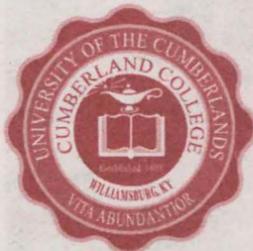


Shine
like
stars
in the
world
Philippians 2:15

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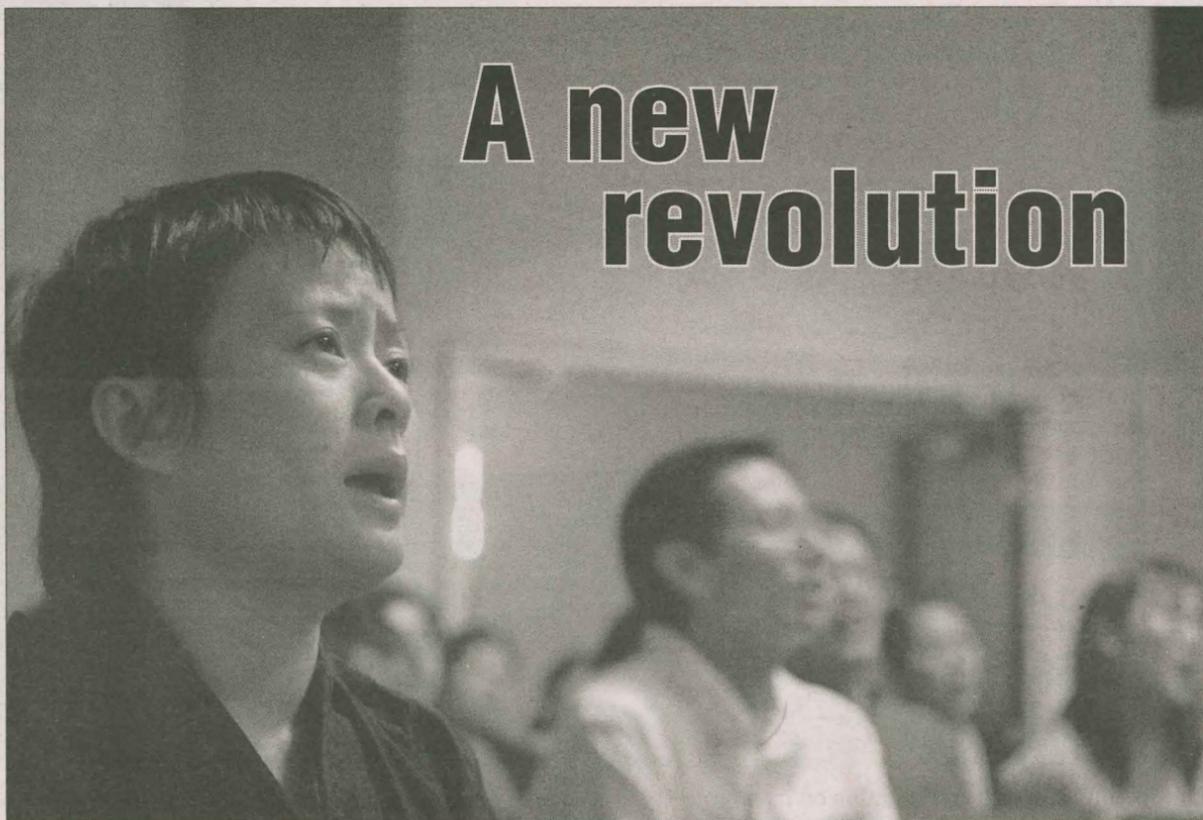
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Zhu Min, a member of Boulder Chinese Baptist Church, sings during services. The immigrant church has adopted several Chinese students at the nearby University of Colorado. (RNS photo by Susan Wang)

Chinese students find faith, and a home, in a foreign land

By Yu Miao

Boulder, Colo.—The baptismal pool at Boulder Chinese Baptist Church was filled with water as a small woman dressed in a white robe, inched down the stairs.

"This is Sister Wang Shuang," Pastor William Fu, a Taiwan native, said in Mandarin to his mostly mainland congregation. "She came to our church last September from Chicago. Thanks for God's grace, she is willing to become His child."

Clutched in the pastor's arms, Wang was immersed in the water. Applause arose from the audience as they sang, "What a joyful day. Oh God, please wash away my sins."

It was a moment Wang never had anticipated when she first arrived in the United States six years

ago from her native Guangxi province, where generations had been immersed in the official government gospel of atheism.

"In two days, I will have my 29th birthday," she said in her testimony, "but I got reborn today."

In the three decades since the end of the Cultural Revolution, during which houses of worship were destroyed and missionary workers expelled, there has been a surge in Chinese students and scholars like Wang adopting Christianity in the U.S., says Purdue University professor Fenggang Yang.

Wang's Boulder Chinese Baptist Church is one of about 1,000 Chinese churches scattered across the U.S., by Yang's estimate. The Southern Baptist-affiliated congrega-

tion only has between 50 and 55 registered members, and nearly all came from mainland China. Most are computer engineers in their 30s and 40s, and Pastor Fu pointed out that 11 have Ph.D.'s and 29 have master's degrees.

To be sure, Christian groups have been proselytizing to all varieties of international students on college campuses, but according to Yang, Chinese students are some of the most receptive.

At the University of Colorado's Boulder campus, incoming students have their first contact with Christianity the moment they land at Denver International Airport.

Fu's church acquires a list of the students—with names, flight sched-
□ See Chinese students ... Page 8

Paducah accountant offers insights for surviving financially

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Paducah—After a decade of writing a monthly column for the Western Recorder, accountant Jeremy White has a nationwide audience devouring his financial insights.



Co-authored with veteran Atlanta financial advisor Ron Blue, White's latest book—"Surviving Financial Meltdown"—has sold about 120,000 copies.

That ranked it No. 9 on April's bestseller list released by CBA, a Christian book industry trade organization.

"I summarize it as the Lord opened the door and I stumbled over the threshold," White said of his launch into the national spotlight. "I enjoy taking technical information that often overwhelms people and boiling it down to practical, nugget-sized pieces."

The son of longtime Baptist pastor Jerrell White and Connie White, the certified public accountant also is a deacon at First Baptist Church of Paducah.

His book career originated with an article submission to a newsletter published by longtime Christian financial advisor, the late Larry Burkett.

The head of Christian Financial Concepts (now Crown Ministries) liked what he saw and invited White to submit other articles. That led to a 2002 book

□ See Jeremy White's ... Page 3

Southern's 'new front door'



Southern Baptist Theological Seminary opened what President Albert Mohler has called the school's 'new front door' April 21 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Duke K. McCall Sesquicentennial Pavilion marks the seminary's 150th anniversary and will serve as a welcome center to the campus and house the admissions and security offices. The building, which took approximately eight months to complete at a cost of \$5.5 million, is named in honor of Southern Seminary's seventh president, McCall, who led the school from 1951-82. A dedication ceremony for the pavilion will be held during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Louisville June 23-24. (Photo by Abigail McBroom)

SBC ACP: Missions giving up, baptisms, members down

Nashville—Southern Baptists gave 2.3 percent more to missions last year despite the economic downturn, but they lost members and baptized the fewest number of people since 1987, according to the denomination's Annual Church Profile report, compiled by LifeWay Christian Resources in conjunction with Baptist state conventions.

Total giving to missions reached \$1.36 billion in 2008. Through the denomination's Cooperative Program and special mission offerings, local churches voluntarily pool funds to support mission efforts in their states, throughout the nation and around the world. For example, Southern Baptists support

more than 10,500 missionaries who engage nearly 1,200 people groups throughout North America and around the world.

In addition, CP funds support six seminaries, the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board and other SBC entities. At the state level, CP funds support a variety of ministries including children's homes, disaster relief efforts, colleges and universities and much more.

"Southern Baptists are among the most generous and mission-minded people in the world," said Thom Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay. "They will give even when
□ See ACP report ... Page 6

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Apr. 29.

Carver School's rebirth continues

Social-work program blooms in new setting at Campbellsville University campus

By Peter Smith
Louisville Courier-Journal

Campbellsville—In a small classroom building at the Baptist university here, students stood before their peers and outlined ways to make good on slogans covering the walls that urged them to fight poverty and “make a difference.”

They gave presentations on agencies they “created” to help young mothers, rescue abused children and mediate family disputes. While the agencies were fictitious, the students were honing real-world skills they will need as graduates of the Carver School of Social Work at Campbellsville University.

“I have always had an interest in helping people,” said student Angela Pace, whose work with orphans in Romania prompted her to seek a social-work degree. “I love the program here. I love that it’s faith-based.”

Pace and her classmates are part of a slow revival of a program that was shuttered in one Southern Baptist setting in Louisville before finding a home in another about 80 miles away.

More than a decade ago, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary closed its Carver School of Church Social Work, which was the nation’s only seminary-based social-work program.

That decision, one of the signature episodes in the tumultuous rightward shift at the seminary in the 1990s, came after the seminary’s leaders concluded that contemporary social-work values were incompatible with its mission.

Campbellsville University came to the opposite conclusion.

It acquired the Carver name from the seminary in 1998 along with library materials, scholarship funds and a century-old heritage of blending religious values with human services.

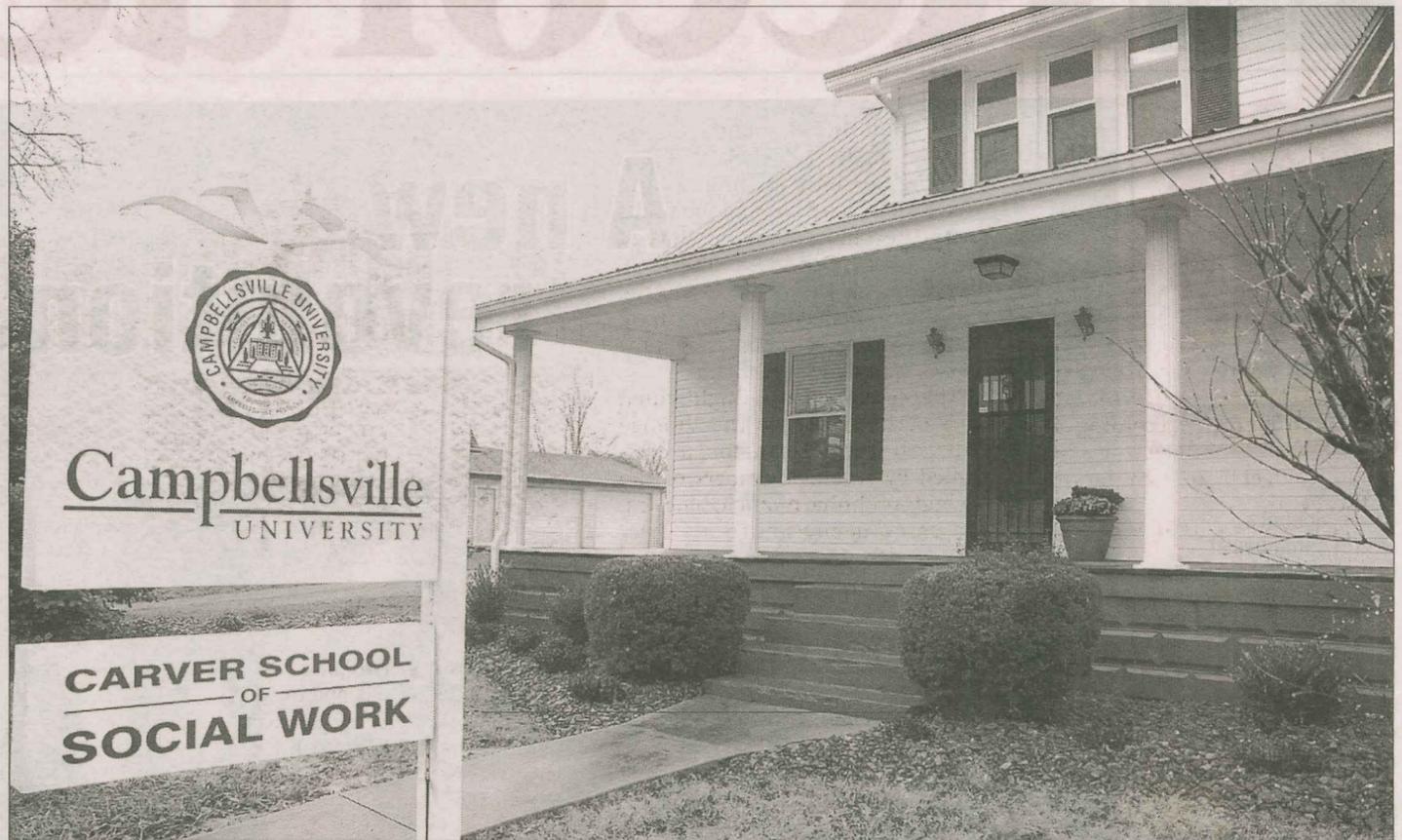
In the past decade, the Carver School at Campbellsville has granted 136 bachelor’s degrees in social work. The seminary only offered master’s degrees in social work.

And it achieved a milestone this year when it began offering social-work courses at the master’s level, the first at the Carver School since 1997, when it granted its final 11 social-work degrees at the seminary.

Six students are in the first year of the master’s-level social-work classes. Carver School Dean Darlene Eastridge is optimistic it will grow. “It’s a very exciting time for us,” she said.

“I can’t speak for what happened at the seminary,” she added. “All I can speak for is here. (Social service is) very much a part of ... who we are as a school.”

The Carver School is no direct transplant, however, as it has had to recruit new



faculty and seek accreditation on its own.

And while Campbellsville received some of the old Carver School’s funding, the Southern Baptists’ Woman’s Missionary Union—which handles the old Carver School’s endowment—also has used those funds for other Baptist university programs, such as a large social-work program at Baylor University in Texas and a women’s leadership program at Samford University in Alabama.

Those programs reflect the heritage of the Carver School, founded in 1907 to train Baptist women for missions and social services. By the 1950s, the school had evolved into a co-ed social-work program, named for early supporter and seminary professor W.O. Carver.

The Carver School merged with the seminary in 1963. It became a battleground in the 1990s, when the seminary came under more conservative leadership.

Seminary President Albert Mohler fired Carver School Dean Diana Garland when she sought to hire a professor who favored the ordination of women, which the seminary officially opposes.

Seminary trustees closed the school after concluding in a study that “considerable differences exist in the structures, processes and issues of social-work education and theological studies.”

The code of ethics of the National Association of Social Workers prohibits, among other things, advancing one’s religious interests in professional settings and discriminating on the basis of such factors as sexual orientation.

The code posed challenges to the seminary’s central emphasis on evangelism and its opposition to homosexuality.

Mohler said in an interview that a social-work program would represent “for any Christian institution, a significant point of stress, given some of the values and practices adopted within the social-work profession.”

He said he was not familiar with Campbellsville’s program, but hopes it can meet those challenges. “It is good to see that the program is continuing under a different sponsorship, and I certainly wish them well.”

Campbellsville is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention which confirms Campbellsville’s trustees and helps fund the college. It has grown from 1,615 to 2,601 students in the past decade, while adding several academic programs. Campbellsville has operated as a college since the 1950s, gaining university status in 1996.

Whereas the seminary trains professed Christians to be church leaders, the liberal-arts college provides a “faith-oriented

environment” while admitting students “whether they have any faith perspective or not,” President Michael Carter said.

Social-work graduates learn that for many clients in crisis, “their faith plays an important role,” he said, “but there won’t be a proselytizing process.”

“The world is a diverse place, and we believe as Christians we’re called to live in a diverse world,” Carter said. “That doesn’t mean we have to adopt the values of the world but we need to live out an ethic of caring, compassion and concern.”

That suits Tony Rutherford, one of the first six students to enroll this year in the first master’s level class in social work.

“I think if we just respect the dignity of each individual, it pretty much takes care of the rest of it,” he said.

Erlene Grise-Owens, a former Carver School professor now at Spalding University, was glad to hear of the Campbellsville program’s growth, while also noting that master’s social-work programs at Spalding, Baylor and elsewhere were created in part to fill the void left by the Carver School.

“You can’t replicate” the original Carver program, she said. “It was what it was and it is no longer, but there are other entities that the Carver School was the seed for.”

Reprinted with permission from the Louisville Courier-Journal

Longtime pastor George Gaddie dies at age 92

Campbellsville—George Gaddie, a longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor, died April 12. He was 92 years old.

After being ordained to the gospel ministry in 1942, Gaddie served as pastor at churches in Kentucky and Ohio. A Campbellsville native, he was pastor at several churches in that area, including Cane Valley Baptist Church, Friendship Baptist Church, Good Hope Baptist Church, Mount Roberts Baptist Church and Salem Baptist Church. He also served at Bradfordville Baptist Church, Edmonton Baptist Church, Mackville Baptist Church and Yuma Baptist Church in Elk Horn.

As an area missionary in Ohio in 1955, he started South Toledo Baptist Church the first

Southern Baptist congregation in that city.

Gaddie graduated from Campbellsville University (then Campbellsville Junior College) in 1942. He also was a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Later, Gaddie served as a member of Campbellsville’s board of trustees and was an original member of the school’s President’s Club and Church Relations Council.

He is survived by his wife, Wilma, two sons and two daughters, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. His first wife, Shirley, died in 1949.

Funeral services were held April 15 at a Campbellsville funeral home.

Western Recorder, KBC staff honored with BCA awards

Nashville—Staff members of the Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Convention’s communications team recently were honored with four awards from Baptist Communicators Association.

The 2009 Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition honors were presented April 17 in Nashville.

The winners were:
■ Western Recorder News Director Drew Nichter, first place for his news coverage of Kentucky Baptists’ disaster relief work with New Orleans residents who were evacuated

to Louisville when Hurricane Gustav hit the Gulf Coast last September.

■ KBC Director of Communications Robert Reeves, first place for the Kentucky Baptists Connect Progress Report.

■ KBC media team of Larry Brannin and Jonathan Johnston, second place for their video production of “Celebrate God’s Love.”

■ KBC Electronic Media Specialist Brenda Smith, honorable mention for her production of the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s 2007 Annual on CD-ROM.

CP receipts still behind budget through March

Louisville—Seven months into the fiscal year, Kentucky Baptists have given \$13,348,709 through the Cooperative Program, leaving the Cooperative Program behind budget by 4.65 percent.

The CP budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year is \$24 million. According to KBC Business Services Team Leader Lowell Ashby, \$14 million was needed through March to stay on budget.

Last month, Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$1.8 million through CP. According to Ashby, CP receipts now are behind budget by \$651,291 for the fiscal year.

CP giving also remains slightly behind last year's pace by \$212,311 (1.6 percent). Kentucky Baptists gave \$13,561,020 through CP over the same period in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

"In the midst of a difficult year, Kentucky Baptists are rising to the challenge to continue their faithful support through CP," noted Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "The needs of those impacted by CP missions and ministries have not changed and are still best addressed through our strong cooperation."

The Cooperative Program is the plan Southern Baptists use to fund missions at the state, national and international levels. The program provides foundational support for international and North American missionaries; state convention mission work; training and other help for local churches; Baptist organizations; and more.

Cumberlands dedicates new residence hall

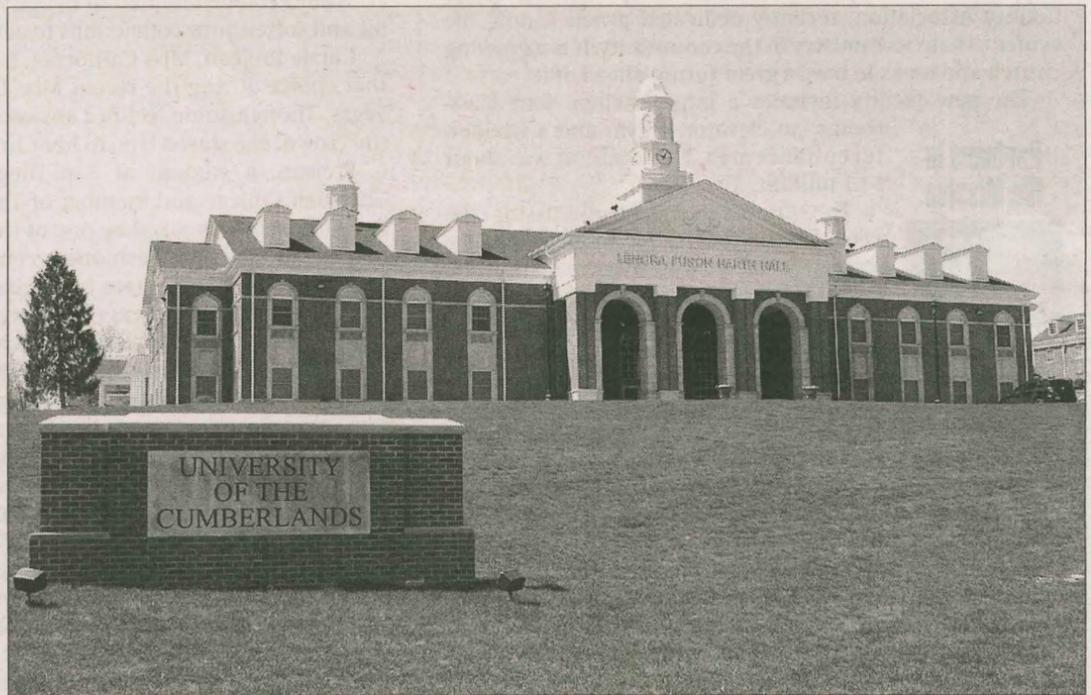
Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands celebrated its newest building, the Lenora Fuson Harth Residence Hall, with a dedication ceremony at the Williamsburg campus April 21.

The building is named for Lenora Fuson Harth who made the building possible. A Williamsburg native, Harth contributed the funds for the new building in memory of her daughter, Deborah Leah Harth. Completed in December 2008, the dormitory opened at the beginning of the spring semester and now houses 96 female students.

The ceremony was highlighted by a performance by the Vintage Dance Society of Lexington, accompanied by several members of the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra. The group demonstrated a variety of dances from the mid-19th century, all composed in Kentucky or by Kentuckians. Harth's nephew, Merrill Fuson, a member of the dance troupe, arranged the performance in his aunt's honor.

Health concerns kept Harth, who lives in California, from attending the ceremony. Relatives and friends represented her and she received a video of the event. Sister-in-law Ruth Fuson said Lenora would have been pleased and thinks the residence hall is beautiful. "It's wonderful. It's something that truly came from (Lenora's) heart. She wanted to do it for years, and it's finally materialized."

The building sits below the campus' other dormitories—Gillespie Hall, Robinson-Cook Hall, Siler Hall and Mahan Hall—facing downtown, and is the first building to greet campus visitors. The 25,842 square-foot building contains 12 suites, each containing four two-person rooms, a bathroom and a common room. The suites are arranged around an open, two-story lounge,



with balconies on two sides above, offering the feeling of openness. In the lounge, portraits of Lenora Fuson Harth and Deborah Leah Harth are displayed on each side of the entrance into the main hall.

The new residence hall has received rave reviews since the first students moved in at the beginning of the spring semester earlier this year.

The building features several amenities for its residents including a laundry room, study rooms, a computer room, vending machines and an elevator which makes Harth Hall accessible to residents with disabilities.

"It's awesome," said Bess Anderson, Harth Hall head resident, who oversees the building and the students who live there. The dormitory is "well-planned, (has) larger rooms, and the office could not have been better planned."

During the dedication program, three of Harth Hall's residents, Student Government Association President Brittney House, a senior; Marissa Lobacz, a junior; and Candice Mack, a junior, each thanked Lenora Fuson Harth for the opportunity to live and learn in such a wonderful environment.

In his remarks, Cumberlands President Jim Taylor expressed gratitude on behalf of the university. Williamsburg Mayor Roddy Harrison presented a key to the city to Harth's nephew George Martin, who accepted on her behalf.

The ceremony concluded as the audience, led by Linda Carter, dean of student life, read a litany of dedication to dedicate Lenora Fuson Harth Hall to "God's Glory, ... God's service (and) ... as a place where God may work through the years to create Christian women to lead and serve in His name."

DEDICATION University of the Cumberlands dedicated its newest campus building April 21, the Lenora Fuson Harth Hall. The building is named for Williamsburg native Lenora Fuson Harth, who contributed funding for the dormitory in memory of her daughter. Harth Hall, which was officially opened in January, now houses nearly 100 female students. The 25,842 square-foot residence hall contains 12 suites, each containing four two-person rooms, a bathroom and a common room. It also has a laundry room, study rooms, a computer room, vending machines and an elevator, making it accessible to residents with disabilities.

Jeremy White's new book explores what it takes to survive financially

Continued from page 1

with Burkett, which was aimed at people over 50, and eventually to an introduction to Blue.

"Surviving Financial Meltdown" is White's sixth book, but one has sold as well as the latest. It was released in January by Tyndale House Publishers.

A quick read at 127 pages, it reviews such topics as preparing for economic uncertainty, taking a "financial physical," setting long-term goals and building emergency savings. An appendix includes 40 money-saving tips.

Recently Tyndale posted a free, 11-page discussion guide for use with the book. It can be downloaded at www.Tyndale.com.

White said he and Blue discussed doing a book last summer when gasoline prices had skyrocketed and economic uncertainty was spreading across the nation.

At one point Tyndale suggested using "meltdown" in the title, a suggestion the authors initially resisted for fear it would be alarmist.

However, as they worked on the material and the stock market began its historic plunge, White said they realized meltdown described exactly what was happening.

Still, he said he hopes readers will come away reassured that God is in control and their financial picture can improve if they follow biblical principles.

"There are principles the Bible teaches," said White, a partner in the firm of Blythe, White and Associates in Paducah. "There has been so much noise in the media, so much worry and stories about how bad things are."

"God's not surprised by what happened in the economy and neither should we worry about it."

Despite the book's acclaim, White acknowledged that he is not that good at promotion, with the title receiving little notice in Paducah, other than from regional radio interviews.

The author did receive a warm reception at the city's Gospel Mission Worship Center. The non-denominational church invited him to speak at a Sunday evening service back in March.

Coming on the heels of the ice storm that paralyzed much of Western Kentucky, White's insights into setting aside funds for emergencies were quite timely, according to the church's education minister Todd Dotson.

"For him to follow up on that was phenomenal," said Dotson, whose church purchased copies of the book for every family that attended the service.

"He talked about financial goals, paying

down debt, an emergency fund and how much money you should have (set aside). I applaud him for bringing that out."

Bill Whitaker, pastor of Glasgow Baptist Church, it also found the book worthwhile, calling it well-written and biblically-based.

Although he has not used it for any classes, he plans to recommend it to his church, which in the past has been through Financial Peace University. Those classes are sponsored by financial talk show host and author Dave Ramsey's organization.

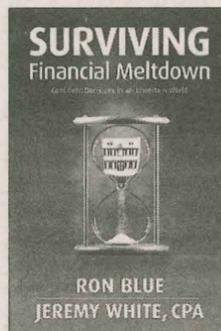
"I think it's a good resource for small groups and personal and family use," noted Whitaker, the former president of Clear Creek Bible College in Pineville.

"There's a great section in the book on suggestions for saving money."

Although White's book has not been used for any studies at his home church, either, First Baptist Pastor Todd Brady has drawn encouragement from its advice, as well as its wisdom about holistic stewardship.

"In January, we put out a recommended reading list and his book is one we recommended," Brady recalled. "I've heard people talking about it. He has a wise perspective about money and he has a heart for God."

That heart includes a faith that looks to



Pleasant Hill dedication

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville, Taylor County Association, recently dedicated a new family life center to help its ministry to the community. It is a growing church and looks to have a great future ahead of it.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The new facility includes a large kitchen, four classrooms, an elevator, a gym and a wonderful entrance area. The total cost was about \$1.1 million.

The church had been discussing the need for the facility for months when a former member, who lived in California, left the church a significant gift. This gift encouraged members to move forward with the building project.

The church has experienced steady growth during the past five years with a 28 percent growth in undesignated gifts. Pleasant Hill has a large Sunday school enrollment of youth and young adults.

The church was founded in 1840 and has twice suffered the loss of its facilities to fire.

Throughout this building program, the church has maintained its commitment to missions. Last year, the church gave 29.4 percent, or \$66,922, of its undesignated receipts to support missions through the Cooperative Program.

By Aug. 31 of this year, the church expects that it will have given a total \$1.5 million to missions through CP. More than \$750,000 of that amount has been given since 1994.

Pastor James Jones has long been one of our state's strongest advocates of the Cooperative Program. His church leads by example in working locally to share the gospel while simultaneously reaching out to the state, nation and world.

A capacity crowd of about 350 enjoyed a wonderful meal in the new facility.

During the dedication service, Minister of Music Denis Santos, a ladies ensemble and members of the congregation provided special music.

Pastor Jones commended the church's Woman's Missionary Union director Regina Graham for helping to keep the church focused on missions. Testimonies and prayers during the service gave evidence of Pleasant Hill's strong commitment to its mission.

Recognition also was provided for the building committee, for Donnelly Architecture of Lexington, for Blevins Construction of Campbellsville and for the subcontractors who worked with the construction.

Pastor Jones paid tribute to the church's members for their unity and support of the building program. Other leaders indicated their intention to retire the \$500,000 debt as soon as possible.

Pastor Jones and Kenny Willis, with his guitar, closed the service with a duet of "I've Been Working on the Building" to rousing participation by the audience.

It was a privilege to bring the dedication message and to represent all Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention causes. We all feel deep appreciation for Pleasant Hill's sacrificial support of missions through the Cooperative Program.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Staying true to what you believe

Would you be tempted to hedge your answer a little bit and soften your convictions to achieve your dream?

Carrie Prejean, Miss California, had to make exactly that choice during the recent Miss USA Pageant in Las Vegas. Though some feel her answer may have cost her the crown, she stayed true to her Christian beliefs.

Prejean, a student at San Diego Christian College and member of The Rock Church, was asked by one of the 12 pageant judges: "Vermont recently became the fourth state to legalize same-sex marriage. Do you think every state should follow suit? Why or why not?" She courageously replied, "We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite(-sex) marriage. And you know what? I think in my country in my family ... that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman—no offense to anybody out there—but that's how I was raised"

Prejean later told NBC's "Today" show host Matt Lauer that she was speaking "from my heart, for my beliefs, and for my God." And she has no regrets: "I wouldn't change a thing," Prejean said.

Her answer was right from a historical perspective. America was founded by religious dissenters who were searching for religious freedom and the right to worship as they desired. They spoke their convictions freely and adamantly, and they granted that freedom to others, even guaranteeing it in the Constitution. So when anyone on national TV asks for an American citizen's opinion on a political issue that has religious bearings, shouldn't that person have the right to reply honestly without fear of reprisal?

Prejean's desire was not to offend, but only to express her sincere views. To do otherwise, "goes against what I stand for," she told Lauer. "When I am asked a specific question, I am not going to stand in the middle. I'm going to take one side or the other."

Whenever we hear about someone being ridiculed, scorned or punished for standing up for his or her Christian beliefs, our minds race to somewhere else in the world. Certainly, such intolerance is not happening in America—not to a contestant in the Miss USA pageant.

Her answer was right from a political perspective. Though she has been accused of being politically incorrect, bear in mind that voters in Prejean's home state of California voted last November to reverse a state Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriages. She was voicing the same point of view that more than 7 million Californians expressed in November.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Furthermore, Vermont is only the fourth state to legalize gay marriage, following Massachusetts, Connecticut and Iowa. Forty-six other states have not voted to change the definition of marriage. In fact, at least three-fifths have adopted marriage amendments, to preserve the traditional definition.

Her answer was right from a biblical perspective.

Prejean, who is studying to be an elementary school teacher, reportedly volunteers with the international ministry of Shadow Mountain Community Church, the Southern Baptist congregation where David Jeremiah is pastor. Last November, messengers to the California Southern Baptist Convention, meeting at Shadow Mountain, applauded California voters for their affirmation of traditional biblical marriage.

In a resolution, California Baptists expressed "heartfelt gratitude to the ProtectMarriage.com coalition that spearheaded the effort to restore and protect biblical, traditional marriage in California and throughout our nation." In recounting biblical reasons for defining marriage as between a man and a woman, they strongly encouraged churches and their members to "pray for, promote and uphold the biblical model of marriage." Southern Baptists also have addressed the matter in resolutions on numerous occasions at annual conventions.

In spite of the fact that her answer was called by the judge who asked the question as "the worst answer in pageant history" and she has faced scorn and rejection from other pageant officials and some media, Prejean was commended by the new Miss USA Kristen Dalton of North Carolina. On the day following Prejean's interview, Dalton said on the "Today" show: "The beauty of America is that we all have a right to our own opinion. I'm proud of her for speaking from her heart. She's passionate for what she believes in."

Well said, Miss USA. Prejean is a role model for us all. Though she knew the moment she answered the question that she was not going to win, she didn't back away from what she believes is right. As for not winning the crown, she said, "It wasn't what God wanted for my life that night."

Prejean believes that God was testing her character, and that He has a greater purpose for her life. "I was true to myself, and I know now I can go out and speak to young people about standing up for what you believe in and never compromising anything for anyone ... even if it is the crown of Miss USA."

He could have been distracted

By Bob Simpson

So much has been written about Captain Sully Sullenberger's cool, calm demeanor in the face of certain disaster. You will recall that he was the pilot of the ill-fated U.S. Airways flight 1549 that hit a flock of birds shortly after takeoff from New York's LaGuardia airport on Jan. 15. Sully is credited with saving the lives of all 155 souls on board that plane. It was the first time in 50 years of commercial jet flight that the captain of a major aircraft executed one of the most technically challenging maneuvers, landing a jetliner on water without any fatalities.

How did he do it? He did it with incredible, laser-like focus. Somehow he was able to overcome the negative thinking that distractions always engender. There were so many things that could have distracted him. For example, he could have been distracted by the fact that he had no thrust from his silent engines. Sully was 3,200 feet in the air, without power, quickly falling to earth. That would have freaked out most of us right from the outset.

He could have been distracted by how to keep the nose of the plane

lowered so the plane would glide and not drop quickly.

He could have been distracted by all the choices of where he might possibly be able to put the plane down. They included going back to LaGuardia or trying to get to an alternate airport in the New York metropolitan area.

He could have been distracted by the fact that no pilot in modern jet aviation had ever pulled off a successful water landing.

He could have been distracted by how to align the plane with the river so as not to hit the George Washington Bridge.

He could have been distracted by how to calculate the projected glide path and then set the plane on water at just the right angle. If the nose or a wingtip hit the water as he approached, the plane could flip, spin out, or snap in two.

He could have been distracted by the boats in the Hudson River. He knew he would have to pick a spot that would give his passengers the best advantage to be rescued.

There were these distractions and many more. But, Captain Sullenberger's focus never wavered.

He knew what he had to do. He did not let any distraction dissuade him from the main thing.

This reminds me of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Scripture says "he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem." If there ever was a person who embodied the essence of focus, it was Jesus. Even at the age of 12, he told his parents, "I must be about my Father's business."

Focus is always the main issue. Most of us are too easily distracted. Even churches can be distracted doing good things instead of the main thing. Our main focus is, and must always be, to do what our Lord has commanded us to do. His last words to us before He left the planet were to "go and make disciples of all nations." That is all we need to stay focused on. We need to simply ask, "What now?" "What next?" and "What not?"

It's the "What not?" part that is the most critical to developing focus. We need to jettison anything that distracts us. We need to free up more bandwidth to be able to move forward and do it with maximum focus. Jesus (and Sully) can teach us a lot about how to focus.

Simpson is associate executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and editor of BaptistLIFE.

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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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Predicting the future

By Jeremy White

Would you like to know the future? We discussed this recently in our family. Everyone agreed that God is so wise in not telling us what the future holds.

Could you imagine how difficult it would be to live day to day if you knew of a tragic event to happen six months later? Would you invest in relationships if you knew that person would hurt you later or move away?

The one area, however, where it would be helpful to know the future is the financial market. I could invest better if I knew where

the market would be three months from now, or what interest rates would be doing a year from now. But God has not decided to give me that information.

When one listens to the "experts" on the cable business news channels, the morning news shows, or Internet bloggers, it may appear they have an inside track. I tire of getting phone calls from clients that start along these lines: "Well, 'they' say the market is going to be down this week."

There is an old saying that economists have predicted nine of the last five recessions. Although people in the media may appear to have significant credentials, they have no idea what the stock market will be doing six days or six months from now. Therefore, your investment decisions should not be based on what the latest talking head is predicting. Find a financial advisor who can help you identify your goals, assess your risk tolerance and suggest appropriate investment solutions. A reputable financial advisor will tell you there are risks and no guarantees. He or she will not give you a market prediction like a weatherman. If they do, then stay away.

Ultimately, the only certainty we have in the future is from God and His promises. He has promised us that we will have trouble in this world. He said wealth is uncertain. He also has promised that He will provide for our needs (not every want). He has promised we can choose a relationship with Him while on this earth and an eternal relationship with Him in heaven. Bank on those promises.

White is a CPA with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.



Identification survey confirms need for being missional

By Randall Adams

For 150 years, historians misunderstood the reality of how America became a mostly Christian nation. In church history, it was long taught that following the Revolutionary War, the spiritual climate in America was at its lowest ebb and that America might become a nation of unbelievers. But then came the Second Great Awakening, beginning around 1800, and revival fires swept the nation, setting her on a Christian path.

The only problem with this reading of history is that it is based mostly on one man's observation, Lyman Beecher, and Beecher held Methodists and Baptists in utter contempt. He said Methodists and Baptists were "worse than nothing," and that it was better for a town to have no church than to have one of those.

We now know that God was doing a great work in the 1780s and 1790s, but He was not working so much through the established denominations as He was through those despised upstart groups, the Methodists and Baptists, who were planting hundreds of churches and growing by the tens of thousands. Astonishingly, Baptists grew every year from 1776 through 1810, while Beecher's Congregationalists were in steep decline.

In light of this, the church in America has been handed a great gift in the findings of the American Religious Identification Survey. The survey reveals the megatrends and microtrends of America's reli-

gious identity, thus enabling us to make informed decisions. Despite the reality of decline in the American Church, the details have confirmed Baptists have chosen to travel down some of the right roads, namely our intentional focus on developing evangelism and church planting strategies that are missional. These include strategies to reach ethnic peoples, young people and young adults, as well as affinity groups such as cowboys, bikers and oil field workers, while not neglecting our base constituency. Moreover, the survey reveals God is at work in reaching younger adults in our state and nation, even if we cannot see the evidence of it in many of our Baptist churches.

Allow me to make a couple of observations. First, many churches are using their worship services as the primary means of making a first contact with the unchurched. The concept of "seeker-sensitive" worship services emerged from the idea that you attract the lost to a worship service they will enjoy. The weakness with this is that it is only effective with a certain group of people—those who are most like us and are looking for a church. It is not effective with people who are mostly different from us, such as language groups, immigrant communities, affinity groups such as cowboys, and even those unchurched adults from a younger generation than the majority of our adult members. Reaching people who are different than those we already have requires mis-

sional strategies rather than attractional strategies. Attractional strategies are not wrong, but they are limited concerning the types of people we can reach.

Second, a missional strategy grossly neglected by most of our churches is an emphasis on ongoing personal evangelism training, including regular evangelistic ministries outside the church building, and evangelistic visitation that goes beyond those who visit our church services. There is a growing population that cannot be attracted into our churches. They will only be reached when we go to them, much as international missionaries go to their people.

How long has it been since your church members were taught a way, some way, to share Christ? How often do seasoned soul-winners in your church take novices with them to share the gospel? People who actively share the gospel in their everyday lives have learned to do so because someone—some church—helped them learn how to do it.

The challenge we face is to continue reaching those from our base, while reaching those from other groups and cultures as well. But it is precisely our desire and ability to do this that has made Southern Baptists the most diverse religious body in America—to the glory of God.

Randall Adams is leader of the church outreach team of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. This article first appeared in the April 2 issue of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger. Reprinted with permission.

Some preachers, long gone, keep on preaching

By Adelle Banks

Manassas, Va.—On the Sunday after Easter, famed Southern Baptist preacher Adrian Rogers appeared on Trinity Broadcasting Network, asking his congregation in suburban Memphis to turn to a passage of the Gospel of John.

"A Christian with a witness in his heart is never at the mercy of a man with an argument in his mouth," he said in the trademark deep voice that has been heard on TV and radio for 22 years. "Learn that, my friend."

Within hours, James Kennedy was on Ion Television, comparing Americans who have drifted away from God to secular humanism to the New Testament's prodigal son.

Both evangelical preachers, along with radio broadcaster J. Vernon McGee, all have something in common. They all died years—and in McGee's case, decades—ago.

Yet their messages continue via TV, radio and the Internet, even as some listeners probably don't even know they're long gone.

"McGee, of course, is king of the hill," said Frank Wright, president and CEO of the Virginia-based National Religious Broadcasters. "He is today the most widely listened-to Christian broadcaster anywhere in the world."

The three broadcasters, Wright said, remain on the airwaves because of their knack for telling "timeless stories" and their focus on the unchanging texts of the Bible.

When Wright worked at Kennedy's Center for Christian Statesman-

ship in Washington 14 years ago, he would listen to McGee on the radio as he drove to the commuter-train station.

"I listened to the guy for 3 and a half years before I knew he was dead," Wright recalled. "I was captivated by his kind of homey preaching style and had no idea that he had gone on to be with the Lord."

Leo Karlyn, president of McGee's Thru the Bible Radio Network in Pasadena, Calif., said the ministry, which began in 1967, has expanded to the Internet and added a Facebook page a few months ago. He expects McGee would be surprised that the ministry continues.

"He said, 'I want you to play these tapes until the money runs out,' and the money has never run out," Karlyn said of McGee, who died at the age of 84 in 1988. "We have great donors and people who are interested in what does the Bible really say."

Both Kennedy, who died in 2007, and Rogers, who died in 2005, set up separate broadcast ministries that have continued even as their pulpits have been filled by successors.

Tullian Tchividjian, grandson of evangelist Billy Graham, has been in Kennedy's pulpit at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., since Easter, but Kennedy is the one seen on the television program, "The Coral Ridge Hour."

"Nothing has changed," said John Aman, spokesman for Kennedy's Coral Ridge Ministries. "We'll continue to air Dr. Kennedy's sermons and provide occasional specials."

Although the ministry made sig-

nificant cuts in the number of stations that carried Kennedy's sermons after he died, it now reaches the same percentage of U.S. households it reached before his death—90 percent. Kennedy's "Truths that Transform" radio program airs on 544 radio outlets today, compared to 700 in 2006.

"His messages remain very timely," said Aman, citing an example of a sermon that Kennedy preached more than a decade ago on the federal deficit. It was resurrected in March to air during the current economic crisis.

"We're just trying to ... bring audiences the best of what he preached that's most appropriate to the time and, surprisingly enough, we can offer some very relevant messages even though he's no longer with us."

Bill Skelton, president and CEO of Love Worth Finding, said the Tennessee ministry founded by Rogers runs on about 13,000 U.S. television outlets and 1,800 radio stations worldwide. His Internet sermons were downloaded 1.7 million times last year.

"His own words were, 'While the messenger's gone home, the message must continue,'" said Skelton, who also is chairman of the NRB board.

"It may sound a little bit macabre to say this: I think as long as people turn on their radio and turn on their television sets and hear somebody teaching and preaching truths that are relevant to this life, the fact that he is alive or not is really not the important thing." (RNS)

Intimacy in covenant marriage

By Valerie Vincent

Q: Sometimes my husband desires sexual intimacy when I do not. Sometimes I am tired and upset and do not feel like being intimate. How am I supposed to respond?

A: According to Christopher McCluskey, a certified Christian therapist, and his wife, Rachel, it is essential to have a clear theology of our sexuality. It is important to know what



God has designed for our sexuality. Scripture is clear that the covenant marriage is the framework for expressing our sexuality. And yet even within the boundaries of marriage, Christ looks at the heart of the person. The McCluskeys offer these points in their book "When Two Become One: Enhancing Sexual Intimacy in Marriage":

"God knew what he was giving us in sexuality, and he knew its power. Sex is one of the most powerful forces in the universe—for good or for evil. That is why God gave us such clear guidelines for its proper use. When sex is used within God's guidelines, God is greatly glorified. When it is used outside of those guidelines, God is blasphemed" (see 1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

"The sex drive is extremely powerful and we must exercise discipline over it so that we do not dishonor God in the body. But we must always remember that we were created to glorify God in the body. ... And we do it through the joining of our bodies as husband and wife, made in His image, rejoicing in the delight of becoming one."

There may be times one spouse is tired but offers themselves with an attitude of love. If the issue of being tired is a constant, then the couple needs to evaluate the demands on each of them and potentially restructure their lives to ensure adequate rest.

Sex should not be a chore. God designed sex within a covenant marriage to be a powerful form of communication, unique to that couple. God designed sex to be a way of knowing and being known more fully than in any other type of relationship. God designed sex to be sacred. Remember that your sex life is an integral part of your entire relationship. McCluskey reminds us that God has given sex to express our love for each other in ways that words cannot.

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

BAPTIST DIGEST

SBC preschool, children's registration underway—Registration now is open for families to enroll their children in preschool child care or the children's conference June 21-24 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Louisville. For all information regarding registration, visit www.sbc.net and click on "2009 SBC Annual Meeting," then "Children/Students." The deadline for preschool child care registration is June 1 and is limited to 150 children. The deadline for the children's conference also is June 1. The cost is \$45 per child.

Southeastern not raising tuition—Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., have approved a budget that will not raise tuition for students next year and will not call for any job eliminations on campus. The budget did include an increase in housing rates for next year because of rising costs related to lease and debt payments.

NOBTS distance learning M.Div. approved—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a new distance learning M.Div. track during their April 15 meeting that essentially makes the seminary's Online Learning Center an extension center. The result is a fully accredited master of divinity degree program that requires only 30 hours of on-campus credit. The rest of the coursework may be taken through the Internet or a combination of Internet and extension center courses. The seminary currently has 45 hours of master's-level coursework available online.

Missouri Baptists to vote on litigation funding—Messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention's annual meeting in October will vote on a recommendation from the convention's executive board to spend Cooperative Program dollars to fund future litigation against five breakaway entities. The executive board unanimously approved a line item of \$468,957 for legal fees in a proposed \$15.75 million 2010 budget during its April 14 meeting in Jefferson City, Mo.

Southern to close School of Church Music

Louisville—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is closing its 65-year-old School of Church Music and Worship, combining it with the School of Leadership and Church Ministry into a new School of Church Ministries.

The seminary's board of trustees approved the move, based on recommendation of a task force, at a meeting April 21 at the Louisville campus.

Starting this fall, faculty members from both the School of Church Music and Worship and the School of Leadership and Church Ministry will serve within the School of Church Ministries. Randy Stinson, currently dean of the leadership

school, becomes dean of the new school. Gregory Brewton, associate professor of church music, will serve as area coordinator over music and worship.

Seminary President Albert Mohler said the intent is to preserve the tradition of the music school, which has produced thousands of ministers of music for Southern Baptist churches over the decades, while adapting to current trends.

"The bottom line is there has been a substantial drop in the number of music students at the graduate level in Southern Baptist Convention seminaries," Mohler said in an interview.

He noted that the music school,

started in 1944 by then-seminary President Ellis Fuller, currently is at 30 percent of its optimal enrollment. While a valuable program for its time, Mohler said it is "not economically viable today" to sustain a stand-alone music school.

Mohler said about 80 percent of ministers of music in Southern Baptist churches also have another staff assignment, like education or youth, so by combining its music and church-leadership programs the seminary will "look more like the churches" it serves.

He said the music faculty, which currently numbers 11, will be downsized to the equivalent of four full-time positions. (ABP)

ACP report: SBC baptisms at lowest point since '87

Continued from page 1

they're hurting so the spiritual and physical needs of others are met."

Offsetting the rise in giving, along with a slight increase in the total number of SBC churches and primary worship attendance, was the nagging reality that baptisms in 2008 fell for the fourth straight year to 342,198, a decline of 1.1 percent over 2007.

Focus on baptisms

"The numbers simply tell us that Southern Baptists are not reaching as many people for Christ as they once did," Rainer pointed out. "It still takes 47 Southern Baptists to

baptize one person for Christ. I pray that all of our churches and our entities will become totally focused on obeying Christ's commission so that our convention will truly experience a Great Commission resurgence."

Baptism is a public act administered by the local church in which new followers of Christ are immersed in water. Baptism symbolizes believers' identification with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection; signifies their new life in Christ; and anticipates the day in which Christ will raise them from the dead, demonstrating His victory over sin and death. Therefore, the number of baptisms is a key mea-

surement of the SBC's overall effectiveness in evangelism.

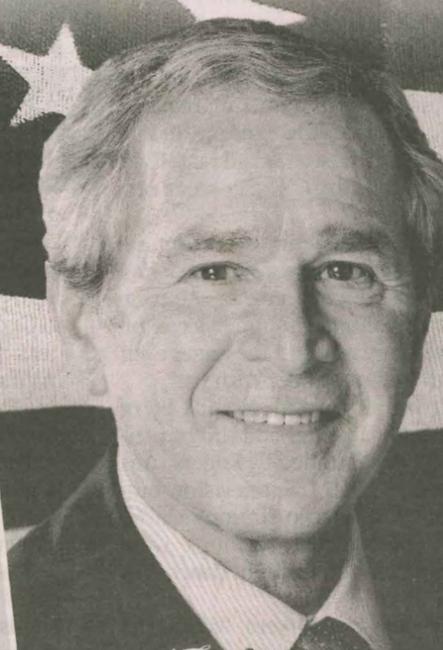
Meanwhile, total SBC membership fell by 38,482 (0.2 percent) last year, to 16,228,438. Sunday school enrollment dropped 123,817 (1.6 percent) to 7,752,794.

Impacted categories and their 2008 totals include:

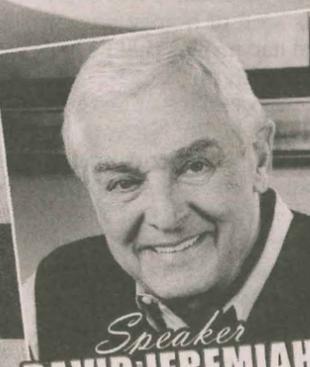
- Discipleship training enrollment: 1,798,330.
- Total tithes, offerings and special gifts: \$11.1 billion.
- Music ministry enrollment/participation: 1,416,694.
- WMU enrollment: 795,379.
- Men/boys mission education enrollment: 403,575.

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What is camp & why do we do it?

Camp is the vehicle through which students know Christ

By Patrick Greer
Crossings program director

What is camp?

Crossings is a camp. Camp is an experience. It is not facilities, environment, music or preachers; it is an experience. Camp is part of a lifelong journey to know God and to make Him known. Camp is a retreat. Students can retreat from the distractions of life to focus on Christ.

Camp is intentional. Students are given time intentionally designed for spiritual growth—time they may not otherwise take at home. Camp is relationships. Relationships are essential in impacting people's lives. Through relationships, the Crossings staff can have an impact on students' lives. Through a relationship with Christ, students experience real and eternal life.

Camp is fun. Students experience the joy of being in relationship with Christ through fellowship with other believers. Camp is a resource. Camp exists to serve the church and build up the body of Christ.

Why camp?

Camp is the resource that God has given us at Crossings to accom-

plish His redemptive plan for humanity through Jesus Christ. I believe that as we intentionally build relationships to create an experience where students can focus on Christ and have fellowship with other believers, we join God in His plan. We do camp because we love God and people and want to serve both with our lives.

Through the experiences I have had at camp, my love for God and for people has grown faster and deeper than in any other setting. Through the power of Christ working in and through our lives, being able to provide that same experience to students gives us great joy. We do camp because God has given us a passion for it—

a strong desire to live out His call on our lives through the camp setting. Why do I do camp? I do it because I love it.

Through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we experience grace, mercy, freedom from sin, and fellowship with the Creator of the universe. Camp gives us a voice to proclaim these truths to thousands of students every year so they may share in our joy of knowing Christ.

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 Places for the accident prone (abbr.)
- 4 Things to do
- 9 "Festus said ... much learning doth make thee ____" (Acts 26:24)
- 12 "The trees of the Lord are full of ____" (Psalm 104:16)
- 13 First letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 14 Hullabaloo
- 15 "The Lord had prepared a great fish to ____ up Jonah" (Jonah 1:17)
- 17 Consumed
- 19 Noise or disturbance
- 20 "Have ____ in yourselves, and have peace one with another" (Mark 9:50)
- 21 Star of Gigi
- 23 "The ____ beguiled me, and I did eat" (Genesis 3:13)
- 26 In a short time (arch.)
- 27 Swift mammals
- 28 Conjunction
- 29 Girl Scouts of America founder
- 30 ____ girl
- 31 Actor Vigoda
- 32 Maxwell Perkins, to F.S. Fitzgerald (abbr.)
- 33 "For whosoever will ____ his life shall lose it" (Luke 9:24)
- 34 "I ... am persuaded that he is ____ to keep that which I have committed" (2 Timothy 1:12)
- 35 Edible bugs, according to Leviticus 11:22
- 37 "The ____ of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord" (James 5:4)
- 38 Feminine nickname
- 39 House or hog
- 40 Motif
- 42 Old Testament book
- 45 "____ (2 words) the Rose of Sharon" (Song of Solomon 2:1)
- 46 "The good shepherd giveth his life for the ____" (John 10:11)
- 48 Ascot, for one
- 49 Less than desirable abode
- 50 Certain amphibians
- 51 Stolen (colloq.)

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- 3 "Yea, the ____ hath found an house" (Psalm 84:3)
- 4 Bird claw
- 5 Oodles
- 6 "Woe to the women that ____ pillows to all armholes" (Ezekiel 13:18)
- 7 Mess duty (abbr.)
- 8 "Like a lamb dumb before his ____" (Acts 8:32)
- 9 Dull finish
- 10 Summer quaff
- 11 Actor Ameche
- 16 "The first beast was like a ____" (Revelation 4:7)
- 18 European mountain range
- 20 Dried up; withered
- 21 One of the twelve spies sent by Moses into Canaan (Numbers 13)
- 22 Positively charged electrode
- 23 Jesus ____ our souls
- 24 Duke or earl, for example
- 25 Isaiah describes these as clapping their hands
- 27 Shanty; hut
- 30 "Why ____ thou me good?" (Matthew 19:17)
- 31 "Like unto the Son of God; ____ a priest continually" (Hebrews 7:3)
- 33 "There shall come forth a rod out of the ____ of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1)
- 34 Mideast resident
- 36 "How long shall mine ____ be exalted?" (Psalm 13:2)
- 37 Graduate degree tests (abbr.)
- 39 Regretted
- 40 Poetic contraction
- 41 ____ trick
- 42 Teachers' organization (abbr.)
- 43 ____ Grande
- 44 Jelled
- 47 "____, every one that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

Foster parents serve Christ as 'in-home missionaries'

Sunrise Children's Services provided a safe place and loving care to 500 children last year through our statewide network of foster homes. In May during Foster Care Awareness Month, we remember the need for more nurturing foster parents and celebrate the successes of our Sunrise foster families. We appreciate them for all they do as "in-home missionaries," answering the call to minister to children struggling with the trauma of abuse, neglect or family crisis.

No matter the difficulties facing the children who come to Sunrise for refuge, our foster parents witness extraordinary change in their lives. Aaron, for example, was removed from his home after suffering physical and sexual abuse. He and his sister lived with an aunt, but she could not handle Aaron's behavioral problems that stemmed from the abuse. The 7-year-old boy was placed in a Sunrise foster home, his biological family having completely failed him. Aaron's mother was in prison and his aunt refused to allow him contact with his sister.

Aaron's behavior in foster care did not improve at first. During his first year in the home, either his foster mother or a Sunrise staff

member had to go to his school each week because of a behavioral problem. Aaron stabbed other children with pencils and destroyed seats on a school bus with a knife.

Eventually, Aaron began to heal. The stable, positive environment his foster parents provided changed his life. This school year, he is excelling in third grade by earning straight 'A's. He thrives in the county youth basketball league and attends church regularly. He has not had a single incident of bad behavior at school this year. His teacher reports that Aaron pays attention well and makes friends easily. As proof, his friends have invited him to their birthday parties.

Aaron lost everything at a very early age. But with the help of Sunrise and wonderful foster parents, he now is moving past the deep pain of his childhood.

Please pray for our foster parents, or "in-home missionaries," who sacrifice personal privacy to share their homes and families with innocent victims of abuse. They do not live "on the mission field," the mission field "lives with them." If you think God is calling you to foster hope in a child, call us at (800) 456-1386, or send an e-mail to info@sunrise.org. Kids all across the state need us.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
S	A	M	G	E	T	S	R	I	D	E
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Chinese students find faith, and a home, in a foreign land

Continued from page 1

ules, e-mails, phone numbers and home addresses—from the university's Chinese Students and Scholars Association. After picking them up at the airport, church members take them grocery shopping, buy them their first meal, and sometimes lend them their cell phones so students may call families in China.

Yin Jing, a doctoral student in physics and president of the CSSA at Boulder, said having church members pick up students may not be ideal, but students lack the time—and the cars—to do the job themselves.

Most students are grateful for the Christians' assistance, but not all feel at ease with it. Ye Yu is a doctoral candidate in geophysics who came to the U.S. in 2006. He was picked up at the airport by BCBC members and was provided temporary housing.

"My friend and I spent several days at Auntie Yan's house," Ye recalled, using the Chinese courtesy title for an elderly woman. At dinner on the second day, Yan and her husband, both Christians, led the students in prayer. Ye admitted he was not very comfortable with it but felt he had to do it to show his gratitude.

Once the students settle down, church members invite them to their houses for welcome parties, and ferry them to Friday night fellowship, which entails a free dinner, hymn singing and

Bible studies.

The decision to adopt a new faith varies from person to person, but observers say many Chinese conversion stories typically involve some sort of personal crisis—a failed marriage, domestic conflict, self doubt or fear of death.

Yang said the rapid rate of Chinese student conversions cannot be fully explained by individual crises, nor by successful evangelism efforts, but rather by the modernization in China that is pushing many Chinese toward seeking a new system of meaning.

"China is undergoing rapid and dramatic social changes that have brought (social unrest), and Christianity provides a spiritual and moral framework to put things in personal life and larger society in order," Yang said.

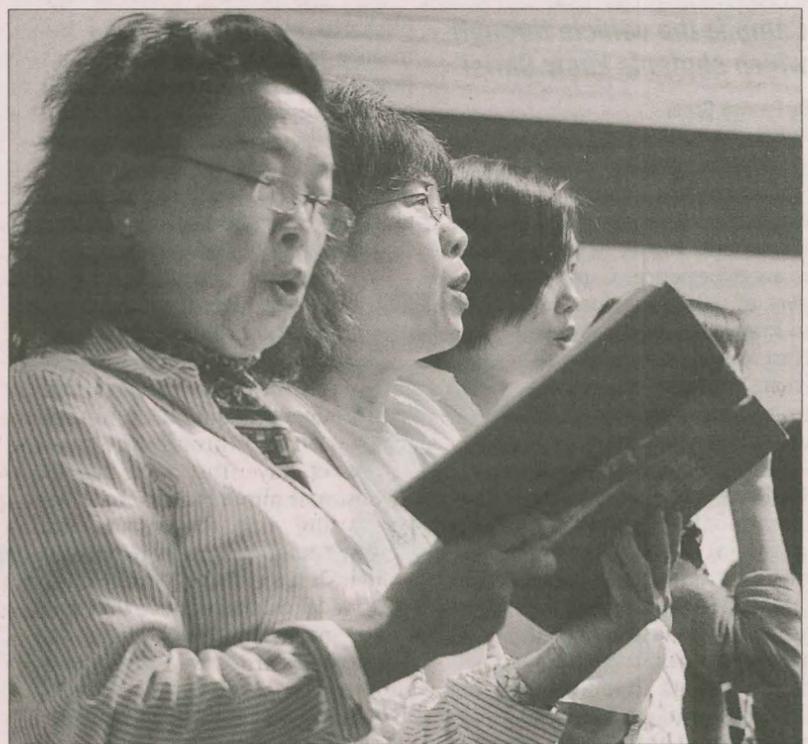
But in a search for meaning, why not choose a more traditional Eastern religion, such as Buddhism or Taoism? For one, Christianity is easier to find in the U.S. than a Buddhist or Taoist temple. Yan Yushu, a master's student at Boulder's East Asian and Civilization program, said she thinks that most Chinese students are simply ignorant about their native religions.

"In China, we don't get to study anything about Buddhism or Taoism," she noted. "We are taught that those are feudal superstitions."

Perhaps more than anything, the main reason students are opting for Christianity is the same one that has attracted immigrants of all stripes for generations: a place where they can find company, speak their native language, and in some cases, get free food.

"Some students stop coming after a while because they were like, 'We can't eat the free dinner without converting.' But my skin is thick," Ye said.

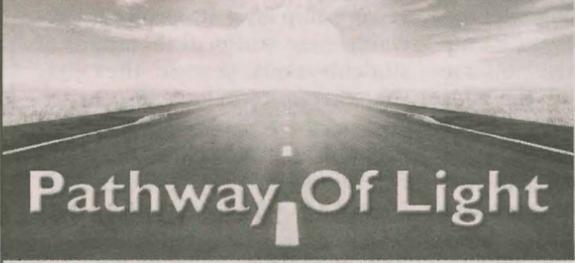
Church members, meanwhile, admit they do not always see the fruit of their labors, but like every missionary effort, they are content to simply live with the effort. "A lot of the time we are just sowing seeds," said Zhan Min, a BCBC member. "We planted the seeds in their heart, and you never know when they might sprout." (RNS)



WORSHIP Members of Boulder Chinese Baptist Church in Boulder, Colo., have taken in several Chinese students at the nearby University of Colorado, which has introduced them to Christianity. (RNS photos by Susan Wang)



Members prepare to celebrate Communion at Boulder Chinese Baptist Church.



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Meet the class of 2009, part 3

Her world in turmoil, "Sandy" finds purpose, new perspective at Oneida

Few challenges in a child's life can cause things to go wrong quicker than the break-up of the family unit. Oneida certainly is not alone when it comes to working with students who have not done well after parents go their separate ways. "Sandy" (not her real name) has only met her father once or twice and has no memory of those meetings. When she was 9, her mother decided to leave Sandy in the care of her grandparents. About 60 percent of today's youth live in single-parent or blended families. The last time I checked, some 80 percent of Oneida's students are in the same situation.

Over the years I have worked with a lot of students who were suffering the consequences of not having an intact family. I understand there are times when parents feel they have no choice but to go their separate ways. I also know that many children struggle with personal issues as a result.

Here is part of what Sandy wrote in her senior essay:

"I did not grow up in the typical perfect American family with a mother and a father in my daily life. I have been raised by my grandparents from the age of 9. ... I had days when I would be in a bad mood for no reason. I started to do things I knew I was not permitted to do and I let my friends influence me. I became a follower instead of a leader. (After her grandfather passed away, the decision was made to move to Cincinnati.) When we moved to Cincinnati at the beginning of my sophomore year, I ... became unhappy and resentful. Everything was so different; even the traffic was at a rushed pace.

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

"At my new school I put up a wall around me because I was scared of not being accepted. ... I had no close friends (and) I was scared of the unfamiliar and rejection from my peers. Before attending Oneida I had nothing to look forward to at the end of the day except coming home from school, which was my security blanket. ... So my grandma and I decided to give Oneida a try.

"Oneida was a breath of desperately needed fresh air and a chance for me to start over. I have fallen in love with Oneida because of the close-knit relationships and the independence I have experienced. ... It feels good to be responsible for myself and my actions. ... I believe I have become a responsible person. ... Oneida has given me a firm foundation.

"The most important thing I have gained is the knowledge of who I am, an individual who is no longer scared to stand out. I didn't know who I was before, but now I am (an) independent, respectful, intelligent young striver who wants to and will go out and do great things for others. I am someone who wants to make a difference in the world. I truly believe that Oneida has given me the tools that I needed to go out into the world and conquer it and all my dreams."

I am not sure Sandy will be able to "conquer" the world or see her dreams fulfilled. I know that she came to us confused and overwhelmed with her world. We have helped her gain self-confidence and a new perspective on life. When she enrolled, Sandy said she wanted to "learn to talk to people I do not know and do better in school." I can proudly say she has succeeded at both.

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

Single life at Clear Creek

Petree reflects on campus life as a single student

"It's hard to believe that four years have gone by so fast," said senior Luke Petree, who will be graduating in May. He shared some of his memories of Clear Creek.

"I was at a vocational college four years ago studying computers," Luke recalled. "God began to convict my heart about a call to ministry. I talked to my dad and he suggested I look at Clear Creek. Now four years later I am getting ready to graduate. I have really enjoyed my time here.

"I always enjoyed being a single student," he said. "I loved being able to live in Kelly Hall and hang out with all the other students in the great room."

Kelly Hall houses our single male students and has a large room upstairs called the "great room" where students can gather for studying, recreation and fellowship.

"We have a lot of talented people on campus," Luke noted. "I will always remember the great times of fellowship we had when we would meet upstairs in the great room and all the guys would pull out their guitars and we would have some late-night jam sessions.

"My favorite class was on the study of cults with Dr. Hughes, our missions and evangelism professor" Luke recalled. "I appreciated the opportunity to learn about what other people believe. It is always good to know what others believe when you are trying to share Christ with them."

Luke may be graduating next month but his educational journey is not over. "I plan on continuing my education at Liberty University," he said.

"I will be moving to the campus after I graduate to study full time there in Lynchburg, Va. I will be pursuing my master's degree in counseling. I feel the Lord leading me to a counseling ministry.

"My heart has a burden for helping people through some of their struggles. I feel the Lord may one day lead me to serve on a church staff as a counselor.

"I also hope to be able to teach counseling at the college level some day."

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Study: Religious donors don't plan to stop giving

Chicago—Despite the economic downturn, more than half of actively religious donors plan to give the same or more to charitable causes in 2009 as they did last year, a new survey indicates.

Cygnus Applied Research, a Chicago-based international research firm, completed a survey of U.S. donors to charitable causes. It found that 57 percent of actively religious donors said they expected to give more or the same amount to charitable causes as they did in 2008.

Researchers found that more than a third (37 percent) of donors described themselves as "actively religious." About a quarter (24 percent) said they were "not at all religious."

More than a quarter (28 percent) of the most religious donors who planned to increase or maintain their level of giving cited a sense of obligation. They said they would do so because they made commitments before the economy worsened and intended to stick with them.

The study found that 43 percent of actively religious respondents remained seriously committed to giving in the face of economic uncertainty, compared to 23 percent of those who were not religious at all.

"Religious conviction is the only relevant characteristic that statistically differentiates these highly committed donors," the study concluded.

About a quarter of actively religious donors said "it was too soon to tell" how much they would give in 2009; 17 percent said they expected to give less. (RNS)

Day of Prayer events overshadowed by politics

By Adelle Banks

Washington—Every year between 2001 and 2008, former President George W. Bush's calendar was cleared on the first Thursday in May to mark the National Day of Prayer in the White House East Room with prominent evangelicals.

Now the Obama White House is facing questions of inside-the-Beltway etiquette: Should Obama maintain the open door to conservative critics like James and Shirley Dobson, and if so, should they accept?

Or, will the White House have an official observance at all?

With those questions unanswered leading up to the annual observance, the National Day of Prayer Task Force, headed by Shirley Dobson, is moving ahead with other plans.

"We're not the coordinators of that event," said Brian Toon, vice chairman of the task force. "That's controlled completely by the White House. We have been honored to be guests at the event in the past, but we have not heard a peep from them."

In years past, Toon noted, a White House liaison has contacted the ministry at least a month in advance to ask about their participation in the White House events that featured music, Scripture readings and remarks by the president and Shirley Dobson.

She and her husband, Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, were seated prominently in the front row next to the president and first lady.

The White House, which usually does not officially announce events until shortly before they occur, declined to comment on whether it would even hold an event this year, much less who would be invited.

"Prayer is very important to the president's life," said Joshua DuBois, executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, April 19. "It's too early to talk about the planning around that."

This year, Dobson's task force has opted to hold its annual event on Capitol Hill in the morning—at the same time when its representatives usually are at the White House.

"We do pray for the president at our (Capitol Hill) observance and we have asked for a speaker from the Obama administration and we're waiting for them to get back to us," Toon indicated.

He said the group is "not politically inclined" toward Republicans or Democrats, even though Obama policy changes—opening federal funding for embryonic stem cell research and international family planning groups—have riled Christian conservatives.

Event history & criticism

The National Day of Prayer was signed into law in 1952 by President Truman. President Reagan amended the law in 1988 to state that the observances would be held the first Thursday in May.

The task force's work has been criticized

in recent years by critics who say the observances have been "hijacked" by evangelical Christians. Task force representatives counter that their events reflect a Christian perspective but all Americans are free to observe the day according to their religious viewpoints.

"Of course, we prefer that they cancel it altogether and not do anything," said Rob Boston, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, of any White House consideration of a National Day of Prayer observance.

But he speculated that if the White House does mark the day, it likely would include "lots of different types of religious leaders," akin to the interfaith feel of last year's Democratic National Convention.

Prior to the Bush years, task force leaders held more low-key events, including at Lafayette Park across the street during the Clinton administration.

"There was no East Room event until George W.," Toon said.

If there is no White House event this year, it would be a disappointment, Toon noted.

"We're not politically inclined either direction," he added. "Our passion is to pray for all of our nation's leaders and their families."

But wherever they are in Washington, the president still will be in their prayers, he emphasized. "We can still do that from across the Mall." (RNS)

Draft stem cell guidelines still will not allow funds for cloning

By Robert Marus

Washington—The Obama administration clarified its policy on embryonic stem cell research recently, issuing draft guidelines that will expand federal funding for the controversial research but retaining a ban on funding for its most ethically fraught versions.

The proposed guidelines, released by the National Institutes of Health, are likely to enable a vast expansion of federally funded research on embryonic stem cells.

Scientists have studied embryonic stem cells for more than a decade because of their potential to become any one of more than 200 types of tissues in the human body. The research, scientists say, has the potential to produce treatments for a wide array of injuries and degenerative conditions.

However, such stem cell research has proven highly controversial, because the embryos are destroyed in the harvesting process.

President Bush effectively banned federal funding for new embryonic stem cell research shortly after he

took office. But Obama signed an executive order March 9 rescinding the Bush policy.

Nonetheless, Obama's order did not specifically address some of the more practical concerns about exactly what kinds of research the government would fund. The NIH proposal further fleshes out the administration's policies.

The new guidelines take a centrist approach, allowing funding only for research on surplus embryos from fertility treatments that parents have donated. The proposal continues to ban funding for research on embryos that were created specifically for research purposes.

The new guidelines also would continue to ban research on cloned embryos, which some scientists have argued is an important and necessary area of study.

But many bioethicists have said such so-called "therapeutic cloning" is far too morally risky an endeavor, and public support for it lags far behind support for stem-cell research on surplus embryos from fertility treatments. (ABP)

LifeWay study: Protestant pastors divided over validity of global warming effects

By Mark Kelly

Nashville—Though many people insist global warming is real and man-made, Protestant pastors are not entirely convinced, according to a new study from LifeWay Research.

The survey of Protestant pastors, conducted last year, discovered that pastors are evenly split about whether global warming is real and man-made. It also found that views of pastors vary widely by denomination, location and even the individual pastor's ideologies.

Asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement, "I believe global warming is real and man-made," pastors split down the middle: 47 percent agree either strongly or somewhat, while 47 percent disagree either strongly or somewhat.

The differences of opinion, however, are seen more sharply when analyzed in relation to a pastor's denominational affiliation and geographic location. Fully 75 percent of pastors in mainline denominations agree global warming is real and man-made, but only 32 percent of pastors in evangelical denominations agree.

Individual belief affects response

When the pastors' personal beliefs are factored in, the differences grow even more pronounced. Among pastors who consider their political ideology liberal or very liberal, 93 percent agree that global warming is real and man-made, and 79 percent of self-perceived moderates agree. Among those who identify themselves as conservative or very conservative politically, however, agreement is only 37 percent and 16 percent respectively.

Additionally, while 75 percent of pastors in churches affiliated with mainline denominations agree global warming is real and man-made, only 67 percent of those who consider themselves mainline agree. In comparison, 32 percent of pastors in evangelical-affiliated congregations agree, but 41 percent of those who consider themselves evangelical agree.

"Not all pastors who consider themselves mainline serve in churches in denominations that are traditionally considered mainline," noted Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research. "Similarly, not all pastors who consider themselves evangelical serve in denominations that are traditionally considered evangelical. Yet these denominational roots provide a strong indication of what a church's pastor believes about global warming."

Southern Baptist Convention

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Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

MSC missionary Terry Carswell of McDowell.

Terry serves as project coordinator for God's Appalachian Partnership in Floyd County. He works with volunteer groups and local churches to complete building projects and repair the homes of families in need. Pray that God will provide the required volunteers and building supplies for meeting those needs. Pray that the ministry will be effective in connecting new believers to local churches for baptism and assimilation.

Heartland Crisis Pregnancy Center in Elizabethtown.

Marcia Orban serves as the director of this ministry that offers hope for women facing unplanned pregnancies. The ministry provides biblical counseling, a listening ear, clothing and supplies for mothers and their babies. Pray that women coming to the center will be open to hearing the Truth and that the lives of babies at risk will be saved. Pray that God will bring to completion the medical conversion process of the center so that they can begin to offer ultrasounds to expectant mothers.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEREA**—Silver Creek Church will hold revival services May 3-6, 7 p.m. with chalk artist **Scotty McDowell** as evangelist. **Dennis Hisle** is pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—Obion Church will hold revival services May 3, 6 p.m.; May 4-7, 7 p.m. with **Patrick Yates**, pastor of Caldwell Blue Spring Church in Princeton, as evangelist. **Jerry Rollins** is pastor.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church will hold revival services May 3, 8:30 & 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.; May 4-6, 6:30 p.m. with **David McCollum** as evangelist. **Derek Coleman** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Airline Church recently called **Rodney Groff** as pastor.

Audubon Church will hold revival services May 3, 10:40 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; May 4-6, 6:30 p.m. with **Don Mathis** as evangelist. **Andy Weaver** is pastor.

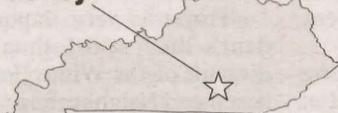
■ **LANCASTER**—Freedom Church will hold revival services May 4-7, 6:30 p.m. with **Randy McPheron**, pastor of Crosspoint Church in Richmond, as evangelist. **James Hardin** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church recently honored member **James Myatt** on his 100th birthday. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

■ **NEBO**—Neil Kolodey recently re-

Spotlight on ...

Nancy



Bethlehem, Burnetta, Cedar Point and Mount Pisgah churches will hold combined revival services April 28-May 3, 7 p.m. with **Randy McPheron**, pastor of Crosspoint Church in Richmond, as evangelist. April 28-29 services will be held at Mount Pisgah Church; April 30-May 1 services at Burnetta Church; and May 2-3 services at Bethlehem Church.

signed as pastor of Silent Run Church.

■ **SIDNEY**—Sidney Church will hold revival services May 3-7 with **Dave Hammond**, pastor of Faith Church in Myra, as evangelist. **Jamie Fugate** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Mount Pleasant Church will hold revival services May 3-6 with **Todd Rader**, pastor of Ephesus Church in Winchester, as evangelist. **Kyle Rader** is pastor.

Mount Vernon church baptizes 16 jail inmates on Easter Sunday

By Shirley Cox
State Correspondent

Mount Vernon—Sixteen inmates from the Rockcastle County Jail—eight men and eight women—were baptized Easter Sunday at Northside Baptist Church in Mount Vernon.

The scene was an emotional one. Before her baptism, one female inmate declared, "I'm not worthy." Spotting his father entering the baptistery, a young boy cried out, "Daddy!" Several of the inmates wept and raised their arms in praise after emerging from the water.

Afterward, in shackles, the prisoners were allowed to join their families as fathers, mothers and grandmothers clung to their children. During a service at the jail later that afternoon, four more inmates accepted Christ.

"When we welcome Jesus, the movement of God becomes the norm, not the exception," Northside Baptist Pastor Chad Burdette said.

When Burdette became pastor at Northside eight years ago, the tiny mission church had dwindled to a congregation of 33 and was ready to close its doors.

"God began to move the night I preached a sermon from the Book of Numbers about how the Israelites feared taking the Promised Land because of the giants," recalled Burdette, who was called to preach while a patient in a drug treatment facility. "Thirty of the 33 people present at that service went to the altar to pray. The Holy Spirit changed the church that night. I knew God was going to do something great."

Soon, so many people began attending services, Burdette said he

had to preach with both doors open. The church eventually built a 20,000-square-foot facility on eight acres in Mount Vernon. Since the congregation moved into the new building nearly six years ago, Northside repeatedly has placed among the top 10 Kentucky Baptist churches in baptisms and even has received national recognition.

Arrested seven times before he surrendered to the ministry, Burdette began holding services at the Rockcastle County Jail on Sunday afternoons soon after he began preaching. Northside member B.J. Bradley now preaches at the jail each week, despite being hit recently by a Bible thrown by an inmate and reports of hissing sounds in the hallways which the inmates call "the demons."

Northside Baptist also conducts several other ministries including "Servants With a Testimony," or SWAT Team. The support group meets on Thursday evenings with individuals suffering with numerous addictions. Inmates also are encouraged to attend SWAT Team meetings after being released from jail.

The church also operates HOPE—Hearts of Peaceful Expectations—a support group for families of recovering addicts, as well as Journey of Hope, which deals specifically with substance abusers and their families.

"Evangelism—telling others about Jesus—is the primary focus behind every activity of the church," Burdette said. "I believe any church can grow if the congregation is willing to accept anyone regardless of their background. Our target group is anyone who is breathing."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 1 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Somerset, and Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 1-3 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave National Park.
- 2 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 4-5 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Cedarmore Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 6-8 DOM Leadership Event, Cedarmore Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 8 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Russell, and St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 9 Children's Bible Drill, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 12 Iron Sharpening Iron, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Cadiz.
- 16 WMU SALT, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 18 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 18-19 Youth Minister's Spring Retreat, Georgetown College.
- 19 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

June

- 6 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.
- 13-20 Kentucky Changers, Princeton.
- 14-21 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Retreat & Tour, Campbellsville University.
- 15-19 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 19-20 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 22-26 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 25-27 Pursuit Student Leadership Academy, Campbellsville University.
- 26-27 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Conference Center, Hardin.
- 26-27 Girls in Action Camp, Jonathan Creek Conference Center, Hardin.
- 26-27 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek Conference Center, Hardin.
- 26-27 Catch the Excitement State Missions Event, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta.
- 27-7/4 Kentucky Changers, Frankfort/Lawrenceburg.
- 29-7/1 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

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

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

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: 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: 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 before April 29, 2009.

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

SEEKING: Part-time music 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 postmarked by May 18, 2009.

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

TOURS: Israel Pilgrimage plus Egypt. Nov. 9. For a brochure, contact Pastor Jack Studie: (270) 889-7604; or jstudie@aol.com. Experience you can trust.

Zimbabwe in crisis



READY TO LEARN Students in Zimbabwe hold aloft a book relaying an AIDS awareness message, distributed among school supplies in a Baptist-sponsored relief project. (BGR photo)

With economic crisis gripping the needy African nation, Southern Baptists respond

By Mark Kelly

Harare, Zimbabwe—Southern Baptists are continuing to provide desperately needed relief to families suffering in Zimbabwe's unprecedented economic disaster.

"The current unemployment rate is reported to be 94 percent and the annual inflation rate was estimated this past October at 2 trillion percent," noted Mark Hatfield, who directs work in Sub-Saharan Africa for Baptist Global Response. "One expert put the rate in December at 516 quintillion percent—the highest ever recorded."

The country's new national unity government emerged from a weekend retreat earlier this month with a visionary 100-day plan to bring Zimbabwe out of its downward spiral. The agenda focuses on five "clusters"—the economy, security, infrastructure, social services, and interests and rights.

The challenge they face, however, staggers the imagination, Hatfield said. The only goods available in stores are priced in foreign currency that ordinary citizens do not have. Those who do have money in the bank are limited to withdrawals too small to purchase food. Hospitals are hamstrung by a lack of medicines, water and electricity. Schools cannot function for lack of teachers and supplies.

Land of "desperate need"

"Overall, the situation in Zimbabwe is worse than I have ever seen it," Hatfield observed. "The lack of jobs, currency, water and food has collapsed the country's economy. I am filled with appreciation for the way Southern Baptists allow me to represent them as we physically demonstrate the love of Christ to people in desperate need."

Southern Baptists have responded on several fronts, including food distribution, assistance to Sanyati Baptist Hospital and providing school supplies.

A new phase of food distribution was launched in mid-March, sending 45-pound boxes of staple items to 5,000 of Zimbabwe's neediest families, according to Hatfield. Southern Baptist field partners are working with Zimbabwe's 240-plus Baptist churches to identify the most vulnerable people in their communities.

"Many times that will include

single-parent households, widows, orphans, people who are HIV-positive and households headed by grandparents," he said.

The new distribution continues a project that has been running since December 2007 and has delivered more than 2,500 food boxes to needy families. Each box includes food staples like rice, oil, salt, powdered milk, corned beef and beans to help families stave off starvation.

The \$170,000 allocated from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund for the new distribution will be replaced as Baptist Global Response receives donations for the Zimbabwe food project.

Hospital in need

Chronic shortages of water, electricity and essential medicine have hampered ministry for many months at Sanyati Baptist Hospital, a high-profile ministry of Southern Baptist international missions since the 1950s, Hatfield noted. Of the two city water pumps serving the hospital compound, one was completely broken and the other was pumping at only half capacity when electricity was available.

Southern Baptists responded with an allocation of \$45,000 in relief funds to provide a supply of basic antibiotics, anti-malarial medicines and other essentials to the hospital. Two deep wells were dug on site and replacements were ordered for the worn-out city pumps. Last fall, Hatfield also interceded with the district electrical supply office to give the hospital priority service.

"During my entire visit, there was no electricity," he recalled. "They had been holding surgery cases, but with no electricity and no water they were not able to sterilize instruments."

Another crucial issue for Zimbabwe's children is the lack of school supplies, Hatfield pointed out. Basic necessities such as composition books are beyond the reach of most families.

"It would cost two months' wages for a family with three children in public school to purchase exercise books," he said. "That's impossible for the average family."

Southern Baptists and their Zimbabwe Baptist partners used \$125,000 in general relief funds to provide the composition books, pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners

N.C. widow makes dresses for orphans

By Mike Creswell

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe—The orphan girls stood silently as the brown paper parcels were opened, their eyes widening as they began to think maybe this was something for them.

They squealed with delight when colorful new dresses were handed to them.

A new dress is a remarkable and precious thing in the impoverished country. Zimbabwe has been battered by economic collapse, political turmoil, violence and disease in recent years. A cholera outbreak in late 2008 killed more than 4,000 people and sickened at least 10,000.

But those numbers are small compared to the ongoing AIDS epidemic, which has killed millions across central and southern Africa, leaving countless children orphaned—like those at the home in Bulawayo, which is assisted by the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe.

"The kids are all smiles," said Ann Mitchell, executive director of the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe. "The materials used are a constant cause of amazement. They will last for ages, even if they are pounded

on a rock in the washing process. The designs are so very different from anything seen here. What a blessing."

Getting the dresses delivered was made possible by Southern Baptist missionaries who partnered with staff from Baptist Global Response. General relief donations paid for 600 dresses to be delivered to Zimbabwe.

The dresses themselves, however, came from the hands of Addilene Leonard of Louisburg, N.C., a town about 30 minutes from Raleigh, the state capital.

Baptists use Bibles, puppets, videos and many other tools for missions. Leonard uses her sewing machine.

Her small drapery workshop sits beside her hillside house on Highway 56 near the outskirts of Louisburg, but from here Leonard has seen a world in need—and responded.

Making 600 dresses would be a large assignment for even a good seamstress, but Leonard is a sewing machine master. An active 87 years

old, she operated a drapery business for some 50 years. Her drapes still hang in many homes and offices around the area, designed by her and stitched together by her six workers. She even sent custom drapes to other states and as far away as Canada and Greece.

Over the years she has made numerous missions trips, often traveling with a sewing machine so she could make and donate drapes

and curtains. Making these as a ministry occurred to her years ago when she attended a Woman's Missionary Union meeting at Camp Mundo Visa near Asheboro, N.C.

"I saw there was a need for curtains and drapes in the cottages and the office. They really needed somebody's touch," she recalled.

She returned with her sewing machine and whipped up curtains for two offices and two cottages.

She has made window treatments for offices and cottages of Kennedy Home, part of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina; LifeWay's Ridgcrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.; and for churches in West Virginia and Vermont, among others.

Leonard is modest about her life's work and spurns any praise, but acknowledged that she has indeed had an interesting life. "I haven't sprouted any wings yet," she said.

When Leonard's husband, Q.S., retired in the 1980s, the two traveled some and went fishing. But after he died in 1988, she dusted off her sewing machines and kept busy. "I'm not one to sit around ... watching soap operas," she explained.

Making drapes was an artistic expression for her, not just work, she said. She took up painting and turned out canvases good enough for local churches to sell for missions projects.

"Your life is a product of what you create. I pray I'll be productive until the day I die," she said.

And those 600 dresses?

That was just a small portion of what she made over several months. She actually put together a total of 1,335 dresses. The others went to Haiti, another poor country where a new dress can light up faces with smiles.



DRESSMAKER Addilene Leonard of North Carolina shows off a dress like the ones she made for orphan girls in Zimbabwe, an African country in severe economic crisis. (BGR photo)

Survey: More Muslim than Protestant teens in Canada

Toronto—More teenagers in Canada identify themselves as Muslim than with the Anglican, Baptist and United churches combined, according to a recent survey.

Project Kids Canada, which has tracked thousands of youth in an ongoing survey since 1984, polled more than 5,500 teenagers, according to Project Kids director and sociologist Reginald Bibby of the University of Lethbridge.

The upswing in Islam—plus three other major non-Western religions—is largely due to immigration, Bibby said.

His research showed that the number of teens who identified themselves as members of "other faiths," (including Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and aboriginal spirituality) grew to 16 percent last year, compared with 3 percent in 1984. Muslims accounted for 5 percent of that group. During the same period, teens who claimed membership in Roman Catholic or mainline Protestant denominations dropped dramatically.

While exactly half of teens in 1984 identified themselves as Roman Catholic, that number fell to 32 percent in 2008. Atheism also is on the rise, with nearly a third reporting "no faith at all" in 2008, compared with 12 percent in 1984. (RNS)

to needy families so their children could stay in school. The 250,000 exercise books that were distributed had stories on the covers that emphasized Christ's love and communicated an AIDS-awareness message. One in four people in Zimbabwe are living with the virus that causes AIDS.

Hatfield has asked Christians to pray that Zimbabwe's new power-sharing government would succeed in the challenge they face and that God would pour out His compassion and provision on the country's long-suffering people.

Hatfield also expressed deep gratitude for Southern Baptists and other Christians in the United States who continue to give faithfully to their churches, as well as to hunger and relief causes, in spite of the economic pressure on many families.

"You are a people who care about people in need," he said. "It would be hard to find a place where the needs are greater or more urgent than in Zimbabwe." (BP)

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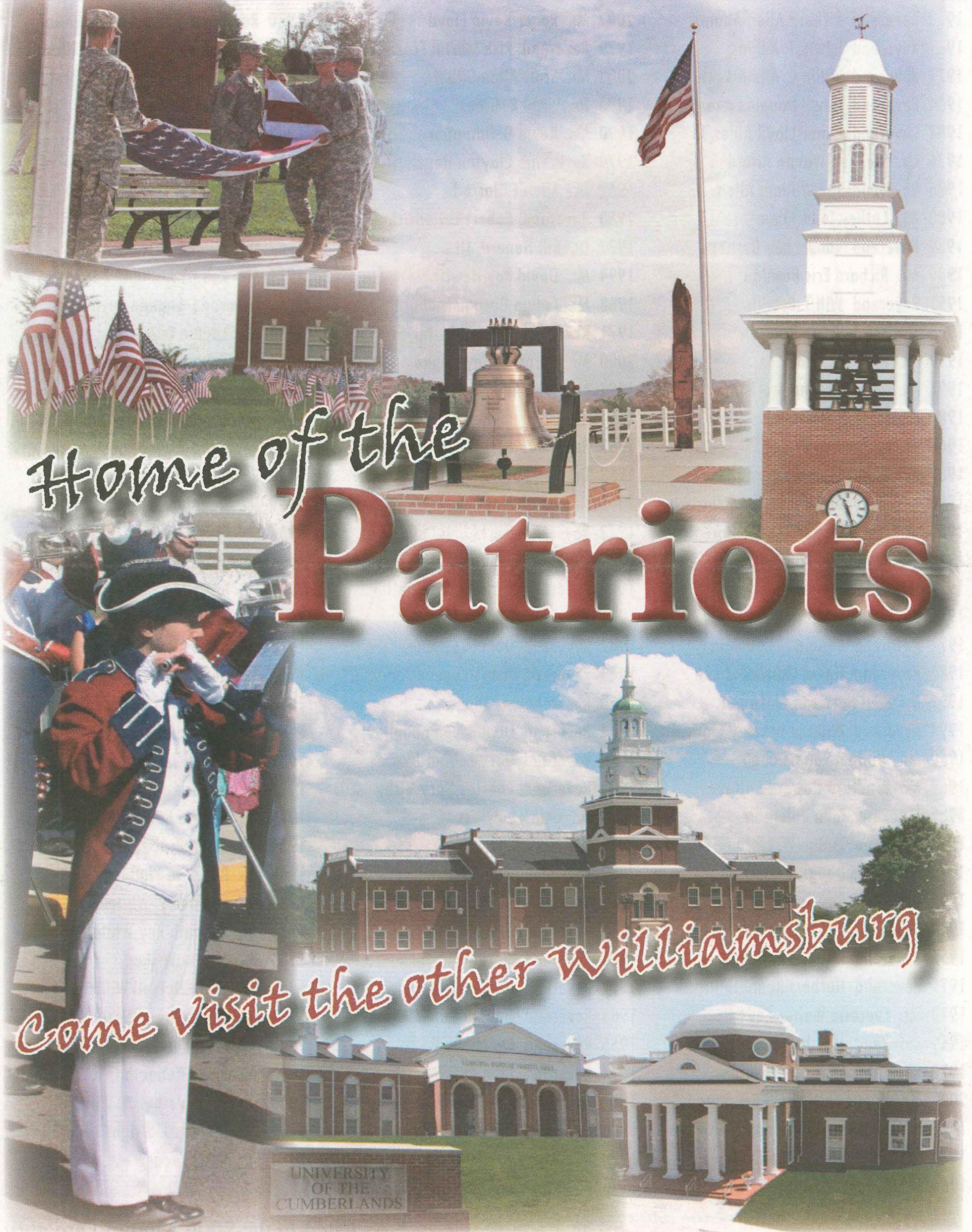


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Who is 524concepts?

524concepts is the church resources division of Crossings Ministries (Kentucky Baptist Assemblies). We've spent over a decade working with churches in the camp and retreat ministry. Now we want to extend our hand to the local church in a new way – assisting with marketing needs like bulletin design, logo development, banner printing, and, of course, custom web development.

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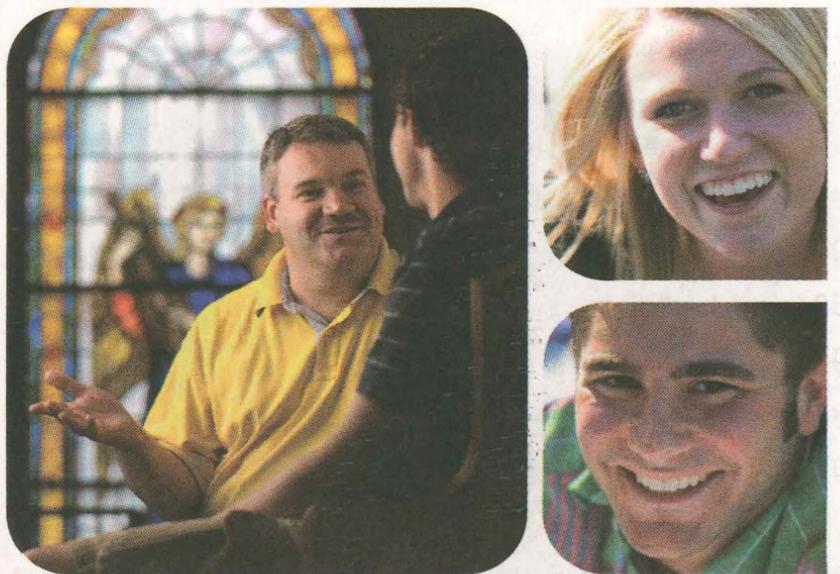
University of the Cumberland's alumni serving as Baptist pastors in Kentucky*

1979 Reverend Richard Allen Adams	2002 Mr. Roger Kevin Floyd	1980 Reverend Ralph Douglas Neal
1987 Reverend Edwin T. Adkins	1979 Reverend Rick Martin Frazier	1978 Reverend Wendle Shane Nickell
1977 Reverend Willie E. Ailstock, III	2003 Mr. Scott Allan Gilbert	1972 Mr. Glenn Noe
1964 Reverend David Douglas Aker	1990 Dr. Virgil R. Grant	1979 Mr. John Nunley
1984 Reverend Elmer Lloyd Alder, Jr.	1990 Mr. Kevin D. Hampton	1983 Mr. Jimmy Scott Orrick
1976 Mr. Stephen Wayne Alford	1979 Reverend Clayton Hanshaw	1988 Dr. Wesley Paul
1996 Reverend Joe William Allen, Jr.	1962 Dr. Allen F. Harrod	1954 Reverend Marshall Phillips
1980 Mr. Luther Todd Allen	1968 Reverend Robert L. Hedrick	1956 Mr. H.G. Pratt
1979 Reverend Robert Lee Barnes	1977 Dr. Bill Henard, III	1967 Dr. Floyd D. Price
1989 Mr. Richard Eric Bowden	1994 Mr. David Ray Hewitt	1999 Mr. Robert Anthony Pursley
1951 Reverend Will T. Bowlin	1968 Mr. Calvin Durand Hibbard	1955 Reverend Eugene Reynolds
1992 Mr. Roddy Gene Bracken	1971 Reverend Richard E. Hill, Sr.	1980 Mr. Lonnie Riley
1990 Mr. Archie C. Brock	2000 Mr. Aaron Denny Hogue	1990 Mr. Kevin W. Roach
1991 Mr. Wesley Glenn Brockway	1997 Mr. Johnnie L. Holloway	1991 Reverend Matthew K. Robbins
1984 Dr. Jerry T. Browning	1951 Reverend RB Hooks, Jr.	1976 Mr. Leonard Charles Robinson
1969 Dr. Michael W. Bryant, Sr.	1957 Reverend Earl J. Hopkins	1972 Reverend Philip Daniel Ronk
1987 Mr. Robert Eugene Burnett	1963 Dr. Ralph Nolan Hopkins	1992 Reverend Robert Wesley Roy, Jr.
1991 Reverend Richard Preston Burns	2002 Reverend Matthew A. Howe	1999 Mr. Donald George Settles
1976 Dr. James Edward Carpenter	1973 Reverend David L. Hughes	1961 Dr. Gary K. Sharp
1970 Dr. Anthony B. Carson	1974 Reverend Johnny M. Jervis, Jr.	1991 Reverend Troy D. Shelton
1976 Mr. William Ronald Cathers	1976 Reverend Timothy Jerome Johnson	1979 Mr. Brian Lee Shoemaker
1979 Reverend Michael Caudill	1984 Reverend Albert Wayne Jones	1977 Dr. Allen Lee Shouse
1971 Reverend Ronald L. Chastain	1984 Reverend Donald L. Jones	1976 Mr. James E. Simpson
1982 Reverend David Charles Cheek	1965 Reverend Janus Eugene Jones	1977 Reverend Michael Thomas Smith
1992 Dr. Paul Harrison Chitwood,	1950 Mr. Robert C. Jones	1966 Reverend Sam B. Smith
1994 Reverend William Bradley Clark, Jr.	1972 Reverend Donald Joe Kannady	1978 Mr. Richard Spencer
1963 Mr. William Robert Cobb	1978 Reverend Gary Leonard Kasey	1982 Mr. Denvil Taylor, Jr.
1969 Mr. Bradford Howard Coffey	1983 Reverend Charles Gary Kirby	1973 Mr. James Edward Taylor
1989 Mr. Peter John Coleman	1985 Dr. Chuck Lawless	1975 Mr. George Edward Thompson
1973 Reverend Isaiah W. Cotton	1958 Dr. Jerry D. Lowrie	1984 Reverend Bruce E. Treon
1979 Mr. Bruce Douglas Couch	2000 Dr. James Philip Majors	1963 Mr. Robey A. Walters
1955 Reverend Ray Cummins	1967 Dr. Robert D. Mantooth	1988 Mr. Stephen L. Whitaker
1984 Reverend Robert Jay Day	1977 Reverend Drew Martin	1976 Mr. Kenneth Ray Whitehouse, Sr.
1956 Reverend Richard A. DeBell	1966 Reverend Marion Martin	1985 Mr. Tom A. Wicker
1979 Reverend Herbert Kenneth Dick	1972 Reverend Donald G. McGuire	1967 Mr. Roger Darrell Williams
1970 Mr. Everette Walter Eads	1984 Reverend Jimmie Dale McKinney	1991 Reverend Hiram Wesly Williamson
1955 Reverend Marshall N. Eastham	1955 Reverend Bill Mitchell	2002 Mr. Jack Wendall Willis, II
1972 Reverend Victor L. Edwards	1974 Reverend John Carl Moore	1978 Reverend Kenneth Ora Willoughby
2002 Mr. Jonathan Michael Eskridge	1987 Mr. Timothy A. Morris	1963 Reverend Arthur A. Wilson
1968 Reverend Roy S. Faulkner	1976 Reverend Terry Zane Murphy	2001 Mr. Thomas J. Wright
1974 Reverend Steve Fegenbush	1978 Mr. James Ernest Murray, Jr.	1974 Mr. Terry Yeager
1964 Mr. Robert A. Finley	1976 Reverend George Lee Naylor	

* As listed in the 2006 Alumni Directory

aspire

At University of the Cumberland, our students' aspirations are as tall as the mountains that surround our campus. Students like being accountable in small, supportive classes. They put themselves in the middle of everything – building homes through the Mountain Outreach Program, teaching English in China for the summer, competing in athletics, making music – and becoming leaders who will change the world through faith, service, and commitment.



WILLIAMSBURG, KENTUCKY



UC offers a quality education in a wide range of academic subjects. Students can enjoy a diverse student body and unique ministry opportunities, as well as competitive sports programs, fine arts and social events. My involvement in missions as a student at UC ignited my passion for evangelism and missions.

Richard Harris, DMin, Class of 1970
Senior Strategist, Missions Advancement Team,
North American Mission Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention



God began to grab my heart for global missions while I sat in a History of Christian Missions class in the early 1980s. Traveling to Israel with Professor Milton Murphy, a former SBC missionary, only strengthened my interest. Little did I know then that God was starting a process that would affect the rest of my life.

Chuck Lawless, PhD., Class of 1985
Dean, Billy Graham School of Missions,
Evangelism and Church Growth
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



Some of the most formative years I had in ministry occurred during my days at UC. I made friendships that last to this day, both with fellow students and professors. The administration went beyond the call of duty to insure that my needs were met. I can truly say that I owe much of where I am today to UC.

Bill Henard, DMin, PhD., Class of 1977
Senior Pastor, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky
President, Kentucky Baptist Convention 2007-2008
First Vice President, Southern Baptist Convention 2008-2009
Chair, Board of Trustees, LifeWay Christian Resources



My UC education was a vital part of the foundation I needed in preparation for ministry. I look back with deep appreciation for my time there. I am especially grateful for the men and women who invested their time and energy as instructors in the classroom and in my life's path.

Paul Chitwood, PhD., Class of 1992
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington, Kentucky
President, Kentucky Baptist Convention 2005-2006
Chair, Board of Trustees, International Mission Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention

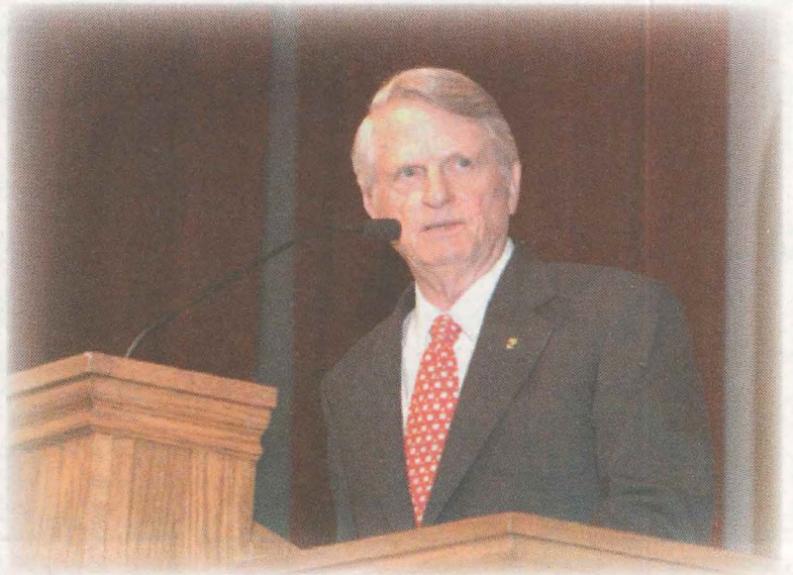
UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

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In 2009, University of the Cumberlands celebrates 120 years of teaching students to value the qualities of patriotism, leadership and faith, which inspired America's founders.

For a number of years, outstanding patriots and leaders in their fields have visited our campus, leaving some of their wisdom and taking with them some of the unique spirit that is University of the Cumberlands. Among those individuals are former President Jimmy Carter, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, columnist Helen Thomas, TV personality Willard Scott and actress Patricia Neal.

Then four years ago, the Forcht Group of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Leadership began sponsoring an annual leadership program on campus each spring and has since brought a variety of outstanding leaders to speak to the Cumberlands community.



Judge Roy Moore

Moral Leadership

2006

Zell Miller

Patriotic Leadership

2007

Stephen Covey

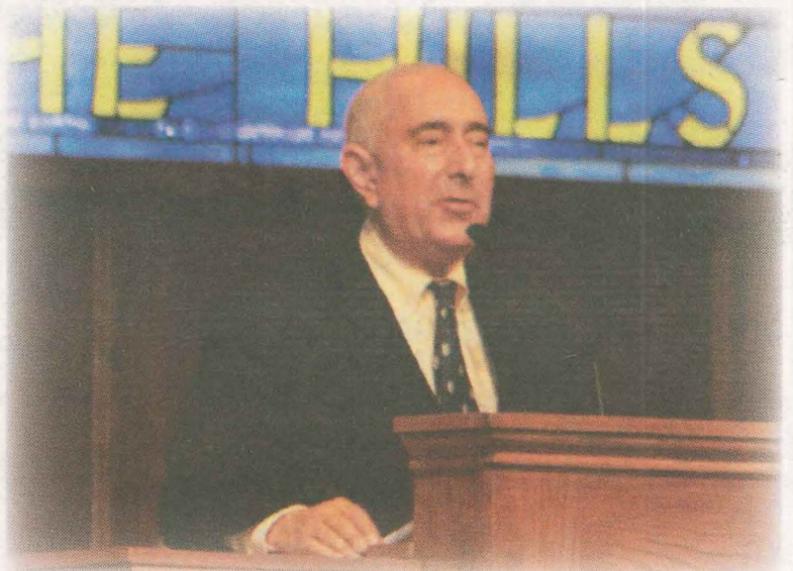
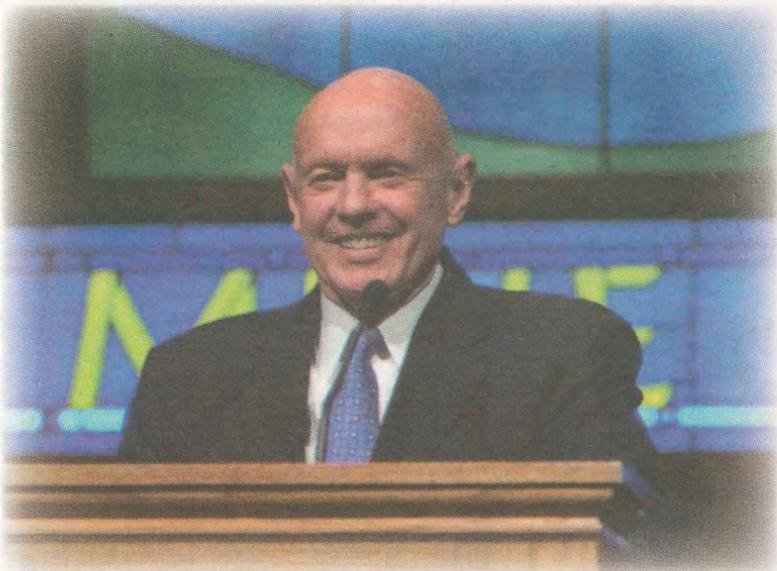
Principle-Centered Leadership

2008

Ben Stein

21st Century Leadership

2009



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