Pay God and yourself first. As a Christian, contribute your tithe and set aside a specific amount for savings. Do not wait to see if there is money left at the end of the month. Discretionary expenses always seem to consume all available funds.

**Step 5:** Don't go for the homeruns. Invest regularly and wisely. Use time, not timing in investing. In baseball, those who go for the homeruns also strike out frequently. Most successful investors aim for lots of singles and doubles. Invest in high quality. Diversify your investments. At any given time, some types of investments will be up and other will be down. No one can consistently predict with accuracy which ones will be up.

**Step 6:** Reduce expenses now to fund a more comfortable future. Take steps now to make it comfortable for you and your heirs. Take advantage of tax deferred retirement plans. Use a budget to help prioritize your fixed and flexible expenses.

Address all six of these steps in the context of a biblically-based perspective and your financial security will improve dramatically.

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

## God wrote a book: How the Bible was made

By James Denison

My first Bible was a red King James version that I was given to me by the Gideons when I was in the fifth grade. I took it home and read its first words: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren."

I asked my parents what "begat" meant, but they wouldn't tell me. So began my experience with the word of God. I had other questions as well: How do we know this is God's word? Did God write it himself? If he didn't, why do we call it "God's word"?

Many Christians would struggle to explain the creation of God's word. It is an astounding fact: God wrote a book you can read today. How did he do it?

### Making the Hebrew Bible

We are exploring the creation of the "canon"—from the Greek word for "rule"—the "measuring rod" of our faith. Our story starts with 39 books we usually call the "Old Testament," the Bible of Jesus and Paul.

First came the "Law," called Torah or "instruction" by the Jews—the regulations and early history of Judaism. This section was eventually divided into five parts, called the "Pentateuch" ("five books")—Genesis, Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Next came the "Prophets," called Nebiim by the Jews—prophetic writings and histories. The first four

books were called the "Former Prophets"—Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings. (Samuel and Kings were each a single book.) The last four books were called the "Latter Prophets"—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and "the Twelve." The "Twelve" are our "minor" prophets, given

this unfortunate name because they are shorter books.

Last came the "Writings," called Ketubim by the Jews. The Hebrew Bible lists 11 books in this section—Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah and 1-2 Chronicles.

These books were copied with extreme care and discipline. Scribes gave their lives to this task.

According to Jewish tradition, a council of rabbis and scholars met at Jamnia—or Jabneh—on the Mediterranean coast and again in A.D. 118. The Jamnia councils finalized the list of Hebrew Scriptures, recognizing what their people had accepted as God's word for centuries.

### Making the New Testament

The "writings of the prophets" refers to the Hebrew Bible, while "memoirs of the apostles" refers to our New Testament. How did Christians choose these books?

First, the book must be written by an apostle or based on his eyewitness testimony. Second, the book must possess merit and authority in use. Third, a book must be accepted by the larger church, not just a par-

ticular congregation.

By the mid-second century, the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were accepted universally, as quotations from Christians of the era make clear. The rest of the New Testament soon gained wide use.

Last, a book was approved by church leaders. Lists were compiled as early as A.D. 200. The canon we have today was set forth by Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, in his Easter letter of A.D. 367. This list was approved by church councils meeting at Hippo Regius in 393 and Carthage in 397. By the time these councils approved the books of our New Testament, they already had served generations of believers.

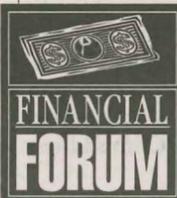
Biblical commentator William Barclay agrees: "The Bible and the books of the Bible came to be regarded as the inspired word of God, not because of any decision of any synod or council or committee of church, but because in them mankind found God. The supremely important thing is not what men did to these books, but what these books did to men."

### Conclusion

Who decided what books should be in the Bible? Their Author. The same Holy Spirit who inspired biblical revelation led God's people to the books he inspired.

J.I. Packer describes the Bible as "God preaching." The next time you open its pages, you'll hear the voice of your Father. This is the promise, and the invitation, of God. (ABP)

*Denison is theologian-in-residence with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.*



## Train up a child: It takes both parents and churches

By Marv Knox

Parents must take the lead in guiding children to love and learn the Bible, but the church should help, according to specialists in children's ministry.

The process begins at birth, directing children toward God long before they even know about the Bible, explained Teri Shipley, family minister at Corner Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, Mo.

"I'm a big believer in starting a child's spiritual development from the moment the child is born," Shipley said. "When we're rocking babies ..., we tell them: 'God made you special.'"

"As a child gets older, we can begin to talk about themes: 'God loves us. God created us. We are to love one another.' The goal is to get children to understand God loves them."

Such comprehension of God's love forms a foundation for receptivity to knowing the Bible—God's story, she said. Parents and children's Sunday school teachers are partners in helping children know and love that story, added Diane Smith, children's ministry strategist for the Virginia Baptist Mission Board.

"We are working together," Smith said, noting most congregations provide take-home materials for children's classes, and parents can use that material to reinforce their children's Bible study at home.

But the foundation for teaching the Bible to children is simple—read it to them, Smith stressed.

**"Read Bible stories to them. Read**

the Bible to them," she said. "And don't quit. Parents often stop reading with children when the children read. Don't stop. Keep on reading."

Diane Lane, the preschool/children's ministry specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, echoed that advice.

"Parents need to be reading the Bible at home," Lane said, advising parents practice the same techniques for reading the Bible with their children that also are used to build basic literacy.

For example, "hold the younger ones when you're reading the Bible to them," she said. This provides a sense of comfort and security, which children need. And when they feel comfortable and secure hearing the Bible, they transfer those positive feelings to their own feelings about the Bible.

Also, as children learn to read, parents should sit down with their own Bibles and read along as their children read from their personal Bibles, she said.

That points to another important step in developing love for the Bible, Lane said. Children should receive their own Bible "as early as age 3."

Smith particularly advises parents who are new Christians to read to their children from a good Bible storybook. "As you read to the children, you, too, learn those stories. And you make them part of your life," she explained.

Parents should supplement readings from Bible storybooks by read-

ing the same stories directly from the Bible, Lane said. "Parents need to take the child's own Bible and say, 'Here is the story in our Bible.' This helps children make the connection" between Bible stories and the Bible.

And whether children are hearing the Bible read to them or reading it themselves, they need a translation they understand, she advised. "If they don't understand it, they won't continue," she warned.

Beyond reading the Bible, children should memorize Scripture, Smith suggested. "Children can learn a verse a week, and then you can talk about it—about how we live it out," she said.

Incorporating Bible stories and Bible knowledge into daily life is enormously important, Shipley urged.

"Constantly talk to your children (about God's love and Bible themes) as you go about your day," she said, noting this is a part of the concept in Deuteronomy, which says: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Talking with children about faith is vital, Smith concurred. Children need to hear adults discuss their faith in terms of the issues and stresses of life. And they need to hear caring adults pray about those concerns, she added. (ABP)

*Knox is editor of The Texas Baptist Standard.*

## Wisdom for those remarrying

By James Stillwell

**Q:** Will my children ever recover from my divorce? I'm engaged to a wonderful man. I just want us all to be a happy family.

**A:** Whatever adjustment you've gone through in divorce, be assured that your children have felt it at least as intensely as you have. When we are in the bliss of a new relationship, we are sometimes oblivious to the feelings of others, including our children. Remarriage is not instant divorce recovery. Far from simplifying things, it complicates them, especially for the children. Before you dive into remarriage:

### Attend a divorce recovery program.

Your own grief and inability to forgive can greatly complicate your new situation, if you have "extra baggage" from the past. Work through your issues with a competent therapist. If you are not careful, you can contaminate your children's grief with unresolved issues of your own.

**Get good, solid premarital education.** We would never drive a car without some driver's education, and marriage education is even more vital. It's not less important the "second time around."

**Slow down; take stock of what is in their best interest, not just yours.** Their adjustment to remarriage will likely be much slower than you would like. Do not try to force your own love for your new spouse onto them, expecting them to have the same feelings, at least not at first. Trust must be earned, and when their little worlds have been blown apart by divorce already, building trust will take time.

Children's developmental needs exist no matter what the family structure. They are trying to bond with all the adults in their lives (something you are asking them to do), while simultaneously trying to become more and more independent of all the adults in their lives (the task of growing up).

Be wise. Be patient. Listen to your children's feelings. And look to God to bless your efforts to "do it right the second time."

*James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.*



# Iditarod race outreach thaws Alaskans' hearts

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

Nome, Alaska—NASCAR has its Daytona 500. Colleges have the Final Four and the BCS. Baseball has its World Series; the NFL, its Super Bowl. For Alaskans, it's the Iditarod, or the "Last Great Race" as it's also called.

The grueling 1,049-mile trek starts in Anchorage on the first Saturday in March and then heads west across Alaska to Nome for 10 or more days. This year's race began March 7, with the winner, Lance Mackey, crossing the finish line March 18. The last racer crossed the finish line March 24.

Between Anchorage and Nome, 65 Iditarod racers and their teams of up to 16 Alaskan Huskies confront jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, miles of windswept coast and sea ice—in temperatures far below zero. Factoring in the wind chill, this year's low was 140 degrees below zero one night. The wind often causes a total lack of visibility between the race's 25 rest stops or "checkpoints" 200 miles apart.

"The people who race in the Iditarod are tough, rough and sometimes wild people," said Brenda Crim, a North American Mission Board missionary and director of Baptist Campus Ministry at the University of Alaska-Anchorage.

To Crim, the Iditarod is not just an Alaskan tradition dating back to 1973. The re-

cently completed Iditarod was the fifth year that Crim, her Anchorage staff and 110 volunteers from across the United States have organized extensive ministry in conjunction with the race—an effort that has stirred some 132 Alaskans to make decisions for Christ.

At the ceremonial starting line in Anchorage, Crim and her team handed out 2,000 cups of free coffee and cocoa to spectators. Other ministries in Nome focused on senior adults and youth. One night, Crim and her team sponsored a chili supper and showed the movie "Fireproof" for free.

With temperatures in Anchorage and Nome always hovering at zero or below, Crim said tubes of Chapstick—donated by Southern Baptists across the nation—were popular giveaways, with more than 2,000 tubes given away just at the starting line. Crim said her living room still is piled high with Chapstick that she'll use in ministry in the future.

Since basketball is the favorite sport of Alaska's kids, several Iditarod ministry projects featured the round ball, including a Crossfire Basketball Ministry evangelistic exhibition which led to 60-plus decisions for Christ at a Nome-area high school. Another initiative: handling concessions at a Nome basketball tournament, with Crim

returning the money to the community for a women's shelter and youth ministry.

Outside Anchorage, Nome and a few other cities, Alaska is largely a rural village-based culture, Crim noted.

"If we can turn around the villages, we'll turn around Alaska," she said. "People are hungry and responsive to the gospel, whether they're senior adults, adults, kids or students.

"Once they accept Christ, they have to be disciplined," she added, "but the challenge is that in Alaska they are so scattered. There are not enough Southern Baptist churches to send them to. In fact, in 130 villages, there are no churches of any kind."

Crim said there's no way she and her two Anchorage co-workers, Charlie Parnell and Spring Pungowiyi, can run all of their ministry projects during the course of a year, which includes a salmon-fishing outreach when the Alaskan salmon "run" each May. Spring is a NAMB US/C2 missionary, while Parnell is supported by his home church, Moberly Baptist Church in Longview, Texas.

"Our volunteers and partners are so important to what we do," Crim said, "and it's so important that they come back year after year to work."



Brenda Crim

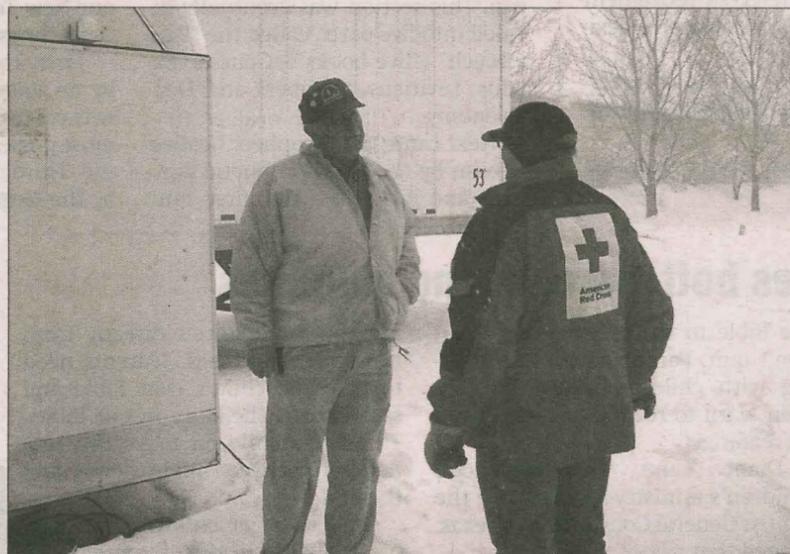
## BAPTISTS DIGEST

**Hunt honored at Midwestern Seminary**—Johnny Hunt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was honored at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., in March with the dedication of a faculty office in his name. Jerry Johnson, vice president for academic development at Midwestern, said it was appropriate to honor Hunt in a building dedicated to the memory of two martyred missionaries, a building named for Midwestern graduates William Koehn and Martha Myers. "Just as the prophet Elisha sought a double portion of Elijah's spirit, my hope and prayer is that our pastors, missionaries and evangelists going out of Midwestern catch some of the fire you have for soul-winning, missions and evangelism," Johnson told Hunt at the ceremony.

**Mitchell to join Union faculty**—Leading biomedical ethicist Ben Mitchell will join Union University's faculty in the fall as the Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy. Mitchell goes to Union from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., where he is associate professor of bioethics and contemporary culture. He also served as director of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity at Trinity from 2006-08. Mitchell is the editor of *Ethics and Medicine: An International Journal of Bioethics* and a longtime consultant to the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

**Southwestern announces no tuition hike**—The administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, demonstrated a concern for students during the current economic situation, April 8. Southwestern's trustees approved the administration's proposed 2009-10 budget, which included no tuition increases for the upcoming year. "Given the sacrifices many students are having to make during this time of economic uncertainty, the board of trustees and the seminary administration felt they needed to do all they could to enable present and future students of Southwestern Seminary to continue their studies," said Paige Patterson, president of the seminary.

**SBC Resolutions Committee named**—SBC President Johnny Hunt has named the members of the Resolutions Committee who will serve during the June 23-24 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville, Ky. Hunt named Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., as committee chairman. Among the other nine committee members is Kevin Smith, assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville. Proposed resolutions may be submitted by e-mail or mailed to the Resolutions Committee no later than 15 days prior to the SBC annual meeting.



**COLD WORK** Dick Cashwell (left) of the Minnesota/Wisconsin disaster relief feeding team, talks with an American Red Cross volunteer in Fargo, N.D. Cashwell and his team helped prepare 5,000 meals for Red Cross and Salvation Army workers during recent flooding in Fargo. (Photo by Jeanne Wedekind)

## DR teams feed 5,000 in Fargo

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

Fargo, N.D.—Southern Baptist disaster relief feeding teams from the Iowa and Minnesota/Wisconsin state conventions prepared some 5,000 hot meals in Fargo, N.D., in support of the American Red Cross and Salvation Army during the recent Red River flooding.

Some 175,000 metro residents of twin cities Fargo and Moorhead, Minn., were relieved when the Red River—which parts the two towns, flowing south to north—crested at nearly 41 feet, lower than the 43-foot level expected. The Red River now has receded to 37 feet, still 15 feet above flood stage. But after heavy recent snow, rains and warming temperatures, the river may crest again in mid-April, authorities say.

Late last week, the Iowa and Minnesota/Wisconsin feeding units were released to go home by Fred MacDonald, disaster relief direc-

tor for the Dakotas. In addition, NAMB's disaster operations center in Alpharetta, Ga., advised units on alert from Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas/Nebraska, Tennessee and Utah/Idaho that they also could stand down.

Morgan Medford, associational missionary for the Dakota Northland Baptist Association, who lives in Moorhead, noted that because major flooding was averted, disaster relief mud-out work will be minimal in the Fargo/Moorhead area—unless the second cresting causes serious flooding. In the smaller towns of Oxbow, Oakport and Hendrun, mud-out work will be necessary, he said.

"The sandbags and dikes are still in place in the Fargo/Moorhead area in case we have flooding when the second crest comes," Medford said. Fargo's mayor announced March 31 that residents could return to their homes and reopen businesses. (BP)

## African-American pioneer dies at 65

Jacksonville, Fla.—Southern Baptist African-American pioneer Sid Smith died April 8 at his home in Jacksonville, Fla. He suffered from ongoing heart problems and congestive heart failure.

The 65-year-old Smith was the first director of the Florida Baptist Convention's African-American ministries division from May 1994 until his retirement in 2005. In that role, he served at the convention's highest administrative and decision-making level in directing a unique cultural outreach among state Baptist conventions.

During his tenure, Smith gave leadership to an aggressive program of starting more than 400 African-American congregations as well as instituting a program department of church development to assist pastoral and lay leadership in African-American churches.

Smith served more than 40 years in Southern Baptist denominational roles, longer than any other African-American leader. He worked in California, Tennessee and Florida but his influence permeated multicultural strategies now in place at the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and LifeWay Christian Resources.

Smith began his work among Southern Baptists in 1968 as the South Central Los Angeles director of Christian social ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. In 1979, he began an 11-year tenure with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, first as a consultant and then as manager of the black church development section.



Sid Smith

## 'Prepare the way of the Lord'

### Staff eliminate distractions to clear path for the gospel

By Bert Lacey  
Cedarmore Director

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"

That familiar passage from Isaiah 40 depicts the daily activities of our Crossings' staff. Whether in the hazy, hot days of summer camp or the cold, dreary days of winter, our staff is paving the way for a clear and effective proclamation of the gospel message.

Crossings' mission statement not only sums up our ultimate purpose—to see our guests "cross from death to life"—but also paints a vivid picture of our daily duties: "To provide an environment in which our guests can come to know Christ or more fully experience Him." On any day, our year-round staff can be found eliminating distractions. Crossings Ministries is in the business of providing distraction-free environments so that the "Word of our God" can ring with power and clarity to our guests.

Distractions can reveal themselves at many points during the Crossings experience. From the moment a guest places the initial phone call to register for an event to the time they head back home, we are working hard to eradicate barriers. Answering questions and communicating policies clearly; anticipating and meeting needs; providing clean rooms and hot meals; and allotting genuine service and an attention to details are all ways our staff lifts valleys and lowers mountains to prepare a plain and patent presentation of the true gospel.

Many relationships are forged in the settings we create. We believe these relationships are the most effective environment to "herald" this "Good News." What sets Crossings apart is its commitment to the nurturing of relationships. Consequently, our success at forging and nurturing relationships is reliant on our ability to effectively eliminate distractions and "prepare the way of the Lord."

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

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 When a rooster rouses
- 5 Air (comb. form)
- 8 A. Hitchcock film classic
- 12 Operatic solo
- 13 Busy one
- 14 First garden
- 15 Tree house
- 16 Under the weather
- 17 Center
- 18 Was wary, with "away"
- 20 "When ye blow an \_\_\_\_\_, then the camps ... on the east shall go forward" (Numbers 10:5)
- 22 "But \_\_\_\_\_ thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen" (Luke 10:42)
- 23 Jesus likens the kingdom of God to \_\_\_\_\_ virgins (Matthew 25)
- 24 Makes payment for, as Jesus' sacrifice on the cross
- 27 "And as they were \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus took bread" (Matthew 26:26)
- 31 "A brother offended is harder to be \_\_\_\_\_ than a strong city" (Proverbs 18:19)
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ classical style
- 33 Let go
- 37 Saul's exit "vehicle" out of Damascus (Acts 9)
- 40 Body part of priest on which the ram's blood was sprinkled (Exodus 29:20)
- 41 Employ
- 42 Times to "catch the worm"
- 44 Experienced labored breathing
- 47 Experience ennui

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

- 48 Where the good Samaritan left the wounded man
- 50 Lions' den
- 52 Sheltered side, nautically
- 53 "Deliver thyself as a \_\_\_\_\_ from the hand of the hunter" (Proverbs 6:5)
- 54 Firstborn of Isaac
- 55 Held or kept in, with "up"
- 56 "Be sober, and hope to the \_\_\_\_\_ for the grace" (1 Peter 1:13)
- 57 Niece and nephew, e.g. (abbr.)

- 21 Grassy field
- 24 A piercing tool
- 25 "Is any thing \_\_\_\_\_ hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)
- 26 "The sons of ... Shamed, who built \_\_\_\_\_, and Lod" (1 Chronicles 8:12)
- 28 "He pronounced all these words ... and I wrote them with \_\_\_\_\_ in the book" (Jeremiah 36:18)
- 29 Born (Fr.)
- 30 Purchased
- 34 Mulberry, for one
- 35 Ages and ages
- 36 "I \_\_\_\_\_ to be present with you now" (Galatians 4:20)
- 37 "The bush \_\_\_\_\_ with fire, and the bush was not consumed" (Exodus 3:2)
- 38 Good king of Judah
- 39 Lydia was a \_\_\_\_\_ of purple
- 42 Burrowing mammal
- 43 "\_\_\_\_\_ me first" (former Kodak come-on)
- 45 "His soul shall dwell at \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 25:13)
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ tone
- 47 Cartographer's product
- 49 Forget it, to Philippe
- 51 Masculine nickname (var.)

### Down

- 1 Tribe of Israel
- 2 Greek counterpart of Mars
- 3 "Let them be ... put to shame that \_\_\_\_\_ me evil" (Psalm 40:14)
- 4 "Let us cut it (Moab) off from being a \_\_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 48:2)
- 5 Awaits; stays close to
- 6 Conger
- 7 Feel a kinship toward
- 8 Retract
- 9 Aroma
- 10 Salon service
- 11 Chemical suffix
- 19 Compass dir.

### Last week's solution

1	A	R	E	R	I	S	E	S	H	A	S
2	M	A	D	U	R	K	E	L	A	B	E
3	E	T	A	S	S	Y	R	I	A	B	E
4	N	E	E	D	S	V	I	S	E	D	
5	P	O	E	T	H	E	L	P			
6	E	L	I	T	R	U	E	R	I	D	A
7	T	I	S	A	S	A	R	O	W		
8	A	P	T	S	M	A	R	T	I	C	E
9	L	A	M	P	D	E	B	T			
10	T	H	E	R	E	R	E	S	I	N	
11	R	E	T	A	R	R	I	E	D	S	O
12	O	R	E	A	I	L	S	A	L	A	
13	W	E	N	S	T	A	L	E	N	E	H

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# Teen's vision helps bring clean, safe water to Darfur region

Continued from page 1

nations given by their members, up to a total of \$1,000.

"It came in fast," he said. "The first gift we received was \$250 from a college student. In less than two weeks, we had reached the \$1,000 matching gift goal. And the day after Christmas, when we received the \$1,000 check from Alex and Brett Harris, we had raised a little over \$10,000."

Money kept coming in, however, and by the time they were ready to write the check to Baptist Global Response, the total had risen to \$11,200.

The drive succeeded, not because of large checks, but because so many people made small donations.

"Apart from the Rebelution check, everything else was pretty much small donations," Joshua explained. "We didn't have a whole lot of single-dollar donations, but we had lots of \$5 and \$10 gifts. I'm sure lots of people in churches and at schools gave single dollars, but it just came to us in a larger check."

"Through the post office box, we got a lot of money in with cards and letters, just giving us encouragement to keep going and that they really appreciated what I was doing," he added. "It was always a lot of fun to go to the post office and find a large stack of letters and read them. My favorite was from a little old lady in a nursing home who said, 'I don't have much I can give. I just wanted to give what I could,' and there was like \$5 in the envelope. It was so sweet. I wrote her back to thank her."

On March 15, Guthrie received photos of the well put in by his Dollar for a Drink campaign. The photos were sent by Abraham Shepherd, who directs Baptist Global Response work in North Africa. One image showed young people from a community of about 6,000 people in Sudan's Darfur region, drawing water from the new borehole. Before this well was drilled, people had to walk at least four hours to get to a source of clean water, Shepherd said.

"On behalf of the needy people of Sudan, I thank you for caring and rallying others to care with you, to provide that drink of water," Shepherd wrote. "When I told them about your desire to raise more

funds and drill more wells, in working with BGR, the response from Sudan was: 'We need all the help that we can get. We need people like yourself who will help us quench the thirst of the needy and give them hope.'"

Jeff Palmer agreed: "The Apostle Paul said to Timothy, 'Don't let anyone look down upon you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.'"

"I think Joshua has set that kind of example for us all. He took on this awesome vision, followed God's leading and showed a whole generation his own age, as well as those much older, that God can do amazing things when we hear and follow His plans for us. My prayer is that more people will be inspired by Josh's story and dare to make a difference."

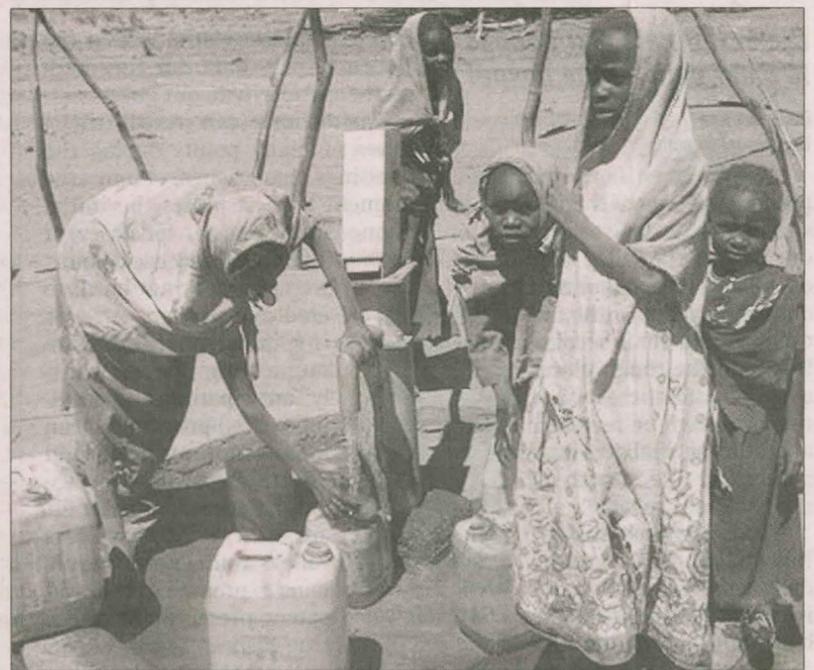
### More to come

Guthrie has his sights set on another round of fundraising—with a goal of \$16,000 to drill two wells. This time, he said he can spend his summer raising awareness, instead of organizing the project, and he plans to launch the campaign Sept. 1 to coincide with the start of school.

He said he has learned two important lessons from his experience.

"I learned you actually have to take the first step forward," he noted. "In the beginning, I was just kind of thinking, 'Well, what do I need to do?' I guess starting something like this was kind of intimidating. But Dad and I sat down and made a list of five things we needed to do. They were real simple things, and then we just kind of got going with it. Things started accelerating, and by the time we got into October, I was kind of like, 'How did we get here?'"

"I also learned you've got to trust God that it's possible to do something like this," he added. "It doesn't matter what your age is. So often people think, 'Well, that person is exceptionally gifted,' or, 'That person really had the right resources. I couldn't do that.' I'm just a completely ordinary guy, but I serve an extraordinary God." (BP)



**WATER OF LIFE** Residents of a village in the Darfur region of Sudan enjoy clean water provided by the "Dollar for a Drink" campaign of 16-year-old Joshua Guthrie. (BGR photo)

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## Meet the class of 2009

### Despite all her challenges, 'Jane' has found what she most needed at Oneida

Nearly everyone knows the satisfaction that comes from working hard at something and then standing back and enjoying the results of your labors. The faculty and staff here work pretty hard at most of the things they do, and some of our responsibilities are very demanding. But nothing is more demanding than having a student who desperately needs to experience what Oneida has to offer but resists nearly everything we try to do.

"Jane" (not her real name) is just such a student. She came to us six years ago and has challenged us most of the way. As I read her senior essay, I thought our readers would be interested in part of what she had to say:

"Wow, this is so unreal; it is finally over. The thing I wanted to be done for the longest time, my 12 years of school. People told me that it would come fast but I really didn't believe them. Now, I am dreading it being over. I will miss so many things about OBI."

"Before I came to Oneida, my relationship with my mom wasn't bad. Yeah, we would argue and stuff but that's how it is with most parents. But when I came to Oneida our bond grew 10 times bigger. ... It was my mom that I was going to miss the most. I love my mom and anyone can tell you that I am a mama's girl. I have learned a lot of things since I have been at Oneida. I have learned that friends come and go and that friends are really important in your life."

"Last year I didn't come back at the beginning of the year. I wanted to try the public schools again because to be honest, I really

didn't like it here. I got through the first semester and failed everything. One day when I was sitting in class, I just decided that I had to go back to Oneida. ... That was the best decision I have ever made. ... If I hadn't come back to Oneida I would not be graduating."

"I know sometimes I said that I didn't like this place but I love what Oneida has done for me. I would not be who I am today if it were not for OBI. The most important thing I've learned at Oneida is to be positive. ... I almost didn't make it here because of being negative all the time. Thank God someone corrected me about being so negative. I didn't even notice how negative I was getting. ... I will have Oneida and all the people who have helped me in my heart forever. Thank you so much for having me as a student."

Jane is right! She was one of the most negative students I have ever worked with. Attitude may not be everything, but attitude has a lot to do with who we are and who we become. Jane was her own worst enemy. Those she calls friends today are the same people she turned away the first several years she was here. She was unhappy and seemed to enjoy being unhappy. Thanks to a wonderful staff and a loving God, we were finally able to help Jane realize that her biggest enemy was the person she saw in the mirror every morning. I can't be honest and say that she has become a beautiful person inside and out. However, I feel certain that she was correct when she wrote, "If I hadn't come back to Oneida I would not be graduating."

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## 'What the heart of God is all about'

### Harbuck gains new ministry perspective on mission trip

Senior Curt Harbuck has been involved with many things during his time at Clear Creek. He has served as student body vice president, and his family—wife, Leah, and children, Gabrielle and David—has been actively involved in campus life.

"We have had a great time since we came to Clear Creek four years ago," Curt said.

Curt will be graduating in May. It's always interesting to know what experiences stand out during a student's time spent at Clear Creek.

"It's interesting that the experience that affected me the most happened just this year," Curt said. "Through our membership at the church we attend, ... we got involved with a mission trip to the country of Belize. My wife and I began praying prior to the trip for God to reveal His purpose for our lives on this trip."

"After spending a week in Belize initially thinking we were going to impact the people's lives there, they really impacted our lives on a much deeper level. Serving the people helped us to realize what the heart of God is all about—and that's people," Curt noted.

"We were there for seven days," he said. "During that time we were able to build a classroom ... and we also were able ... to provide some food for the people. We were able to see the gratefulness in people's eyes in what little we did. It taught us how we take things for granted a lot."

"The trip has given me a new perspective on God's calling for my life," Curt said. "As we went out to the remote villages of that country, I began to realize that the only way the people were going to hear about Jesus was if people cared enough to go tell them just like we were doing."

"As I thought about that, our own country came to my mind where many of the states have little or no Christian influence at all. Through this trip, my wife and I feel God calling us to the Northwestern part of our country to some states where there is little or no influence for Christ."

"We don't know exactly where that will be. But we do know that we are ready and willing to go, just as Jesus commands us."

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



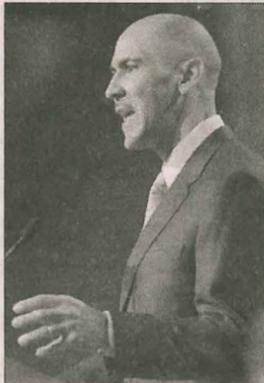
Donnie Fox

## Dungy declines joining faith-based council

Washington—President Obama announced April 6 the rest of the members of his faith-based advisory council, but former Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy was not among them.

Dungy had been invited to be one of 25 people to serve on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, it was reported March 31 by religion writer Dan Gilgoff of U.S. News & World Report. A White House source said Dungy declined the invitation because he would be able to attend only two of four scheduled meetings, Gilgoff reported April 6. Instead, Dungy agreed to advise Obama on fatherhood initiatives.

Dungy said in a statement released to David Brody of CBN News,



Tony Dungy

"I am honored to have been asked by the President to serve on the Council for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. In looking at the dates of the Council meetings I would not be able to participate to the degree I would want. Because of the time commitment needed I have respectfully declined, but do look forward to working with the President in furthering responsible fatherhood and other issues we both hold dear."

The White House invitation to Dungy drew criticism from organizations such as People for the American Way and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. They opposed Dungy's potential inclusion because of his support for an Indiana constitutional amendment to bar same-

sex "marriage."

Dungy, a conservative evangelical Christian, became the first black head coach to lead a team to the Super Bowl championship when the Colts won the title in 2007. He retired after the 2008 season.

Obama named the first 15 advisory council members Feb. 5 when he unveiled a revised version of the faith-based office established by President Bush. The revamped office has four priorities: (1) To give community groups a vital role in economic recovery and subsequently in alleviating poverty; (2) to help the administration "support women and children, address teenage pregnancy and reduce the need for abortion"; (3) to support "responsible fatherhood" and (4) to work with the National Security Council in promoting interfaith dialogue globally.

Former Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page was among the first 15 people named to the advisory council. (BP)

## Army chaplain criticized for fasting call

Washington—The Army's top chaplain has come under fire from some Jews for issuing a call for a day of prayer and fasting that falls on the first day of Passover.

Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, a Southern Baptist and Army Chief of Chaplains, had issued the prayer call in response to the rising suicide rates among soldiers. Last year, the Army reported the highest suicide rate since record-keeping began in 1980.

"I therefore call the Chaplaincy to a Day of Prayer and Fasting, in keeping with your religious traditions, to be observed on 8 April 2009 that the united cry of our Corps will be heard and answered regarding the protec-

tion, preservation, and peace for our Soldiers and Families," Carver said in his proclamation, which was issued March 2.

Carver told Baptist Press, his denomination's official news agency, that "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."

As chief of chaplains, however, Carver has oversight of Army chaplains of all faiths, including Jewish rabbis.

Dozens of Jewish soldiers and chaplains have filed complaints with the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a watchdog group that

advocates religious neutrality in the military. Mikey Weinstein, president of the group, said there has been a "tsunami" of complaints against the Day of Prayer, and believes the conflict with Passover is inexcusable.

"The fact that this would fall on this same day is not just wrong or bad, but unforgivable, and Carver should be severely disciplined," Weinstein said.

Weinstein's group is currently suing the Department of Defense for a "pernicious and pervasive pattern and practice of unconstitutional rape of the precious religious freedoms" of those in the military, and the group believes the Day of Prayer is just the latest example. (RNS)

### NATIONAL NOTES

**Iowa Supreme Court legalizes 'gay marriage'**—The Iowa Supreme Court handed homosexual activists a stunning victory April 10, ruling unanimously in the nation's heartland that "gay marriage" must be legalized in a mere three weeks. The decision overturned a 1998 law that had defined marriage as between one man and one woman. Not counting California—where voters overturned a court ruling—Iowa becomes the third state in the U.S. to allow "gay marriages." Asserting that "marriage is, by definition, between one man and one woman," Keith Ratliff, a pastor in Des Moines, said during a news conference, "We will now move to the Iowa House and urge them to sponsor legislation to let the people of Iowa vote on this matter."

**Vermont overrides veto, allows 'gay marriage'**—Vermont's legislature handed the "gay marriage" movement a landmark victory April 7, overriding a veto and making the state the first in the nation to legalize "gay marriage" without a court order. Requiring a two-thirds vote in each chamber to override Gov. Jim Douglas' veto, the bill passed the Senate with ease, 23-5, and then squeaked by in the House by the slimmest of margins, 100-49. It needed a minimum of 100 votes to reach a two-thirds majority. The new law will go into effect Sept. 1, making Vermont the fourth state to legalize "gay marriage." The law changes the state definition of marriage to a "legally recognized union of two people."

**Reconciliation among Border Crossing themes**—Speakers challenged nearly 1,000 ministers and laypeople from several Baptist denominations and Midwestern states to become agents of reconciliation, collaboration and justice during the Baptist Border Crossing April 2-4 at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Liberty, Mo. The event was the second of four regional New Baptist Covenant celebrations set for 2009—the outgrowth of a national meeting organized by former President Jimmy Carter and held Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2008, in Atlanta. Carter himself was present, sharing the platform with African-American preacher and evangelist Carolyn Ann Knight.

**House OKS bill to control tobacco**—The U.S. House of Representatives voted 298-112 for the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which would authorize the Food and Drug Administration to control the manufacture, promotion and sale of such products as cigarettes and chewing tobacco. Proponents of the bill applauded the House's action. "The nicotine addiction that accompanies tobacco use kills 400,000 Americans a year, and yet the tobacco industry is unregulated by the FDA," Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land said.

## Ministry center seeks to help residents cope with Binghamton shootings

By Erin Roach

Binghamton, N.Y.—In the aftermath of a shooting spree at an immigrant center in Binghamton, N.Y., a ministry sponsored by a local Baptist association has opened its doors to offer free counseling to people who want to talk.

"Basically we're just trying to be a listening ear for people," Rick Martin, director of the Carroll Street Ministry Center in Binghamton, told Baptist Press. "I feel like the fellow that did the shooting was far too long alone in his thoughts and pain. Maybe people weren't reaching out to him, and certainly he wasn't reaching out to others."

The gunman has been identified as Jiverly Wong, who was ethnically Chinese but was from Vietnam and was angry over losing a job and frustrated about his poor English skills, according to the Associated Press.

Wong invaded the American Civic Association April 3 during citizenship classes and killed two employees and 11 immigrants taking an English class before killing himself. The same day, Wong had mailed a letter to a Syracuse TV news station blaming his troubles on police and vowing to kill at least two people and himself, AP said.

Martin also is pastor of Freedom Fellowship Church, which meets in the ministry center owned by the Central New York Baptist Association, and he is manning the center for eight hours a day for at least a

week following the shooting. If people need prayer or counseling, they are encouraged to stop by the ministry center.

"We've had a couple on Saturday, four on Sunday, three yesterday and one guy just came in today," Martin said around noon on Wednesday. "The main thing I hear people say is, 'I did not think this kind of thing would happen here.' Also the question I hear regularly is 'Why?'"

He starts by reminding them it wasn't

God who pulled the trigger but the shooter, and he shares the gospel message with them.

Martin and some other volunteers have walked the streets of Binghamton, a city of about 43,000 people about 175 miles northwest of New York City, seeking opportunities to help people process what happened.

"Some people are coming in not because of the tragedy," Martin said. "One lady came in yesterday saying, 'Is this just for

people that are dealing with a tragedy or other things?' I said, 'Other things.'"

A licensed Christian counselor from another church in the association volunteered her time a couple of days, Martin said, and she was able to counsel the woman who had needs unrelated to the shooting.

The ministry center has been operational for about 10 years, Martin said, and he has been there for six years. The goal of the ministry has been to establish a church in the inner-city community, which Martin described as half black, half white. Freedom Fellowship Church averages 25 people a week, he said.

"Our vision is that we would be here to lift people up in the name of Christ," Martin told BP. "We believe in compassion and truth and keeping those two things together, the Word and the deed. We have ministries such as a food pantry and a weekly community meal, an after-school program. During the summer we have vacation Bible schools and basketball clinics."

Martin said the volunteers are trying to determine what kind of ongoing ministry might stem from the week of free counseling in the wake of the shootings.

"We're wondering how to keep responding to our community that is so hurting at this time," he said. "We need prayer that we would continue in the strength and the love and compassion and truth of Christ so we would have something to offer and give these people." (BP)



**MINISTRY** Rick Martin of the Carroll Street Ministry Center in Binghamton, N.Y., intends for the Baptist-affiliated ministry to have a broadened role in the community as a result of shooting deaths of 13 people at a local immigrant center April 3.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**MSC missionary Linda Saylor of Harold.** Saylor is a retired nurse who gives Bibles to families and hospital patients while offering a witness to the healing power of Jesus Christ. She serves as a liaison between families of ICU patients and medical professionals. She also partners with other ministries to provide free medical care to the people of the Appalachian mountains. Pray that many will come to know Christ through Linda's ministry. Pray that God will lead others to volunteer their help for a huge free health clinic in June.

**Muhlenberg County Baptist Association crisis ministry.** Leroy Rearden directs this weekly ministry that distributes clothing and food to needy families. Pray that God will provide resources for the ministry's growing needs. Pray that associational churches will assume a greater responsibility for the follow-up and assimilation of those families that are served.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ARLINGTON**—First Church will hold revival services April 19-22 with **Danny O'Guinn** as evangelist. **Shane O'Guine** is pastor.

■ **BEREA**—Bethel Church will hold revival services April 19-22, 7 p.m. with **Scott Witcher** as evangelist. **Kenny Davis** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will hold a spring revival April 17-18, 7 p.m.; April 19, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., with author **Dennis Bickers** as evangelist. **Tim Shockley**, minister of music at Cecilia Church, will lead worship. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **DIXON**—Harmony Church will hold revival services April 19-22, 7 p.m. with **Ralph Alexander**, pastor of Diamond Church in Providence, as evangelist. **Mark Bryant** is pastor.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Hazel Patch Church will hold revival services April 19, 6 p.m.; April 20-22, 7 p.m. with Pastor **Randy Bingham** as evangelist.

■ **IRVINE**—Salem Church will hold revival services April 17-19 with **Gary Willoughby**, pastor of Powells Valley Church in Clay City, as evangelist. **Jerry Smith** is pastor.

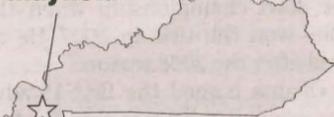
■ **LEXINGTON**—Consolidated Church will host the Practical Solutions for Church Communications in 2009 conference April 25, 9 a.m., featuring national church communications strategist **Scott Vaughan**. The cost is \$40 per person or \$135 for a four-person congregational ticket. For more information, call (859) 299-8559.

■ **LLOYD**—First Church will hold revival services April 19-22 with **Robert Tarrance**, pastor of Plum Springs Church in Bowling Green, as evangelist. **Jim Yates** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Dills** in concert April 18, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

## Mayfield



Trace Creek Church will host a Love and Respect Marriage video conference April 17-18. For more information or to register, call (270) 658-3304. **Ronnie Stinson** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Liberty Church will hold revival services April 19, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; April 20-22, 7 p.m. with **Jerrell White** as evangelist. **Jason Randall** is pastor.

■ **PROVIDENCE**—Pleasant Valley Church will hold revival services April 19, 11 p.m. & 6 p.m.; April 20-23, 7 p.m. with **Ken Cummins**, pastor of North Livingston Church in Hampton, as evangelist. **Ronnie Davis** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Gilead Church will hold revival services April 19, 6 p.m.; April 20-23, 7 p.m. with **Jimmy Closterman**, pastor of Faith Decision Church in Paint Lick, **Clyde Miller** and **Neal Prather** as evangelists. **Larry Freeman** is pastor.

Hays Fork Church will hold revival services April 19-22, 7 p.m. with **Randy McPheron**, pastor of Crosspoint Church in Richmond, as evangelist. **Vincent Carman** is pastor.

■ **SCIENCE HILL**—Northside Church will hold revival services April 19, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.; April 20-22, 7 p.m., with **Jason Moore**, pastor of Ferguson Church, as evangelist. **David Muse** is pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Brush Grove Church will hold revival services April 19-24, 7 p.m. with **Darrell Young** as evangelist. **Everett Hood** is pastor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

16 Iron Sharpening Iron, Georgetown College.

17-18 4:GO, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.

17-18 Exalt, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.

18 Get Small, Georgetown College.

20 Iron Sharpening Iron, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Prestonsburg.

20 Senior Living Celebration, Zion Baptist Church, Henderson.

21 Developing & Managing People, Baptist Building, Louisville.

21 Iron Sharpening Iron, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg.

21 Launch One, Memorial Baptist Church, Murray.

21 Senior Living Celebration, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

21 Understanding Other Beliefs, Casky Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

23 Iron Sharpening Iron, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

23 Launch One, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

23 Senior Living Celebration, First Baptist Church, Danville.

23-24 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association Office & Northside Baptist Church, Princeton.

24-25 Woman's Missionary Union Resource Team Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

## Campbellsville Univ. fills VP role

Campbellsville—Keith Spears has been named vice president for regional and professional education at Campbellsville University, according to school President Michael Carter.

Spears, who previously was director of special programs for the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, began in his new role April 13. He will oversee Campbellsville's expanding off-campus centers and assist in the development of new professional programs.

CU has satellite campuses in Louisville—where Spears will be based—Elizabethtown, Somerset, and a new site in Hodgenville. The school also has plans to open a new campus at Fort Knox.

"Dr. Spears brings to this position a wealth of academic and professional experience and excellent qualifications," Carter said. "He is a

committed Christian and will provide strong leadership to our plans to significantly expand our off-campus sites, help enhance our growth in Louisville, and lead our new sites."

Spears had served in his previous role since 2007. Before that, he spent 18 years at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., in a variety of roles, most notably as vice president for institutional advancement, communications and marketing for 10 years. In that role, he co-led a \$100 million capital campaign and served as chief consultant for the movie, "We Are Marshall."

Spears is a two-time graduate of Marshall, has earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University and a Doctor of Education degree from West Virginia University.

He and his wife, Rita, have two adult sons, Eric and Jason.



Keith Spears

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

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**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Send resumé to Pastor Search Team, 13571 Hwy 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489; or e-mail resumé to [pastorsearch@pvbc.lincoln.org](mailto:pastorsearch@pvbc.lincoln.org).

**SEEKING:** Interim children's minister. Responsibilities include coordinating, planning and directing activities related to children in preschool through 5th grade. Position requires approximately 20 hours per week. Send resumé by May 1 to [personnelcommittee@highlandbaptistky.com](mailto:personnelcommittee@highlandbaptistky.com); or mail to HBC, PO Box 104, Shelbyville, KY 40066-0104.

**SEEKING:** Camp staff for Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest. Positions needed: Lifeguard, crafts leader, nature leader and kitchen coordinator. Staff serve for seven weeks and receive \$200 per week. Staff must be college-age Christian females and have a heart for missions and children. Contact Stacy Nall, Kentucky WMU, (502) 489-3454; [Stacy.Nall@KyBaptist.org](mailto:Stacy.Nall@KyBaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Interim youth minister. Responsibilities include coordinating, planning and directing activities for youth in grades 6 through 12. Position requires approximately 20 hours per week. Send resumé by May 1 to [personnelcommittee@highlandbaptistky.com](mailto:personnelcommittee@highlandbaptistky.com); or mail to HBC, PO Box 104, Shelbyville, KY 40066-0104.

**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 April 29, 2009.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister to students (grades 6-12) with a heart for passing the baton of faith to the next generation through disciplinarian making with Victory Baptist Church in Lexington. The ideal candidate will have a sense of calling to student ministry; some college or seminary training in that area; and will live close enough to Lexington to develop relationships with and be actively involved in the lives of our students. Anticipated start date is early summer. Send resumé and cover letter to [YouthSearch@vbclex.org](mailto:YouthSearch@vbclex.org).

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**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for Red House Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky. Seminary degree and experience required. Submit resumé to [dawn@redhousebc.com](mailto:dawn@redhousebc.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Belleview Baptist Church, a country church with 200-plus average attendance in western Boone County, 20 minutes from Florence. Visit us at [www.BelleviewBaptist.org](http://www.BelleviewBaptist.org). Mail resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Belleview Baptist Church, 6658 5th St., Burlington, KY 41005. Deadline: June 15.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for 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 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:** 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 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.

**SEEKING:** Full-time administrative assistant, Hunsinger Lane Baptist. 12.5 to 15 hours. [Hunsinger.office@hlbc.net](mailto:Hunsinger.office@hlbc.net). Expected requirements: MS Office, database software.

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



## Imagine that

The group MercyMe has recently released a new CD/DVD titled "10" to commemorate the 10th anniversary of their breakout hit "I Can Only Imagine." The DVD features commentary from MercyMe lead singer and songwriter Bart Millard recalling the origin of the song and discussing the impact it has had on people's lives. The song earned MercyMe its first Dove Award in 2002. The band is nominated in the Group of the Year category at this year's awards ceremony which will be held April 23.

### MercyMe reflects on impact of breakout hit 'I Can Only Imagine' 10 years after recording

By Erin Roach

**Nashville**—This year marks a decade since Bart Millard of the Christian music group MercyMe penned the words to the song "I Can Only Imagine," which would become a chart-topper and cause a vast array of people to contemplate heaven.

To celebrate the milestone, MercyMe has released "10," a CD/DVD set featuring 12 No. 1 singles and videos. The DVD includes Millard recalling the story behind the song that changed his life.

"My father passed away with cancer in 1991 when I was 18," he said. "Growing up in church, people always said, 'You know, if he could choose, he'd rather be in heaven than be here on earth.'"

"As a Christian I believed that, but as an 18 year old it was hard to swallow," Millard continued. "A lot of the questions out of the chorus kind of came from me saying, 'God, what's so great about You that my dad would rather be there than here?'"

For years Millard said he found himself writing the phrase "I can only imagine" on anything he could get his hands on, such as notebooks or pieces of scrap paper. In 1999, the group was working on an independent record and needed one more song to complete the album. Millard told them he would try to come up with something.

"I started opening the journal I was writing in and every page had this phrase on it, literally every page," he recalled. "I was like, 'Maybe I need to finish this.' So, I started writing it down and put it to music."

The remaining song on the album needed to be a fast one, he said, but the lyrics he had written begged for a slower tune. The group decided not to include it and was walking out of the studio when one of the guys played a few chords of it on the piano.

"I was like, 'Play it again.' All of a sudden we rolled everything back in the studio and did it real quick," Millard said. "It didn't really go with the rest of the record. We didn't play it for months.

"Somebody finally said, 'Hey, why don't you play this song during the show tonight?' So we tried it once, and people kind of flipped out over it."

The song soon became a hit on Christian radio, topping the charts by 2001 and winning three Dove awards in 2002.

"All of a sudden, a Top 40 station in Dallas, a shock-jock kind of format, said, 'We'll do anything on the air,' and somebody called in and said, 'Play Imagine.' They said, 'We'll do it. We'll give it a shot.' They played it once and got a ton of phone calls, played it again, and after like the second or third time it became No. 1 at the station in like three months," Millard noted.

Other stations followed suit, and eventually the song showed up on the Top 40, adult contemporary and country charts.

"It's like the song that won't go away," Millard said on the DVD.

#### The song's important meaning

The song has significant meaning for Millard, he explained, because he had a special relationship with his father. His parents divorced when he was 3 years old, and he and his brother lived with his father for most of their childhood and adolescent years. His father did not have much money, but he was faithful in raising his sons.

Before he died, Millard's father told Bart that he had set up a system where the two boys would receive a certain amount of money each month to take care of them. The money would last for 10 years, long enough for the two to establish careers.

Their father added, "But don't worry. When 10 years is up, I'll still be there to take care of you somehow," Millard recalled.

In January 2001, Millard was doing a radio interview when something profound hit him.

"My son was born on the 4th of January, and it was about the same time that Imagine was kind of peaking in the Christian market," Millard noted. "I was big into the

charts, but when (his son) Sam was born, I totally forgot all about it. I was all about Sam. I was doing an interview with this guy, and he told me, 'Imagine went No. 1 today.' I was like, 'I had no idea. I've just kind of been out of it.'"

Then Millard said he began crying because he realized the day that the last check from his father's inheritance came was the day that Imagine officially became a hit. From there, the song's success would pay the bills.

"If my dad is aware of what's going on, then he's getting a huge laugh out of this because it's amazing how everybody knows the song and somehow they know the story behind the song," Millard said. "That's extremely rewarding because of everything my dad did for me and everything he went through to kind of give me the green light to do what I'm doing. It's just really cool to know that he's not forgotten and none of this was done in vain."

Not only has the song served as a means by which Millard's father took care of him after death, it has provided comfort to thousands of people who have lost loved ones and to those who wonder what heaven might be like.

"One of the decidedly distinctive characteristics of this song is that it allows people to stop, dream and imagine an eternity that is so often crowded out by common elements that distract us all," noted Stephen Johnson, dean of the School of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"It points us to the beauty of heaven, the endless energy of continual praise and the ability that we will all have to sing, dance and shout," Johnson said. "It points us to the holiness of Jesus and in that moment when we are seeing Him face to face we will need to stop, be still, fall to our knees and, in silence, worship."

Johnson said that a quick search of the song's title on iTunes brings up 150 results,

including version in a number genres.

"It is in a country version, a rock version, a disco-esque version, it has an unplugged version, a plugged-in version, a piano solo version and even a bluegrass version," Johnson pointed out.

#### Remembering loved ones

Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship at LifeWay Christian Resources, said the song has struck a chord with all types of people because it addresses an issue that is common to the human experience.

"Everybody has lost someone in our lives. If you live long enough, you're going to have someone leave this earth, and the song resonates with every individual because it speaks to something that all of us experience," Harland said.

"As Christians, we certainly believe in heaven, we believe what God's Word says about heaven, and this song has given us a way to think about it and to express all the joy and the sorrow associated with losing a loved one and the anticipation of the day when we'll be with them and worshipping together," he added.

"I Can Only Imagine," he said, is a prime example of a song that resonated with a small group and made its way into the larger church body.

"When Bart Millard and MercyMe first started singing it, they were singing it basically in youth gatherings around the Dallas area, and because of the strength of the song it began to find its way into churches and then across the world," Harland noted.

"The impact, I would say, is more and more songs like that—instead of a publisher like LifeWay giving the church a song and saying, 'Sing this'—songs started bubbling up from individuals that made their way to the church and then found their way to the publisher," he said. "That song is a perfect example of how the heart of the individual brought the song to the world, not the other way around." (BP)

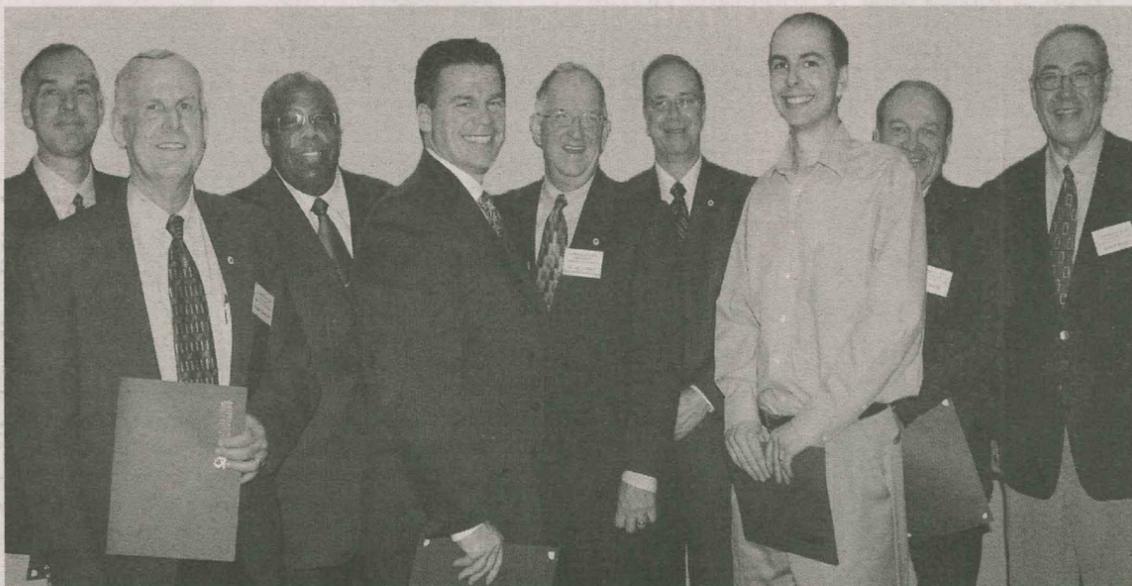
# Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

*Preparing the Next Generation  
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## CU's Church Relations Council holds annual Spring Meeting

Dr. Jay Conner, Campbellsville University Board of Trustees Chair, thanked Church Relations Council members at the March 26 annual banquet for their strong and steadfast support. As guest speaker for the event, Conner challenged the crowd of approximately 100 to take a proactive stance in their leadership for CU in 2009 and beyond. The CRC is a support group of Baptist ministers and lay leaders from Kentucky and other states assisted by CU vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, John Chowning. At semi-annual meetings and throughout the year, CRC members support Campbellsville University's mission of Christian higher education.

New members of the CU Church Relations Council at right include, front row from left: Rev. James Clontz Jr., director of missions, South District Baptist Association, Danville, Ky.; Rev. Joel Carwile, pastor, Valley View Church, Louisville; and Rev. Blake Jessie, pastor, Greensburg Baptist Church, Greensburg, Ky. In the back row are: Rev. Mike Hamrick, pastor, Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Ky.; Rev. Matt Smyzer, executive director, Baptist Fellowship Center and pastor of Beargrass Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, CRC chair; Dr. Jay Conner, chair of the CU Board of Trustees; Dr. Michael V. Carter, president of Campbellsville University; Rev. Dan Russell, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Paris, Ky.; and Rev. Robert White, pastor, Lewisport Baptist Church, Lewisport, Ky. New members not present for the photo are: Rev. Kyle Franklin, pastor, Mt. Roberts Baptist Church, Campellsville, Ky., and Rev. Todd Lester, pastor, Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church, Midway, Ky.



Dr. Jay Conner, chair of the CU Board of Trustees; Dr. Michael V. Carter, president of Campbellsville University; Rev. Dan Russell, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Paris, Ky.; and Rev. Robert White, pastor, Lewisport Baptist Church, Lewisport, Ky. New members not present for the photo are: Rev. Kyle Franklin, pastor, Mt. Roberts Baptist Church, Campellsville, Ky., and Rev. Todd Lester, pastor, Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church, Midway, Ky.



## 400 Years of Baptist life celebrated April 2

◀ An overflow crowd of leaders and scholars gathered at the Louisville campus of Campbellsville University for an historic celebration of 400 years of Baptist history.

The meetings closed with a panel discussion, titled "Future Direction for the Baptist Movement." Pictured from left are Dr. Michael V. Carter, CU president, Dr. Pamela R. Durso, associate executive director-treasurer of the Baptist History and Heritage Society in Atlanta, Dr. Gregory Wills, professor of church history at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Russell Awkard, pastor at New Zion Baptist Church, Louisville, and keynote speaker and moderator, Dr. Bill J. Leonard, dean and professor of church history at Wake Forest University School of Divinity.



## Mission trips allow students to experience servant leadership

Campbellsville University Students fanned out in all directions over the recent spring break, reaching out to give of themselves as they learned more about becoming Christian servant leaders.

Eight teams of 60 students traveled to Louisiana, Texas, Michigan, Florida and Washington, D.C. in the US and to Mexico and Costa Rico.

Tess Turner, above, a junior from Franklin, Ky., shared details of her mission trip for *Hands on Africa* at the spring CRC meeting.



## ◀ Students wrote verses in the new School of Education during Prayer Walk Jessica Weatherford wrote Psalm 25:4-5 with these thoughts:

"My prayer is that these verses become the prayers of the future students in the School of Education. The verses talk about leaning on the Lord for His guidance and allowing Him to teach us as we follow on the path He has set before us. My journey is coming to a close as I will graduate in May with a Bachelor's in P-5 Education. There were times when I know I would have struggled a lot more if it wasn't for the Lord and His guidance. I would also like my message to be encouragement for the students as well, because there will be times when they may feel like giving up, but the journey is well worth it and I wouldn't change a thing. The faculty and everyone associated with the School of Education are willing to do anything for you whether it be proof-reading a piece for your portfolio, staying after class to answer all your questions, or just saying a simple prayer for you. They are there to help you become the best educator you can be."

- Jessica Weatherford, CU Senior from Campbellsville, Elementary Education P-5

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