

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

May 5, 2009  
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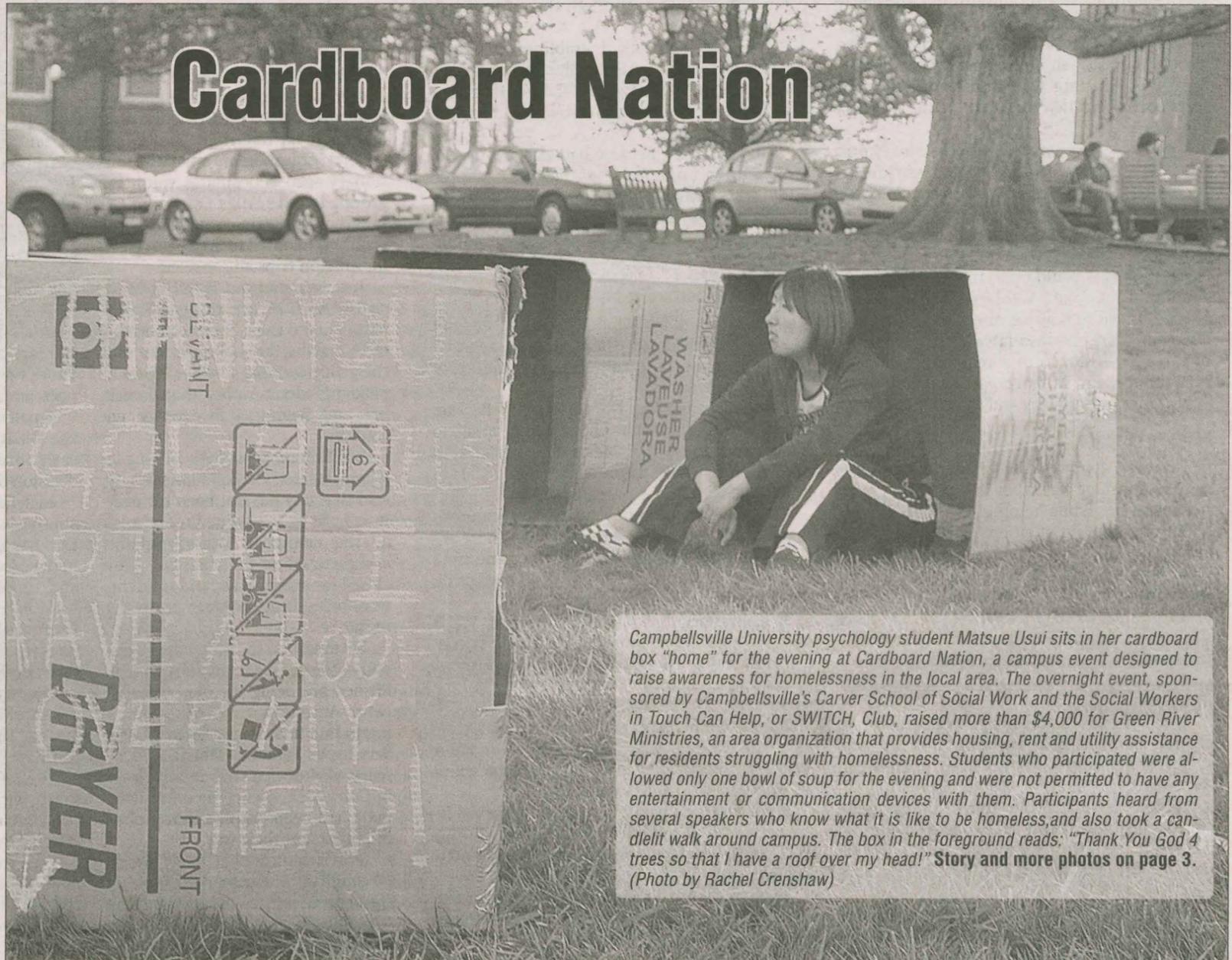
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## Cardboard Nation

Campbellsville University psychology student Matsue Usui sits in her cardboard box "home" for the evening at Cardboard Nation, a campus event designed to raise awareness for homelessness in the local area. The overnight event, sponsored by Campbellsville's Carver School of Social Work and the Social Workers in Touch Can Help, or SWITCH, Club, raised more than \$4,000 for Green River Ministries, an area organization that provides housing, rent and utility assistance for residents struggling with homelessness. Students who participated were allowed only one bowl of soup for the evening and were not permitted to have any entertainment or communication devices with them. Participants heard from several speakers who know what it is like to be homeless, and also took a candlelit walk around campus. The box in the foreground reads: "Thank You God 4 trees so that I have a roof over my head!" **Story and more photos on page 3.** (Photo by Rachel Crenshaw)

## Poll shows views of homosexuality are 'inconsistent'

Hamden, Conn.—A survey of American attitudes toward homosexuality reveals a "nuanced and at times inconsistent" view on gay rights, with Americans saying states should not be forced to recognize same-sex unions, but also saying gay couples should have access to federal spousal benefits.

A Quinnipiac University poll found Americans torn over the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman at the federal level and allows states not to recognize same-sex unions performed in other states.

Americans slightly support the provision that allows states to not recognize gay unions, but a slim majority supports federal spousal benefits.

The poll showed gay causes are getting increased support from Jews and Catholics, but evangelicals remain the most opposed to same-sex issues. (RNS)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 6

## Flu outbreak affecting Southern Baptists

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Geneva, Switzerland—With the number of reported swine flu cases around the world nearing 1,000, concerns are growing about international travel—among Southern Baptists especially.

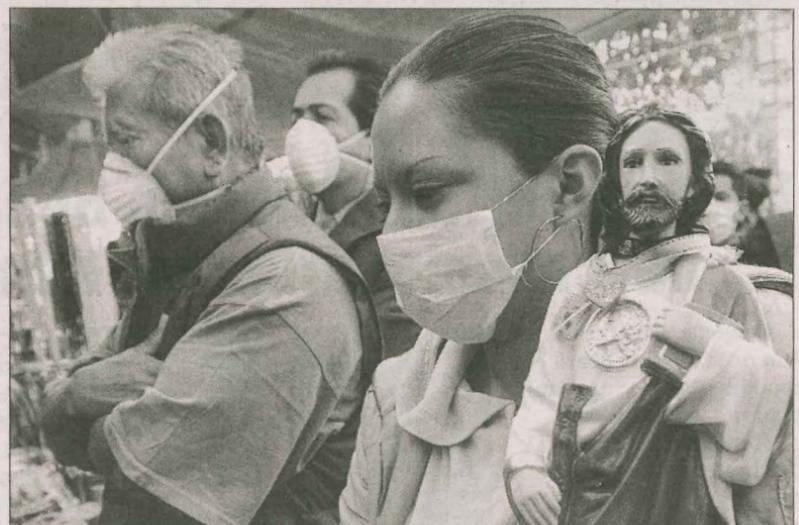
As of press time, the World Health Organization's Web site reported that 985 people in 20 countries have been infected with the swine flu virus. More than half of those cases have been reported in Mexico, 26 resulting in death.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 226 cases of swine flu in the United States. A 22-month-old boy from Texas is the country's only confirmed death from the virus thus far.

While efforts to control the spread of the virus increase, there is growing concern about travel, mostly across international borders.

The CDC last week issued a traveling health warning, recommending that "U.S. travelers avoid all non-essential travel to Mexico."

That conflicts with the WHO's stance that travel restrictions prompted by the flu outbreak



**SEEKING PROTECTION** Members of a Mexico City church wear protective masks as they pray outside their building April 28. The World Health Organization has reported more than 500 confirmed cases of swine flu infections in Mexico, 26 of which resulted in death. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has urged U.S. residents to avoid "non-essential" travel to Mexico. (RNS photo by Daniel Aguilar/Reuters)

"would have very little effect on stopping the virus from spreading, but would be highly disruptive to the global community," according to a statement on the WHO Web site.

The International Mission Board, however, has taken notice of the

CDC's recommendation. Last week, the Southern Baptist missions organization released a statement saying that it was "suspending non-emergency travel by its personnel to Mexico."

□ See Southern Baptists ... Page 2

# Southern Baptists dealing with effects of swine flu outbreak

## Swine flu: Church preparation & ministry opportunity

By Ken Walker  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Louisville**—With Kentucky Baptists set to play a key role in the Southern Baptist Convention's response to a potential flu pandemic, the director of Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief said churches need to prepare now to help.

The North American Mission Board put Kentucky's Baptist Men on Mission group on alert April 30, signaling that disaster relief volunteers could be called out if the swine flu situation worsens.

Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for Baptist Men on Mission, foresees great opportunities for churches to meet needs. If the problem expands as many health officials fear, he said Baptists can offer both immediate help and eternal hope.

"I think this could open the doors for us to share that message," Webb noted. "Much of it may be linked to how we minister in the crisis. By making ourselves available and by people being able to see our faith is real and that we do care about them, we can create tremendous opportunities for ministry and evangelism."

### Ways to prepare

However, to meet the challenge churches need to consider ways they can maintain existing operations while helping suffering victims.

Among the preparations Webb suggested are:

- Planning ways of continuing worship in the event services have to be canceled for an extended period of time. This could be via television, radio, Internet or other ways of distributing sermons, greetings and prayer concerns.

- Ensuring that the church can continue functioning.

Webb advised establishing procedures for accepting credit card donations and other gifts so such bills as utilities and staff salaries can be paid.

"When the winter ice storm hit us, some churches couldn't meet for two weeks, but in a pandemic it could be six to eight weeks," Webb pointed out. "That could be devastating to a small church."

- Making hand sanitizer and soap available at church gatherings, since hand washing and other precautions are among the best ways to prevent viruses from spreading.

- Informing people about N-95 masks, similar to the type disaster relief volunteers wear during mud-out work after floods. While it may not be necessary for churches to purchase them, they can let members know about them, Webb said.

- Develop a calling list so the church can

reach everyone, particularly the elderly and others most vulnerable to the flu.

"How are you going to contact your shut-ins?" Webb asked. "You may need to develop a plan to minister to them. It may require ministry in different ways, through the computer or phone calls.

"If they're elderly or vulnerable, at least check on them so they're not isolated to the point they don't get help," he suggested. "I don't think any of us know the impact a pandemic could have on local communities."

If the situation became bad enough to warrant setting up mass care facilities, church buildings could serve as such centers, Webb said. He pointed out that in many of Kentucky's rural communities, churches are the largest buildings in those areas.

### Volunteer opportunities

Even if Kentucky Baptist churches are not used as care facilities, there may be opportunities for members to volunteer at hospitals or health departments.

After receiving the NAMB alert, Webb said he realized that disaster relief could be asked to handle such tasks as a "Meals on Wheels" kind of operation, where volunteers deliver meals to individuals too sick to prepare food.

"We need to look at how we can start connecting with those in need," Webb noted. "There are risks any time we volunteer. At the same time we have to look at what Christ would have us do when our neighbors are hurting."

If it becomes obvious help is needed, Webb said the first step a church should take is contacting the nearest hospital, health department or emergency management agency to ask how it can help.

"You wouldn't want to do something on your own," he warned. "With this issue, there are a lot of concerns your local health care professionals would need to help you deal with."

Preparing for a pandemic will be reviewed in greater detail at a workshop scheduled during the Disaster Preparedness Fair at KBC headquarters May 12.

Leading the session will be a member of the Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness agency's homeland security unit.

Baptist Men's disaster relief unit is preparing to serve 350 meals, although with the increased interest in the flu virus, that number could go higher.

"We had been talking about the avian (bird) flu," Webb said of discussions in recent months about a possible pandemic. "There's a fear that if a virus mutates, it could spring from human to human, which appears to be the case with this."

Continued from page 1

The news release stated that all personnel already in Mexico must get approval from IMB leadership and its medical department before traveling to the United States. If approved, those individuals are required to remain "self-quarantined ... for several days and remain symptom free before engaging in further activity."

The IMB also has encouraged U.S. churches with mission trips planned to Mexico to heed the CDC's warning and not make the trip.

Jerri Younkman, an IMB missionary who coordinates volunteer groups for the IMB's Operation GO program in Mexico, said that three groups scheduled to arrive last week for mission trips all canceled.

A group that did travel to Mexico City April 25, according to Younkman, altered their outreach because of the swine flu outbreak. She said the group decided to place Bibles at residents' doors rather than knocking and having a face-to-face encounter.

Younkman, who lives in Guadalajara, Mexico's second-largest city, said that city has not been hit nearly as hard by the swine flu outbreak as the country's capital. Schools and factories in the state had been closed for several days, and residents were being urged to wear protective masks.

Meanwhile, some groups originally scheduled for mission trips in Mexico are being diverted to other Latin American countries, according to IMB missionary Kevin Morris. Serving in Panama, Morris said he received a notice that missionaries in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala had been notified that groups might be sent their way.

Morris indicated it likely would be tough to accommodate some of those groups since the mission trip schedules in most of the Latin American countries already are booked through November.

While the flu epidemic still is in its early stages, Morris said it is too soon to tell how long mission trips to Mexico will be affected.

"It would be strictly speculation on anybody's part where this flu epidemic is going to go," he noted. "It could clear up very quickly and everything would be back on schedule.

Or, it's a possibility it could be a longer-term thing that lasts throughout the year."

A wait-and-see approach is Jim Castlen's strategy for a mission trip to Mexico in early July. The director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association has a team lined up to do work in Morelia, a city of 750,000 people about a half day's drive from Mexico City.

"At this point, we're going ahead in good faith, trusting the Lord that the door will still be open" in July, he said.

The 10-member team representing five associational churches is planning to do neighborhood gospel presentations and vacation Bible schools while in Morelia. Thus far, Castlen said, the town has not had any reports of swine flu infections.

But, he acknowledged, if the situation changes and becomes risky, "I'd say we would shut it down. There's no way I would want to put my team members at risk."

Castlen said he intends to assess the situation through May and into early June before making the final decision on the trip.

Rick Reeder has adopted a similar approach. His Caldwell-Lyon Association has a partnership with Baptists in the Mexican state of Zacatecas. He and three others, including Carlos de la Barra, ethnic associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, have a July trip scheduled to conduct a pastors' conference in that area.

"Right now, I don't have any plans to cancel it," Reeder said. "I feel like by that time, everything's going to be OK."

The DOM said he has been in touch with his partners in Zacatecas, which also has not been greatly affected by the swine flu outbreak.

Even though concern is not great now, Reeder admitted that could change if the number of reported infections spikes.

"There's an exponential reality there that makes you realize that there is actually something happening, and you don't want to put people at risk," Reeder noted.

"You don't want to make people feel guilty about having to make a decision between doing what they know is right under normal circumstances versus putting themselves in some kind of physical danger."

## North American Mission Board names new missionaries for Kentucky

**Alpharetta, Ga.**—The North American Mission Board has appointed three new missionaries in Kentucky.

Trent and Elizabeth DeLoach are serving in Louisville, where Trent has been named as a church planting missionary pastor. He has worked within the international community of Louisville for the past five years, especially among Bosnian Muslims. In his new post, he will spend the next two years identifying the nations represented in Louisville and equip local Southern Baptist churches to love and serve the international community. DeLoach earned a B.A. degree in pastoral ministries at Toccoa Falls College in Georgia, and an



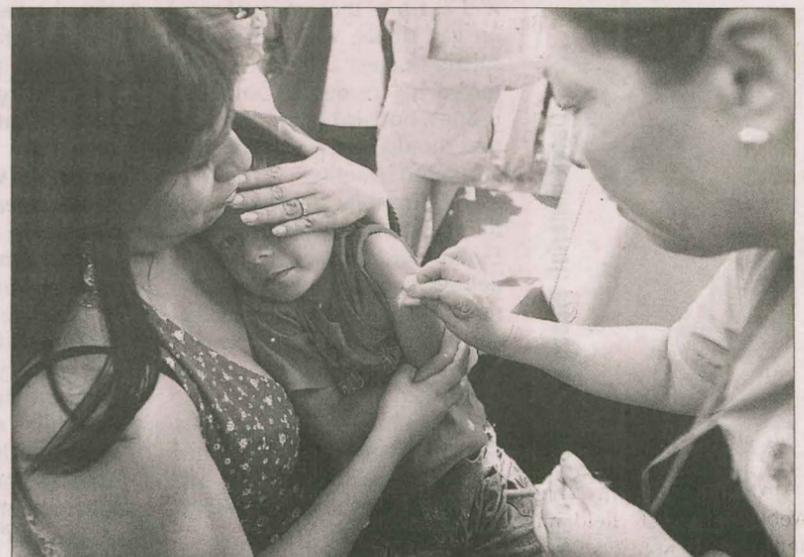
Trent & Elizabeth DeLoach



Heather Reynolds

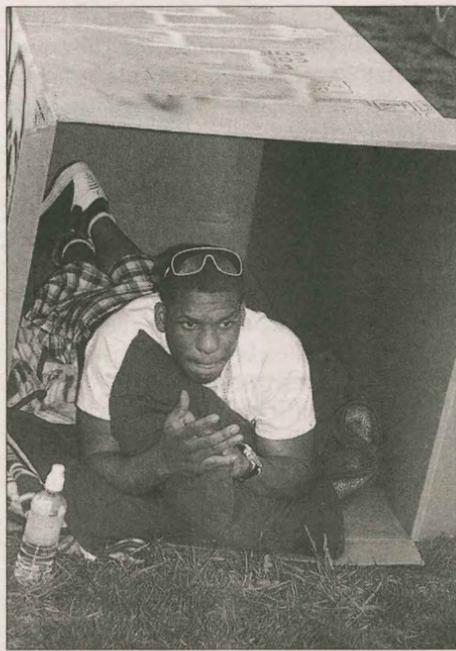
M.Div. degree in evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently is working on his doctorate in missiology at Southern Seminary. His wife, Elizabeth, earned a bachelor's degree at Toccoa Falls College, and an M.A. degree at Southern Seminary.

Heather Reynolds also will serve as a NAMB church planting team missionary in Louisville. Since 2007, she has worked in a Nehemiah Church Planting internship at Southern Seminary. Heather earned a B.A. degree in Christian education at Lincoln Christian College and Seminary in Lincoln, Ill. She is working on her master's degree at Southern Seminary.



A boy is comforted by his mother after being vaccinated against influenza at the Health Ministry in Lima April 30. Peru has diagnosed its first case of swine flu, and it appeared to be the first case in Latin America confirmed outside of Mexico. (Photo by Pilar Olivares/Reuters)

## Campbellsville's Cardboard Nation spotlights homelessness



By Rachel Crenshaw  
Campbellsville University

**Campbellsville**—Several cardboard boxes littered the main lawn at Campbellsville University as students from Campbellsville University's Carver School of Social Work attempted to imitate the experience of being homeless for one night.

The Social Workers in Touch Can Help, or SWITCH, Club, an organization made up of social-work students, hosted the event April 17-18 on the campus' Stapp Lawn.

SWITCH Club president Diana Gardiner of Erwin, Tenn., said the purpose of the event was to raise money for Green River Ministries, a homeless shelter located in Campbellsville, by illustrating what it felt like to be homeless for one night.

To simulate the experience, she noted, participants were asked to spend the night in a cardboard box with only the comfort of one item, a blanket. Each participant was given a box after they paid a rental fee, which was a minimum of \$25. Participants also were encouraged to raise sponsorship money, with the proceeds going to Green River Ministries.

"The event was very successful," Gardiner said. "We had over 20 people stay the entire night, and we raised around \$4,000 for the Green River Ministries. The SWITCH Club was extremely pleased with the outcome and look forward to next year's event."

Gardiner said the participants each received a bowl of soup prepared by SWITCH Club members. However, she pointed out, no other food, snacks or drinks were allowed. Also, no forms of entertainment or communication, such as cell phones or laptops, were permitted.



**NEW PERSPECTIVE** More than 20 students spent the night in cardboard boxes out on Campbellsville University's Stapp Lawn April 17-18. The event was a fundraiser called Cardboard Nation, sponsored by CU's Carver School of Social Work, intended to raise awareness of homelessness in the community and funds for Green River Ministries, a Campbellsville-area homeless advocacy organization. (Photo by Memo Quintana)

**AT 'HOME'** Top: Student Clarence Sayles lies in his cardboard "home" for the evening during the recent Cardboard Nation event at Campbellsville University. (Photo by Memo Quintana) Below: Junior Lauren Toadvine spray paints her cardboard "home." (Photo by Rachel Crenshaw)



## Kentucky Baptist honored with top award for disaster relief

**Phoenix**—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief leader Tom Westerfield received the Distinguished Service Award for 2008 for his outstanding volunteer service last year.

Westerfield, a Crofton resident, received the award April 23 at the 2009 National Disaster Relief Roundtable in Phoenix.

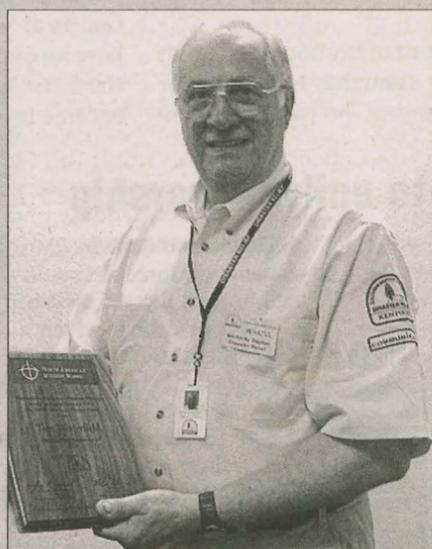
The Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board gives the national award each year to five recipients. According to KBC Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb, it is one of the highest awards that a Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteer can receive.

Westerfield has been an active disaster relief volunteer since 1993 and currently serves as the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief communications team leader, responsible for overseeing correspondence between active volunteer units on site.

In 2008 alone, he was a key leader in the KBC's relief efforts in Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Texas and the Republic of Georgia.

In addition to his volunteer service, Webb said Westerfield has "greatly enhanced our Kentucky communications unit by adding new equipment that has greatly expanded its communication capabilities."

"Tom has served in an extraordinary and sacrificial way in 2008," Webb con-



**HONOREE** Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteer Tom Westerfield poses with the 2008 Distinguished Service Award for his volunteer efforts last year.

tinued. "He has served countless volunteer hours and was instrumental in helping develop a state catastrophic disaster response plan for our state disaster relief team."

Webb said that Westerfield also is currently working on the construction of a new Kentucky shower unit.

Westerfield is a member of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

## Women of Worth conference seeks to 'encourage and equip' all women

**Somerset**—Kentucky Baptist women looking for encouragement in their faith can attend a Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference in Somerset or Shelbyville this month.

Motivational speaker Jennie Afman Dimkoff will lead the first conference, to be held at First Baptist Church of Somerset May 18.

A second event will be held May 19 at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, featuring Tony Evans Sr., pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, and Erin Bethea, co-star of the movie "Fireproof."

"I pray that all who attend a Women of Worth Conference will have a personal encounter with God that will lead to wholehearted commitment to him," said Shelly Johns, Kentucky Baptist Convention's women's/senior adult ministry associate. "Each speaker is so unique in the way he or she speaks to groups. I believe their uniqueness will translate into what each woman needs."

Both events will run from 4-9:15 p.m., and also will feature recording artist Anthony Evans Jr., and sign art evangelist Tyra Lokey-Robinson.

Actress Candace Cameron Bure was scheduled to appear at the Somerset event, but cancelled because of filming obligations. No replacement was announced at press time.

Pre-session workshops will be held at each location, featuring the topics:

- Loving Well: Showing Christ to people with different lifestyles.



**WORTHY WOMEN** This year's Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference will be held May 18 at First Baptist Church of Somerset, and May 19 at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

- Unwrapping Your Giftedness.
- Murder by Family: a Book Club discussion (Shelbyville only).
- Aiming to Please God: Spiritual Goal Planning (Somerset only).

"It is my prayer that women become healthy followers of Christ," Johns said. "This conference is just one avenue used to encourage and equip women in their faith through hearing God's Word, (and) to open the door for Christ to reach women who may not know Him personally."

Registration is \$25. Child care is available at both locations, but reservations must be made by May 11. Details and online registration are available at [www.KyBaptist.org/WOW](http://www.KyBaptist.org/WOW). For more information, call the KBC women's ministry area of the leadership development team office at (502) 489-3580, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3580.

## Spiritual maturity

I recently reviewed notes I took from some research on discipleship conducted by LifeWay Research for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Researcher Scott McConnell shared six of the most important factors discovered in individuals who scored high in the area of spiritual maturity. Here they are:

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

**Mature Christians read the Bible.** It is important to meditate on a passage until God speaks through it. Memorize the word of God.

**Mature Christians live to please and honor God.** Seriously and systematically examine your faith. Develop apologetics for your faith. Be the change you expect to see in others.

**Mature Christians pray for their church and church leaders.** We pray about concerns that are really important to us. Every church and the church's leaders desperately need the

prayers of church members. Leaders carry burdens and responsibilities beyond formal assignments. Because of their role, they are the subjects of spiritual warfare in all forms. When we pray for God to bless leaders, we are less likely to criticize and be more likely to help.

**Mature Christians accept personal responsibility to share Jesus.** The Great Commission represents the clear message of the entire Bible that God expects His people to share His message of love and hope through Jesus Christ. If you don't, who will do it for you?

I met a layman, Gene Ray, at Unity Baptist Church in Ashland who has been a model witness since the mid 80s when he received Continuing Witness Training. His pastor said that Gene is the most faithful witness he has known. Each of us is personally responsible to God.

**Mature Christians are comfortable sharing Jesus Christ.** One of the best ways to help people to become comfortable in sharing their faith is to help them practice sharing their testimony of how Jesus changed their lives and how He continues to work in their lives today.

The benefits of being a Christian, and the values of the local church and Bible study, are abundant. Recent surveys of unchurched individuals indicate that people are willing to listen to your story of life change. What a great time for every KBC church to teach members to incorporate the gospel in their testimony.

**Mature Christians intentionally make time to build relationships with non-believers.** Simplify ministry and life in order to build relationships with people who do not know Jesus. The Bible records that when Jesus intentionally decided to travel through Samaria, a city of unlikely prospects came to faith. Consider ways you can engage your community and the individuals who are in desperate need of the gospel.

All of us can take steps this week to grow spiritually and trust God to use us as His witnesses.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Recorder, KBC now going 'tweet tweetly-tweet'

All the little birdies on Jaybird Street love to hear the robin go tweet tweet tweet"—so the song goes. Now pastors, student ministers, state convention staff and even the *Western Recorder* may soon be joining in with that robin.

The Internet has brought a whole new vocabulary into our lives. Two of the latest expressions making the rounds are "facebooking" and "tweeting." According to a recent Baptist Press article, more than 140 million people worldwide have created Facebook pages, and an estimated 2.2 million are Twitter users.

Youth ministers and pastors are discovering how these internet resources can be used as tools for reaching and ministering to students and members of their congregation. A youth pastor in Minnesota, for example, organized an "Online Missions Trip." For two weeks, teenagers and youth leaders capitalized on social media opportunities that Facebook and Twitter provide to share Christ with unsaved friends all over the world.

Pam Case, director of LifeWay Women, "tweets" to more than 330 women as a way to stay connected with individuals in other churches who share a common interest in women's ministry. "Twitter is breaking down the walls and reinforcing the idea that we are all real people doing real work for the purpose of making Christ's name known," Case says.

John Cade, a member of LifeWay's student ministry team, is doing the same thing with a growing network of some 700 youth leaders. "Social networking helps to break down the barrier between us and our customers," he explains. "Budding pastors see that I am a legit person who cares deeply about them. I am available to answer their questions all the time."

Mike Landry, a pastor in Sarasota, Fla., believes every pastor should be "tweeting." In a recent article in the *Florida Baptist Witness*, he writes: "Transparency and authenticity are more than current buzzwords. People want to know if what they hear from their pastor is for real. They want to believe what they're taught from the Bible, but it's hard when they don't see examples of people actually living out these truths. Tweeting and blogging are great ways to demonstrate the daily practicalities of biblical truth," he continues. "It's like supplementing the weekly sermon with daily illustrations from your life."

But he aptly adds a wise word of caution: "You don't want to just tweet whatever thoughts come to your mind. You want to use discretion, be wise, and con-

structive. Never forget that you are modeling behavior that you would want others to learn from or imitate."

Among the latest Baptist entities to join the tweeting and facebooking craze are the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the *Western Recorder*. Both the KBC and the WR staffs are hoping their networking sites will promote conversations between Baptists across the state and encourage exchanges of helpful ministry ideas and resources. The networking sites—called fan pages—can be accessed through icons on their respective Web sites, [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org) and [www.westernrecorder.org](http://www.westernrecorder.org).

"We want to encourage Kentucky Baptists to share with us about what God is doing in their ministries, and how we can help support them in that work," says KBC Electronic Media Specialist Brenda Smith. "It's also a great way for them to connect with each other and the KBC at large."

The *Western Recorder* has a similar objective. "The *Western Recorder* is about storytelling, and that's basically what social media is," remarks Dannah Prather, partnership editions editor, who is coordinating the paper's Facebook venture. "Sometimes you feel as though you're wasting time reading Facebook updates or tweets about what someone had for lunch or whatever, but there are flowers among the weeds."

"Geography has always been a barrier for the Recorder," she continues. "We are a state newspaper but all of the staff members live in and around Louisville. Social media gives us an opportunity our predecessors here at the Recorder never would have dreamed of. When we post questions about story topics, or when we ask for help connecting about sources, I hope Kentucky Baptists will respond and give us direction. We want to be genuine and relevant. If we can get an active dialogue going, we can do a better job of informing and encouraging our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the state."

By providing its readers with another way to connect with us, the state newspaper's staff hopes you will see us as committed Christian servants who want to affirm and encourage the work of the local church and whose deepest desire is to promote the growth of the Kingdom of God. Through facebooking and tweeting, Baptist ministers and laypersons can share with the *Western Recorder* their joys and excitement about how God is at work through their lives, and we, in turn, have an opportunity to affirm them as they "shine like the stars" in sharing Christ and to encourage others to become involved in missions and ministry efforts.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Ten tiny tweaks to enliven worship

If someone snuck into your church and replaced Sunday's bulletins with last year's bulletins, would anyone notice? Need a few fresh ideas to keep your Sunday service from predictable sameness?

**1. Fill prime seating.** Challenge your church's most vibrant age group to help lead worship by filling the front and center seats weekly.

**2. Set the mood.** Set a relaxed, worshipful pre-service tone with live or recorded music, along with pre-service audiovisuals of announcements and scriptures.

**3. Light matters.** Use quality lighting during the pastor's sermon. To add variety, dim light for the Lord's Supper, backlight a musician, uplight a theme banner, shine colored lights on a focal wall, or spotlight a dramatic scene in the center aisle.

**4. Theme enthusiasm.** Plan ahead to visually reinforce a sermon series. Make banners for the worship center or exterior. Plan a serial skit or unique handout. Create a distinctive display for the foyer or stage.

**5. Rope off rear seating.** Ushers can help seat worshippers toward the front. They should graciously seat latecomers at an appropriate time and take care of interruptions and needs during worship.

**6. Quality music with variety.** Try adding a different instrument such as bagpipe, zither, violin or a person whistling. Try an echo duet from the balcony or worshipful solo from the audience.

**7. Smooth transition.** Intentional silence can be worshipful; "dead spots" are not. Does it take 90 seconds to arrange the children's choir or wait for someone to stroll to the mike? Plan carefully to use every

scheduled moment wisely.

**8. Intentional interaction.** Invite worshippers to reverently stand for Scripture reading. Offer a fill-in-the-blank sermon outline listening sheet. Quote 1 Chronicles 29:13-14 in unison before offertory.

**9. See with fresh eyes.** Ask a decorator to assess your church platform area. Inexpensive changes may make a huge impact—plants, rugs, paint colors, polished pulpit, rearranged seating, reupholstered furniture.

**10. Small adjustments create interest.** Rearrange choir seating or praise team placement. Vary the Scripture reader. Add seasonal flowers or banners. Slightly tweak the order of worship—baptism at the beginning, offertory last, or sing after the sermon.

As you plan worship for our great God, create anticipation with a fresh, updated plan every Sunday. Oh, and there might be an additional benefit: less snoring in church.

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

### Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

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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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## Real estate remainder interest gifts

By Laurie Valentine

One good thing coming out of today's low interest rate environment is renewed interest in charitable gift plans that use a factor tied to current interest rates to value the gift to charity. When interest rates are low, the value of the charitable portion of those plans is higher. One such plan is a gift of a remainder interest in real estate.

To give a remainder interest in real estate, you simply deed property to a charity while retaining for yourself the right to full use and enjoyment of the property for a term of years or the rest of your life. At the end of your retained interest, the property is immediately owned by the charity.

The income tax deduction for your gift is available in the year you deed the remainder interest to charity, not when your interest in the property ceases.

This type of gift plan allows you to take action now, but continue to have use of the property for as long as you want. For example, Martha and John Smith, ages 58 and 60, own a primary residence and a vacation home. The vacation home has a current value of \$100,000. Martha and John plan to sell both homes and move to Florida when John retires in 5 years.

Martha and John's church is in a five-year capital campaign. If Martha and John funded their gift to the capital campaign by deeding the vacation home to their church now, retaining the right to use it for the next five years, the value of the remainder interest given to their church would be \$83,884, if the interest rate factor used to value the charitable interest is 2.4 percent (the May 2009 factor).

The Smith's gift could provide over \$20,000 of income tax savings, if they are in the 25-percent tax bracket, and they have six years to use the full amount of the deduction. At the end of the five years, when they move to Florida, their church will own the vacation home and can sell it as the capital campaign is coming to an end.

Real estate remainder interest gifts: a gift plan that provides income tax savings to the giver now and a significant gift to charity in the future.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

## Elliff: Unforgiveness hinders pastors' ministries

By Mark Kelly

Mobile, Ala.—If Ed Litton is right, pastors and churches all over the country are hamstrung in ministry because of broken relationships—and an experience in reconciliation would set them free of that hindrance.

"As a pastor, I feel we don't handle broken relationships very well. I don't know many groups who do," said Litton, who is pastor of First Baptist North Mobile in Saraland, Ala., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Pastors' Conference. "But the Lord said that if we don't forgive others, our Father in heaven won't forgive us either. One reason we don't see more people coming to Christ in our churches may be that unforgiveness is blocking the movement of God's spirit."

Litton said he was deeply moved last year when he read "The Red Feather," a book that describes the role forgiveness played in restoring the badly broken relationship between Tom Elliff, who at the time was pastor of Applewood Baptist Church in Wheat Ridge, Colo., and his father, J.T. Elliff, a longtime pastor and former director of missions in Oklahoma.

At age 65—after 43 years of marriage—the elder Elliff left his wife for another woman. The betrayal reverberated in Southern Baptist circles across the country, leaving many people deeply wounded and disillusioned.

"It was an awful shock. Dad was my hero," Elliff told Baptist Press. "He moved to another state and for two and a half years, we had virtual-

ly no contact with him."

Then through a remarkable series of events—including a phone call from his father that awakened Elliff's mother from a coma—God did a profound work of healing in the family's relationships. Elliff would like to see more pastors and congregations benefit from the freedom that reconciliation brought to his family and ministry.

"There is a great need for restoration in relationships all across our convention. It isn't a salvation issue but it is a serious fellowship issue," Elliff said. "When the father urges one of his children to forgive another, only to be met by refusal, you have a relationship issue that affects the entire family. It's true among our own families, and it's certainly true in the family of God." (BP)

### She didn't answer the question

In last week's editorial, your commendation of Carrie Prejean was affirmation of her position, as it relates to same-sex marriage, and one that is, no doubt, indicative of the majority of your readers.

Most of your readers will have agreed with your comments, as do I, but we have failed to see that the question was never answered. In our haste to condemn the judge, we have grasped the opportunity to evangelize those who listen as to the sanctity of marriage between men and women. Along with that miscalculation, we have rushed to the defense of this fine young woman, under-

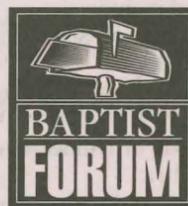
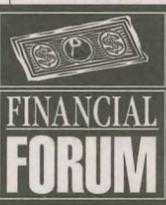
standable by most accounts, and in the swirl of national televised newscasts, newspaper columns, and religious papers, the original question, and its expected response, has been lost in the outcry of those who are eager to make a point that was never a part of the question.

If her answer had been "no" to the first part, then her explanation should have been her thinking as it related to the legislation of state-elected bodies in dealing with this issue. One of the most obvious answers would have been that individual states that approve this nefarious relationship are creating legal problems for those they

champion when moving to states that will not recognize their marital status. Those who engage in the marital approval of a few states are exposing themselves to the loss of legal provisions if moving out of state. Hence, the need for a national definition of marriage that envelops all the states.

In the end, she received public acclaim, sympathy, and more, and he received the condemnation of the media, none of whom ventured the observation that she did not answer the question asked, choosing instead to testify as to her religious heritage and acquired personal preference for marriage.

Edward Clark  
Danville



## Preparing for youth ministry during the summer months

By Joe Ball

Often I am asked if I miss the local church ministry. That is a difficult question to answer. Most of the time, the answer is yes and no. There are some things I do not miss about local church ministry, and there are other things that I do miss. One of the things I miss the most is summer. For me, there was no better time in youth ministry.

As churches are preparing for summer, I asked some of our youth pastors, "What can a church do to better prepare itself for youth ministry in the summer months?"

Dave Levee, student minister at Crestwood Baptist Church, said, "My initial response is, to start planning for the summer the year before. Most of the time, as a church, we try to plan everything at the last minute, and we pull off a good summer schedule that could have been an amazing summer experience for students."

He continues, "By preparing on the forefront, we can maximize the minimal amount of time we have with students during the quickly passing summer. If we are taking all of our focus to plan during the summer time, we are missing out on the relationships we need to be building with students."

Wayne Yeager at Immanuel Baptist Church, Pikeville, had some great advice. He states, "Try some-

thing new and mix things up. Do not be afraid to do something different over the summer that you cannot do during the winter, fall and spring."

One of the things he did was, instead of meeting at the church, the youth went to a different church member's house each Wednesday. "The church members would provide us dinner, a space for our Bible study, and then the use of their home for the evening," he explains. "If they had a pool, we went swimming. If they had big yard, we played volleyball or kickball. If they had a game room, we played games. It was something different, and we could go later since there was no school the next day. The students really looked forward to a new location each week."

Yeager suggests teaching the sixth grade class in vacation Bible school. "Even though I'm the youth pastor," he says, "it is a way for me to meet and get to know the upcoming seventh graders before they are promoted into the youth group. It also lets them get to know me on a more personal basis, since for that week I only have six graders, and not the whole youth group. It bridges a gap and helps them feel more comfortable about promoting into the youth group with the 'older' kids."

"Summer is a different type of

ministry," says Jeff Sparks, youth minister at Cynthiana Baptist Church. "I love using the summer to be very relationship driven. Taking the students fishing, hiking, or climbing in small groups can be a great way to build relationships and do ministry."

He noted that church members need to have an "understanding that I may not be in the office to answer the phone 40 hours a week in the summer. If I am in the office, I am not building relationships."

Cindy Long at First Baptist Church of Princeton, adds, "Mix it up—maybe have a pool-side Bible study, breakfast or lunch together. Change up some of your studies to let the youth lead them. They are future church leaders and teachers"

She urges, "Be creative, have fun, but stay with God's word and go deep—after all, they don't have homework during the summer. And by all means, plan something magnificent for them: camp, retreat, Kentucky Changers, or a trip."

The minister to youth at First Baptist Church of Richmond, Steve Coleman, says it best: "Plan for your results, bathe them in prayer, and know where you are going for the summer. By the way, most youth ministers I know are already praying for mid-August, and most have a date circled. It's the day they go back to school. I have been praying for that day since about February."

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

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball



## How does ARIS challenge parents?

By David Garrard

When it comes to religion, the United States is now a land of freelancers according to the recently released American Religious Identification Survey. "More than ever before, people are just making up their own stories of who they are," says survey co-author, Barry Kosmin.

The survey reports that 15 percent of all Americans surveyed claim no religion at all, and concludes that "in a nation that considers itself mostly Christian, the challenge to Christianity does not come from other religions but from a rejection of all forms of organized religion."

Commenting on the survey, Kendall Harmon of South Carolina says, "I see kids today who have no vocabulary of faith, and neither do many of their parents." Forty percent of the "nones" said they had no childhood religious initiation such as a baptism, christening, circumcision, bar mitzvah or naming ceremony."

Such is the world our children are growing up in—a world where, as the headline screamed, "faith is more fashion statement than commitment." The survey prompts several observations:

Parents must live their faith. Our children need to see clear commitment, not casual participation. Beyond the trappings of organized religion, children need to see what a personal relationship with Christ looks like.

Parents must be intentional about passing along faith and values to their children. Without forcing faith on children, parents must not be passive. There are simply too many other faith options and belief systems out there.

Finally, parents need to help their children understand how Christianity differs from other faiths. While respecting the beliefs of others, parents have to be clear about the unique claims of Christ, and the ways in which those claims conflict with other religions. Our children need to know what we believe, why we believe it and how it makes a difference in our lives.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

## SBC president's document urges leaders to get behind 'Great Commission Resurgence'

**Nashville**—A declaration released by SBC President Johnny Hunt calling for a "Great Commission Resurgence" among Southern Baptists has drawn more than 700 signatures since it was posted April 27 at [www.GreatCommissionResurgence.com](http://www.GreatCommissionResurgence.com).

Jim Law, senior associate pastor and administrator of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., where Hunt is senior pastor, told Baptist Press that the declaration is "a collaborative effort of men whom Dr. Hunt respects greatly. It has been in his heart and mind for months and he has discussed it with a number of people."

Law said Hunt would be releasing a list of the original signatories—those who helped craft the declaration—at a later date.

Hunt "will be presenting this to the (June 23-24) convention in Louisville and asking the messengers to consider appointing a task force to study this document and bring back appropriate recommendations on it," Law noted. "The purpose of this is so that we may be a more effective people to carry the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth."

The 10-point declaration calls for:

- A commitment to Christ's lordship.
- A commitment to gospel-centeredness.
- A commitment to the Great Commandments.
- A commitment to biblical inerrancy

and sufficiency.

- A commitment to a healthy confessional center.
- A commitment to biblically healthy churches.
- A commitment to sound biblical preaching.
- A commitment to a methodological diversity that is biblically informed.
- A commitment to a more effective convention structure.
- A commitment to distinctively Christian families.

The declaration resembles the 12 "axioms for a Great Commission Resurgence" set forth in an April 16 chapel address by Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Akin and Hunt were among the first to fix their signatures to the online document.

Among the key Southern Baptist leaders whose names appear as online signatories are three of 11 SBC entity heads and four of the 14 living former SBC presidents.

Those who have signed include:

- Albert Mohler**, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Thom Rainer**, president of LifeWay Christian Resources.
- O.S. Hawkins**, president of GuideStone Financial Resources.
- John Mark Toby**, Kentucky Baptist Convention president and pastor of Beacon Hill

Baptist Church in Somerset, and eight other Baptist convention presidents.

Law told Baptist Press, "A copy of an original statement was sent last week to state executive directors, state presidents, seminary presidents, agency heads, past SBC presidents and current SBC officers to give them the privilege to have input on it."

The online declaration's similarity to Akin's 12 axioms includes such emphases as the lordship of Jesus Christ, "gospel-centeredness," biblical inerrancy and the Baptist Faith and Message.

The difference in the new wording from the original posting and Akin's address includes a softening of some language.

Both Akin's address and the version originally released online had called for Southern Baptists to "rethink our convention structure and identity so that we maximize our energy and resources for the fulfilling of the Great Commission," saying Southern Baptist methods are aimed "at a culture that went out of existence years ago" and that structures at every level of denominational life are "bloated and bureaucratic."

The online document as revised reads, "Some of our denominational structures at all levels need to be streamlined for more faithful stewardship of the funds entrusted to them."

To read the entire document, visit [www.GreatCommissionResurgence.com](http://www.GreatCommissionResurgence.com) (BP)

### Carter: Baptist strife hurting evangelism

**Winston-Salem, N.C.**—Former President Jimmy Carter said baptisms are declining in the Southern Baptist Convention because doctrinal bickering gives Christianity a bad name.

Carter noted that while U.S. denominations struggle and church growth has plateaued, the Christian faith is expanding rapidly in many other parts of the world.

Addressing Baptists at the recent New Baptist Covenant regional gathering in Winston-Salem, N.C., Carter said people around the world do not associate Baptists in the U.S. with terms like "harmony," "peace" and "cooperation" but rather view them as contentious and divided.

"It is this image of division as we struggle for authority over each other," Carter said, that hinders evangelism. "The arguments and the animosity in the Christian faith are like a cancer metastasizing in the body of Christ. This diverts us from Christ's ministry and presents a negative image of Christianity."

He said issues like women's roles in the church and home, the theory of evolution, abortion and homosexuality are important, but not as important as the common belief that salvation is attained by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (ABP)

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Sex charges filed against Ark. minister**—David Pierce, who for nearly three decades has been minister of music at First Baptist Church of Benton, Ark., was arrested April 24 for sexual indecency with a minor. The Saline County, Ark., Sheriff's Department said Pierce was arrested after a teenager's family contacted the church, prominent in Arkansas Baptist life, about the alleged misconduct. Church officials immediately contacted an Arkansas State Police hotline to report the allegation, according to Dennis Byrd, chairman of the congregation's personnel committee. Rick Grant, pastor of the 2,500-member church, announced that Pierce had been fired.

**Former pastor pleads guilty to sexual abuse**—A former Southern Baptist pastor arrested in 2007 on charges that he sexually abused two teenage boys has avoided prison—for now. Steven Haney, 48, pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in the Memphis suburb of Cordova, Tenn., for 20 years before his resignation in December 2006, pleaded guilty April 29 to rape and sexual battery by an authority figure as part of a deal intended to allow victims and their families to avoid the stress of testifying. Haney was sentenced to eight years probation and will have his name added to the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry. Haney still faces federal child pornography charges.

**McKeever retires from New Orleans DOM post**—Joe McKeever, who served as director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans since 2004, retired from his post April 30. McKeever also is well known for his daily cartoons which are found on the Baptist Press Web site and at [www.JoeMcKeever.com](http://www.JoeMcKeever.com). Before accepting the DOM position in New Orleans—which he held at the time of Hurricane Katrina—McKeever served 14 years as pastor at First Baptist Church of Kenner, La. He previously served 12 years as pastor at First Baptist Church of Charlotte, N.C.

**IMB commissions 30 from SEBTS**—The International Mission Board held a commissioning service April 21 for 14 couples and two single missionaries at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. The service is an annual event at the seminary focusing on the need for more students to commit to serving wherever God calls them. The group, which is being sent out as part of the seminary's master of divinity with international church planting program (2+2), is going mainly to Central Asia, with some going to South Asia, North Africa and East Asia.

## Survey: Personal invites prove most effective

**Nashville**—An invitation from a family member or friend is the most effective way to get people to attend church, a recent survey shows, casting doubt on several time-tested methods used by churches to attract new members.

The other approaches—from broadcast commercials to information packets left on doorknobs—are far less effective, according to LifeWay Research.

A majority of respondents—67 percent—said an invitation from a

family member was either somewhat or very effective. Likewise, 63 percent said an invitation from a friend or neighbor was effective.

In contrast, just 33 percent said an invitation left on a door hanger would be effective, while 31 percent said door-to-door visits from a church or faith community member would be effective.

LifeWay Research's Ed Stetzer said the study shows people are open to invitations to church—but they need to be personal.

"Unbelievers next door still need a simple, personal invitation to talk, to be in community, and to church," Stetzer noted. "Clearly, relationships are important and work together with marketing."

LifeWay Research reported the other most effective approaches were a letter in the mailbox (41 percent); weekly religion section of a newspaper (40 percent); billboard or outdoor sign (38 percent); and a newspaper or magazine ad (36 percent). (RNS)

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Prayerwalking Gang Ministry (#111)  
Extreme Church Planting Team (#112)  
Construction/Evangelism in Managua (#113)

PANAMA PROJECTS:  
Gospel Saturation Project (#138)  
Gospel Outreach - Panama (#148)



For more information, visit [www.kybaptist.org/pmdprojects](http://www.kybaptist.org/pmdprojects) and refer to the project number, or call the KBC's Partnership Missions Department at 502-489-3529 or 866-489-3529 (toll free in KY).

## Keep your stuff in order

### Disorganized documents creates havoc for executors

Think about the one or ones who will be serving as executor of your estate or trustee of your revocable living trust, if you have one. Are your records organized? Will your executor know where to look to find them? Will your executor have access to those records in order to fulfill the very important duties you are asking him or her to fulfill?

Part of the estate planning process, I believe, is to keep your stuff in order and to make sure your executor and/or trustee has access to your stuff. Many people die with nothing in order, and the executor must become a de facto investigator and sort through your stuff in hopes of finding what is needed. Although most people do not sit around while they are alive and prepare their items for someone to go through after they die, it is something people should do. Unfortunately, too many avoid the subject or die unexpectedly, leaving the executor with the burden of chaos.

Among the items to which you want to make sure your executor and/or trustee has access are: your last will and testament; revocable living trust agreement; a detailed

financial statement listing your assets and debts; deeds to real estate; stock/bond certificates; title registration of vehicles; promissory notes; bank account statements; investment account statements; retirement account statements/beneficiary designations; life insurance policies/beneficiary designations; recent income tax returns; instructions for distributing personal items; safe deposit box key; birth certificate; marriage certificate; divorce papers; Social Security card; funeral plans; contact information for family, heirs, your pastor, attorney, banker, broker, insurance agent and retirement account administrator.

If your stuff is disorganized, don't wait! Get it organized and make sure those who will need access have it. Also, if you are named as the executor by a family member or friend, and they have not let you know where the will and other important documents are located, you should inquire about that.

For assistance with untangling some common messes, call Laurie Valentine or me toll free.

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

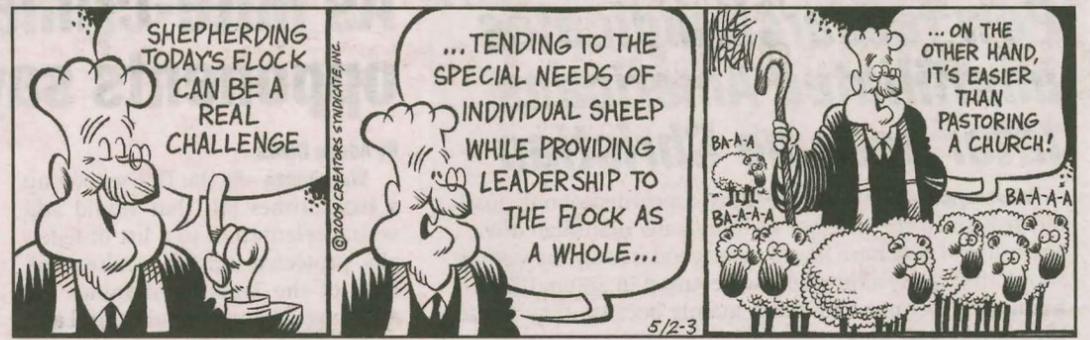
### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers

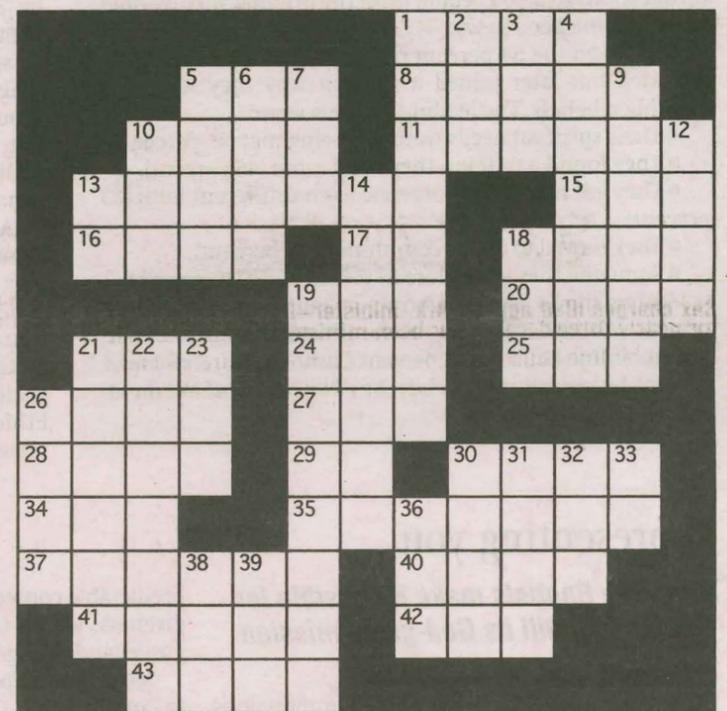


## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 "They came to the threshing-floor of \_\_\_\_\_, which is beyond Jordan" (Genesis 50:10)
- 5 Highway (abbr.)
- 8 Bargain events
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ apple (candy flavor)
- 11 "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 11:25)
- 13 Beyond compare
- 15 Paddle
- 16 Momentous sign
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_-Eglaim, near the Salt Sea (Ezekiel 47)
- 18 Wight, for one
- 19 King \_\_\_\_\_ (J. Clavell novell)
- 20 Went golfing
- 21 "The Lord is good to \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 145:9)
- 24 Compass dir.
- 25 Like some numbers
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ bargain
- 27 "These shall ye not eat of them that chew the \_\_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 11:4)
- 28 Minor prophet
- 29 Conjunction
- 30 "For we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 8:24)
- 34 "He it is, to whom I shall give a \_\_\_\_\_, when I have dipped it" (John 13:26)
- 35 "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall \_\_\_\_\_" (Mark 16:18)



- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Scott, subject of landmark legal case
- 13 Hence
- 14 Dry or liquid
- 18 Judge Lance
- 19 Taped
- 21 "I see a rod of an \_\_\_\_\_ tree" (Jeremiah 1:11)
- 22 "The \_\_\_\_\_ shall lie down with the kid" (Isaiah 11:6)
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_ Cruces, NM
- 26 Bridge response
- 30 "Whilst we are at \_\_\_\_\_ in the body, we are absent from the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:6)
- 31 "God so clothe the grass ... which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 6:30)
- 32 "I will not with ink and \_\_\_\_\_ write unto thee" (3 John 13)
- 33 Hesitation sound
- 36 NYC sight
- 38 "Let her be as the loving hind and the pleasant \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 5:19)
- 39 First female

### Down

- 1 Was in agreement
- 2 Greek letter
- 3 Mount Blanc is one
- 4 "He (Nebuchadnezzar) was \_\_\_\_\_ from his kingly throne" (Daniel 5:20)
- 5 Stronger than string
- 6 "Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, \_\_\_\_\_ to him the other" (Matthew 5:39)
- 7 Poetic before
- 9 "Ye were \_\_\_\_\_ with that holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13)
- 10 "How precious also are thy thoughts ... how great is the \_\_\_\_\_ of them" (Psalm 139:17)

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## Pew research indicates unaffiliated Americans later become Christian

Washington—Evangelical leaders concerned about possible growth in the number of Americans unaffiliated with any religion may have found some good news: A new study shows that many adults who were raised in an unaffiliated home later became Christian, mainly because they found themselves searching.

The finding is part of a study by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life that examined why Americans change their religious affiliation. It is a follow-up study to Pew's 2007 U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, which found that unaffiliated adults make up 16 percent of the population.

That same 2007 survey also found that, among those who were raised unaffiliated—a category that includes agnostics, atheists and those who do not identify with any religion—only 46 percent remain unaffiliated. That retention rate is far lower than Protestants (80 percent) and Catholics (68 percent).

"It does suggest that many people who are unaffiliated and who are raised unaffiliated are open to religion," noted Gregory Smith, research fellow at the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

The 2007 survey found that the category of unaffiliateds had grown. But the new survey—which included follow-up questions to 2,800 people from the original survey—does provide some good news.

Pew asked the 54 percent of adults who were raised unaffiliated but later joined a religion why they left their childhood beliefs. The leading answers were:

- Their spiritual needs were not being met (51 percent).
- They found a religion they liked more (46 percent).
- They got married to someone from a different faith (23 percent).
- They moved to a new community (15 percent).
- Someone they were close to passed away (10 percent).

Among the 54 percent who are no longer unaffiliated, 22 percent now are members of evangelical churches, 13 percent mainline churches, 6 percent Catholic churches and 4 percent historically black churches. Nine percent are members of another religion. (BP)

## As hate-crimes bill nears Obama's desk, opponents say it will silence pastors

By Adelle Banks

Washington—As the House took up a hate crimes bill that would add sexual orientation to a list of federally protected classes, Andrea Lafferty of the Traditional Values Coalition stood outside the Capitol and warned of dire consequences for pastors and churches.

"They know the purpose of this bill is to silence pastors, to silence youth pastors, to silence people of faith," said Lafferty, joining conservative Christian leaders and Republican lawmakers in opposing the bill.

But would it? The bill's supporters say it wouldn't, and accuse critics of spreading "absurd lies."

Despite growing conservative outcry, the House passed the legislation April 29 along party lines by a vote of 249-175. A day earlier, the Senate introduced companion legislation.

The hate crimes bill, which would include physical attacks motivated by "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" among the crimes subject to special federal prosecution, has long been a top priority of gay rights groups. But some conservative Christian groups say it will reduce their ability to preach that homosexual behavior is sinful.

And with a Democrat in the White House who has stated his support for the legislation, they're more concerned than ever that the legislation could become law.

Groups ranging from Lafferty's coalition to the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission have mounted a last-ditch

campaign to try to kill the bill as it heads to the Senate.

Barrett Duke, ERLC's vice president for public policy, said he is concerned that the legislation could lead to prosecution of clergy whose words against homosexuality get tied to a crime committed by someone who listened to them.

**"This bill puts Christians and many other religious groups in the government's cross hairs. Those who teach that homosexuality is contrary to God's design may find that they as well are targeted by this law."—Barrett Duke**

"This bill puts Christians and many other religious groups in the government's cross hairs," he said at a news conference last week. "Those who teach that homosexuality is contrary to God's design may find that they as well are targeted by this law."

"While we should never condone acts of violence against anyone, for whatever reason, including whether or not that person is a homosexual," Duke stated, "this bill proposes to prosecute someone based on their belief about homosexuality and therefore makes religious belief a germane issue in this debate."

Opponents not only charge the bill could infringe on religious liberty, but they say current state laws make it unnecessary. They also claim

it would grant protection based on behavior, and would move federal law toward punishing thoughts and beliefs, since the motivation of a person charged with a hate crime would have to be evaluated.

In a memo circulated on Capitol Hill, House Majority Whip James Clyburn stressed that the bill is aimed at criminal behavior, not religious speech.

"The bill will not limit religious expression," he wrote. "Some churches have stated that with passage of this bill, ministers may be arrested for speech and words said in the pulpits. This is false. This bill is about violent crime. It is not about and does not prohibit thought, speech or expression protected by the First Amendment."

David Gushee, a Christian ethicist at Mercer University in Atlanta, said he examined the bill and had no concerns, "because its aim is to protect the dignity and basic human rights of all Americans, and especially those Americans whose perceived 'differentness' makes them vulnerable to physical attacks motivated by bias, hatred and fear."

Gushee said he believes the bill "poses no threat whatsoever to any free speech right for religious communities or their leaders."

Sens. Edward Kennedy and Patrick Leahy introduced the companion measure in the Senate. If the bill passes both houses of Congress, Obama is expected to sign it. (RNS)

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

## Representing you

### Kentucky Baptists make it possible for Oneida to fulfill its God-given mission

By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

In this space I've often shared impressions from my involvement in Oneida's admissions process. Perhaps nothing about my work reminds me more of the partnership and trust that we share with Kentucky Baptists than those moments I spend with a prospective student and his or her family conducting the interview that determines if a student will be part of our school community.

It is not unusual to be talking to children whose parents have completely abandoned their roles as parents. I do not mean the parents are sick or dead; I mean they have decided that raising a teenager is not important to them and they simply do not want to do it. While OBI is not an "orphanage," some of the students we see have no mother or father to care for them, even though those parents still may be living nearby leading their own lives. One mother recently said she didn't like her son because "his daddy was no good."

Perhaps a caring church member, neighbor or grandparent has become involved. Where would many of these young people be without that one person who is a Christ follower and sees a hopeless situation through the Kingdom eyes of Jesus? That caring adult often is the facilitator of the admissions process, sometimes doing everything that a parent should do but refuses to do.

Teens from these backgrounds often have done poorly with school and social relationships. We assess the appropriateness of every student; many simply need guidance and limits. While we cannot be parents, we can provide structure,

predictable consequences, love, guidance and forgiveness, which God uses to open hearts to the gospel and change lives.

Most young people we interview are eager to come to OBI, though most have little idea of what boarding school is like. They will get homesick and have some bad days, but the confidence many of them bring that they need a new start and a fresh opportunity to succeed usually is true.

For the caring adults who bring us these students, it will be a good decision they won't regret.

What has been on my mind recently is this: As I do admissions interviews (and as our capable admissions' staff does their incredible work leading up to that point), I am representing Kentucky Baptists in particular. What does that mean? It means that as I talk to students, I have the power to change their lives, and that power comes from my connection to you—our supporters.

It's Kentucky Baptists who have made Oneida possible. It's Kentucky Baptists who have shaped and encouraged our mission. It's Kentucky Baptists whose financial resources make it possible for me to accept a student with limited or no financial resources. It's Kentucky Baptists who will love and encourage students while they are with us. As we work with our students, you are there as our partners in changing the lives of those who have been let down by even their own families. You may not know it, but you are making a difference far beyond your own family or church.

On behalf of those who don't know that you are some of their best friends, thank you.

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Encounters with Turkish Muslims

### Gillum shares highlights of recent mission trip to Turkey

The following are highlights from English professor Elli Gillum's recent mission trip to Turkey. Gillum leads multiple teams of Clear Creek students to the country each year.

"We stopped at a service station where we gave literature to a man named Bahatin, who gladly received them and also listened to us as we asked him why Jesus had to die. He did not know and we were able to present the gospel to him."

"We stopped at a restaurant in Istanbul where we met a young waiter. We asked him if he knew why Jesus had to die. He said that it really didn't matter to him as long as a person is sincere in his religion, since we are all headed for the same place at death. We pointed out to him John 14:6. He accepted our gifts and we noticed when we left that he was sharing them with the young waiters."

"On our way back to Ephesus we met a young girl and an older woman in a restaurant. We gave the young girl a gift, but when she pulled the Bible out, the older woman said that she didn't want anything to do with it because she was scared of God or even talking about Him because of His judg-

ment. We turned in the Bible to John 3:16-19 and asked the young girl to read it. Then we turned to John 14:1-6 to show her that we see God as a loving Heavenly Father. She had been studying two Islamic books about the ethics of Islam and the judgment and wrath of

God. So, she took our gift and gave us the books she was studying.

"Another of our stops was in the Greek village of Syringe where there are several believers. We wanted to take some of the new material to Mural, whom we had met earlier. She began to talk about all the things that had happened to her since we last saw her. We prayed for her and her family. She is sharing the gospel with several women in the village and told us that they badly need a leader and a place to worship."

In October, Clear Creek plans to send two more teams to Turkey to do evangelistic work.

### 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

## ADF: Religious freedom at stake in Iowa

By Michael Foust

**Des Moines, Iowa**—The religious freedoms of county officials in Iowa who disagree with that state's recent court decision legalizing gay marriage are being threatened according to a prominent Christian legal organization.

In a letter released days before the first homosexual couple could receive a marriage license in Iowa, the Alliance Defense Fund and Iowa Family Policy Center urged the state's 99 county recorders to adopt a policy that would permit employees to express dissent without losing their jobs.

The letter urged county officials to allow workers to opt out of issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples if such unions violate employees' religious or moral beliefs.

In a statement, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, a Democrat who supports gay marriage, said county recorders have a duty to issue licenses to same-sex couples. Failure to do so could result in legal action, he said.

"We expect duly-elected county recorders to comply with" the state constitution "as interpreted unanimously by the Iowa Supreme Court. ... If necessary we will explore legal actions to enforce and implement the court's ruling."

The Alliance Defense Fund promised free legal representation to any recorder sued after adopting their proposed policy.

"It is a matter of religious freedom, and no one should be compelled to do anything that is offensive to their basic fundamental beliefs," Alliance Defense Fund attorney Doug Napier told Baptist Press. "To force county recorders to issue same-sex marriage licenses against their religious beliefs would be contrary to the constitution. ... We know



**STATE APPROVED** Beth Moore (second from left) and Rebecca Kenney hold hands as they are "married" during a ceremony in San Francisco last year. Legal experts warn that same-sex marriage is not a live-and-let-live issue and that its legalization will have dire consequences on religious liberty. (Photo by Kat Wade)

there are a number of county recorders that are very troubled by the Supreme Court's decision and personally are opposed to same-sex marriage."

According to the Des Moines Register, the court's ruling led one official—Third District Magistrate Francis Honrath—to stop conducting marriage ceremonies altogether. Honrath, who is Catholic, is a magistrate, not a county recorder.

The Alliance Defense Fund and the Iowa Family Policy Center say the state has a history of protecting individual conscience rights, as evidenced by Iowa Code 146.1, which protects an "individual's religious beliefs or moral convictions" and prohibits doctors from being forced to perform abortions.

"The policy is needed because the Attorney General is giving bad advice to county recorders, saying that they have no option but to issue marriage licenses to same-sex

couples," Napier said. "Yet, they do have a right of conscience which he doesn't mention in his statement, and we wanted them to be aware that they have this right of conscience, that their employees have this right of conscience, and it's protected under the constitution. And they should respect and honor that and take advantage of it themselves if they want to."

ADF released a 93-word policy it said it would defend in court if a county recorder adopted it. It says, in part, "An individual who may lawfully perform services for or provide services to" the county recorder's office "shall not be required to issue or process a marriage license, or to perform, assist or participate in such procedures against that individual's religious beliefs or moral convictions."

Napier said the policy would not, as critics charge, open the door to refusing marriage licenses to interracial couples.

"Those kinds of red herrings have been brought up repeatedly," he said. "The Thirteenth Amendment is in place and the Fourteenth Amendment is in place, and there's other laws that govern those issues."

A Big Ten Battleground Poll last fall found that only 35 percent of registered voters said they would accept a decision legalizing "gay marriage." Iowa's amendment process is lengthy, requiring passage by a simple majority in two consecutive legislative sessions before the measure makes it to the ballot.

The controversy about Iowa's county government workers expressing dissent is the latest salvo in what another pro-family organization, the National Organization for Marriage, has warned will happen when same-sex marriage is legalized.

The organization launched a \$1.5 million ad campaign in early April warning about the consequences to parental rights and religious liberty if marriage is redefined. Among the ad's examples was the true story of two Massachusetts parents whose second-grade son was read a book at school about a prince "marrying" another prince. The parents complained, but the school informed the couple they would not be given advanced notice in the future about similar books. The parents sued the school in federal court but lost. (BP)

### NATIONAL NOTES

**Justices say FCC can prohibit explicit language**—In what conservatives called a victory for parents, the U.S. Supreme Court narrowly upheld the ability of the Federal Communications Commission to prohibit certain indecent language on broadcast television, even if it is a one-time instance. The opinion was announced last week prior to the news that Justice David Souter would resign from the bench at the end of the term. The 5-4 majority opinion by the court's most conservative members reversed a ruling by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. The lawsuit involved two instances of indecent language on Fox Television when the network broadcast the 2002 and 2003 Billboard Music Awards. Tim Winter, president of the Parents Television Council, said the decision was "an incredible victory for families. The court has affirmed that the broadcast airwaves do indeed belong to the public and not to the broadcasters who are granted a license to use the public airwaves for free."

**Prejean continues vocal stand for traditional marriage**—With assistance from Miss California USA Carrie Prejean, a leading conservative group launched a television ad last week saying criticism of of the beauty contestant is symbolic of what will happen to religious freedoms if same-sex marriage is legalized nationally. Prejean, whose pro-traditional marriage response to a question at the Miss USA pageant drew outrage from supporters of same-sex marriage, is featured in the 60-second ad for the National Organization for Marriage.

**FDA fails to challenge "morning-after pill" ruling**—The federal government will not challenge a judge's controversial ruling that permits 17 year-old girls to purchase the so-called "morning-after pill" without a prescription. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced April 22 it would not challenge New York Judge Edward Korman's decision making it easier for girls to have access to the drug with abortion-causing qualities. Prior to Korman's ruling women had to be at least 18 years old to obtain the drug without a prescription. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission described the FDA's inaction as "shameful. ... The judge's ruling ... is one more example of the government thinking that it has the right to interpose itself between parents and their children."

**Promise Keepers invites women to annual event**—Promise Keepers, the evangelical ministry known for its focus on helping men become better fathers and husbands, is, for the first time, inviting women to its national gathering. The event is July 31-Aug. 1 at Folsom Field in Boulder, Colo. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Promise Keepers.

**Warren among Time's list of 'Most Influential People'**—Last week, "Time" magazine released a list of the "100 Most Influential People in the World." Among individuals such as President Obama, Brad Pitt and Tiger Woods is Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. Warren himself wrote the entry for another person on the list, Rwanda's president Paul Kagame. Warren credits Kagame for his efforts at quelling the mid-1990s' genocide in Rwanda, and his ongoing work to rebuild the African nation.

**Robertson will retire as Regent president**—Pat Robertson will retire next year as president of Regent University, the school he founded in Virginia Beach, Va., in 1978. Robertson, 79, made the announcement last week. He will retire July 10, 2010 but remain the university's chancellor and member of the board of trustees. The school opened with 77 students and seven faculty. Today it has more than 4,500 students on campus and via the World Wide Web. Robertson already stepped down from responsibilities at Christian Broadcasting Network, the religious broadcasting entity he founded in 1960. In December 2007, the CBN board elected Robertson's son, Gordon, as chief executive officer. The elder Robinson remains CBN chairman.

**New Hampshire House passes same-sex marriage bill**—A bill that would make New Hampshire the fifth state to legalize gay marriage passed the state Senate last week, putting the spotlight on Democratic Gov. John Lynch, who has said he opposes redefining marriage but has yet to take a position on the bill. The bill passed 13-11, well shy of a veto-proof Senate majority; it previously passed the state House, 186-179. Passage of the bill in New Hampshire is part of a wider strategy by the Massachusetts-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders to legalize gay marriage in all six New England states by 2012. Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont already have done so. Observers say Maine could be next.

Debbie Brunson \* Jeana Floyd \* Donna Gaines  
Susie Hawkins \* Janet Hunt \* Diane Strack

THE ROMANS 12:1 WOMAN

*SBC Ministers' Wives 2009*

*I beseech you therefore, brethren*

LUNCHEON immediately after morning session  
Kentucky Exposition Center  
South Wing C

*be the salt of God that ye*

Quiet Influence

*neither a shining star*

Don't miss *The Women's EXPO*  
EXPO opens at 11:00 a.m.

Door Prizes - Exhibits - Fellowship - Author Meet & Greet

*we can be salted into God*

AND

*The View From the Pew*

a hilarious look at life's most embarrassing moments!

*which is your reasonable service.*

PLAN OF SALVATION

By Chris Platt

Have you ever played with an Etch A Sketch? Most of us have had the experience of moving the dials back and forth until we produced either a masterpiece or a mess. I usually make a mess.

Before we know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10), our lives often look like our drawings on the Etch A Sketch. There are few masterpieces out there. We make bad decisions. We live with regrets. Some of our relationships don't work out. If only we could have a clean slate and be given a fresh start.

Listen, it's possible. The good thing about an Etch A Sketch is you can shake it and have a fresh screen. The good thing about knowing Christ is that you can have a fresh start. How does that happen?

The book "Becoming A Contagious Christian" describes "The Five-Second Gospel."

**God loves us.** 1 John 4:16 tells us that we have a loving God who cares deeply for us. We matter to Him.

**We blew it.** We were created to be good, but we chose to go our own way and became sinful (Romans 3:23).

**Christ paid for it.** The good news is that Jesus became man, came to earth and died as our substitute. Peter said He "died for sins ... to bring (us) to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

**We must receive Him.** We must respond by asking Christ to be our forgiver and leader (1 Peter 3:15). The result is spiritual transformation by the Holy Spirit—and a fresh start.

*Chris Platt is missions and ministry pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County. Reprinted from WR, Sept. 2, 2008*

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CORYDON**—Rick Gannon recently resigned as pastor of Corydon Church.

■ **DOVER**—Jack Vanlandingham recently resigned as pastor of Dover Church to start a new church plant in Campbell County.

■ **FREDONIA**—White Sulphur Church recently called **Bill Gross** as pastor.

■ **FRENCHBURG**—Frenchburg Church recently ordained **Jeff Coffey, Billy Day, Tim Hunt** and **Steve Smallwood** as deacons. **Michael Butler** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Calvary Church recently called **David Simpson** as pastor.

**Tommy Hancock** recently resigned as pastor of New Hope Church.

■ **INEZ**—Paul Schmidt recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

■ **LaCENTER**—Oscar Church recently called **Ryan Baker** as pastor.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—Little Clifty Church recently called **Gene Travis** as associate pastor.

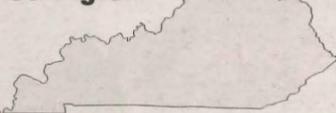
■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church recently called **Wes Brockway** as minister of music. **Daniel Powell** is pastor.

**Will Smallwood** recently resigned as pastor of West Broadway Church.

■ **MAYFIELD**—South First Street

Spotlight on ...

Covington



Rosedale Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary May 17, 10:45 a.m. & 2 p.m., with **Rick Robbins**, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Association, and **Dan Hilliard**, pastor of Beechgrove Church in Independence, as guest speakers. Gospel group **Crossroads V** and **Megan Dowling** will provide special music. A lunch will be served between the services. **Greg Wingate** is pastor.

Church recently called **Wayne Rambo** as pastor.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—Jack Arriasmith recently resigned as pastor of Plainview Church.

■ **MURRAY**—Locust Grove Church ordained **Bill Barton** and **Gary Murdock** as deacons April 26. **Ryker Wilson** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—Danny Blanton recently resigned as student minister



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

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.

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

Brandon Heath, Casting Crowns among winners at Dove awards

Nashville—The 40th annual Gospel Music Association Dove Awards highlighted musical and cultural diversity as 38 of the evening's 43 awards went to different recipients April 23 at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville.

"Many different artists have obviously connected with people in powerful ways this year as evidenced by last night's impressive number of singular honorees," GMA president John Styll said.

Brandon Heath and Casting Crowns took home the most awards. Heath received the Male Vocalist of the Year honor, and his song "Give Me Your Eyes" won Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year, as well as Song of the Year.

Casting Crowns won the band's fifth consecutive Group of the Year award as well as Christmas Album of the Year for "Peace on Earth" and an award for Short Form Music Video for "Slow Fade."

Steven Curtis Chapman, who has received more Dove Awards than any artist in history, won his seventh Artist of the Year award and his 10th Songwriter of the Year title. Chapman was joined onstage by his sons Caleb and Will for a performance of "Cinderella," a song inspired in part by his 5-year-old daughter Maria, who died in an accident last year.

"Everything we're singing about tonight is true in the darkest, ugliest, most hopeless places," Chapman told reporters. "We're more certain of this hope that we have, and we're more desperate for God."

Natalie Grant won her fourth consecutive trophy for Female Vocalist of the Year. Only Sandi Patty has won the award more times.

Tenth Avenue North received the



**BIG WINNERS** Casting Crowns won three Dove Awards April 23 in Nashville, including the band's fifth consecutive group of the year award. (Photo courtesy of The Spinhouse)

Dove Award for New Artist of the Year, which for the first time included votes cast by 250,000 fans in a contest coordinated by the Gospel Music Channel, which also broadcast the Dove Awards live. Votes were cast via the Web and text messaging.

In addition to embracing new technologies for voting, the Dove Awards showed appreciation for the past by honoring southern gospel music icon Bill Gaither with an award, 40 years after he won his first Dove Award in 1969.

Tributes to musical legends were interspersed with performances by New Artist of the Year nominees, including a multi-artist segment honoring Dottie Rambo, a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame who died in a bus accident last year.

Miss California USA Carrie Prejean, who has received much criticism and praise for her stand on same-sex marriage at the recent Miss USA pageant, appeared at the awards show to a standing ovation. She introduced the group MercyMe before they performed their chart-topping hit "I Can Only Imagine," marking a decade since the song was written. (BP)

at First Church.

■ **TOPMOST**—Topmost Church recently called **Greydon Howard** as pastor.

■ **TRENTON**—Longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor **John Christian** died April 3. He was 87. A graduate of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Christian served as pastor at churches in Kentucky and Tennessee for more than 50 years. Among them were Forest Grove Church in Adair-

ville; LaFayette Church; Oak Grove Church; Second Church of Hopkinsville; and Sinking Fork Church in Hopkinsville. Christian also served as moderator for Christian County Association and was a member of the KBC Executive (now Mission) Board.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Providence Church recently called **Tony LaBona** as pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**RESOURCES:** Do you need a church pianist? We have piano CDs for church accompaniment—hymns, gospel, praise songs, choruses, patriotic, etc. Call Worship Service Resources at (877) 977-6800, or visit [www.pianocds.org](http://www.pianocds.org) for information and a free sample CD. Call for special church pricing.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth (7th-12th grades) for conservative SBC church. Ministry experience needed. Please e-mail your resumé to [fbchr@brick.net](mailto:fbchr@brick.net); or mail to 2735 High Ridge Blvd., High Ridge, MO 63049. [www.fellowshipbaptisthr.org](http://www.fellowshipbaptisthr.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time (20-25 hours per week) minister of youth for Louisville Southern Baptist church with youth group of 50-plus. Fax resumé to MOY (502) 657-0107; or e-mail [jzoeller@applepatch.org](mailto:jzoeller@applepatch.org).

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Steubenville Baptist Church, Monticello, Ky. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1553, Monticello, KY 42633; or e-mail resumé to [sbcpastorsearch@hotmail.com](mailto:sbcpastorsearch@hotmail.com).

**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:** Part-time music minister/worship leader for Providence Baptist Church. Please send resumé to [pbcfrankfort@aol.com](mailto:pbcfrankfort@aol.com).

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time military minister. The qualified candidate will be a Christian male, active duty with military experience, demonstrating a sense of calling, and a member in good standing of a Southern Baptist church. Interested individuals may send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 27, Oak Grove, KY 42262. Accepting resumé until May 31.

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

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

**SEEKING:** 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.

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

## KBC's 2009 All-State Children's Choir

*Group of 145 students from 34 Kentucky Baptist churches performs around the state*

Louisville—A total of 145 children, representing 34 churches across the commonwealth, recently participated in the 2009 Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir.

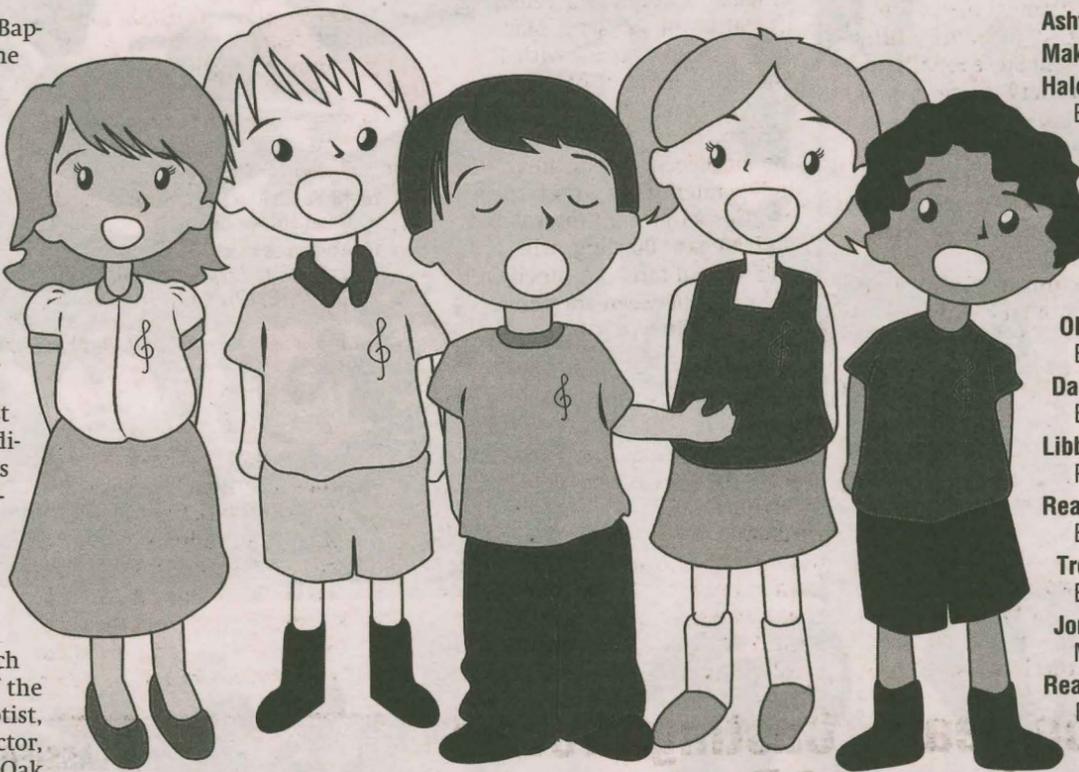
Both the East Choir and the West Choir performed April 26 at separate locations in the morning, then joined together for a final concert in the afternoon.

The East Choir performed at First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, while the West Choir performed at Hartford Baptist Church. The choirs then performed together at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

Roxanne Nanney, Kentucky Baptist Convention's preschool/children's music consultant, said the children's choir was divided into two regional groups and included 4th- through 6th-grade students who were selected through recorded auditions.

Lisa Hussung of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, served as director of the East Choir. Judy Ridings from First Baptist Church of Richmond, served as assistant director, and Chris Kihn, a member at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, served as the accompanist.

Nanney, who also serves as minister of music at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, served as director of the West Choir. Mary Suggs of First Baptist, Bowling Green, was the assistant director, and Bobbie Sue Chumbler from Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah served as the accompanist.



### 2009 East Choir:

- Audrey Adams**, Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Amber Arterburn**, First Baptist Church of London.
- Matthew Bailie**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Matthew Bain**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
- Brittney Blessett**, Valley View Church in Louisville.
- Morgan Butler**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Mitchell Collins**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Emily Couch**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
- Victoria Daly**, First Baptist Church of London.
- Mackenzie Devine**, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
- Abigail Etherton**, New Horizon Baptist Fellowship in Fisherville.
- Elizabeth Fort**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Grace Galyon**, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Kaitlin Goodson**, Valley View Church in Louisville.
- Kathryn Green**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Austin Hash**, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
- Sydney Hendrix**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
- Cady Holbrook**, Grace Baptist Church in Winchester.
- Carly Hudson**, First Baptist Church of London.
- Rachel Kinman**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Madison Lauer**, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
- McKenna Lewis**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
- Alissa Mahon**, Valley View Church in Louisville.

- Hallee Mason**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
- Katie Mitchell**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Wesley Newman**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Jennifer Pope**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Jake Reynolds**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Katie Ridings**, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Noah Robinson**, Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Robbie Sams**, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Haley Sizemore**, First Baptist Church of London.
- Brian Skeen**, Ballardsville Baptist Church in Crestwood.
- Brianna Taylor**, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Jonathan Thompson**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
- Brooke Thornsbery**, Valley View Church in Louisville.
- Haley Tribble**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Erin Woggon**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

### 2009 West Choir:

- MaryBeth Acquaviva**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.
- Madeline Allen**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- RJ Baise**, Cave City Baptist Church.
- Leah Beach**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Jamie Bigley**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Zane Birdsong**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.

- Ashton Blakeman**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Wilson Blakeman**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Samantha Blount**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
- Emily Boyd**, First Baptist Church of Murray.
- Anna Cate Brown**, First Baptist Church of Murray.
- Jacob Calhoun**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Halle Camilleri**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Joe Camilleri**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Baily Caudle**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Ashley Chandler**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Taylor Cobb**, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- Sarahbeth Cox**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
- Reagan Day**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Whit Devine**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
- DeeDee Early**, First Baptist Church of Kuttawa.
- Lauren Edminster**, First Baptist Church of Murray.
- Lauryn George**, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- Simon Gill**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Justin Glover**, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.
- Ragan Glover**, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- Ashtyn Gray**, Hawesville Baptist Church.
- Lauren Greenwell**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
- Courtney Hall**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

- Shelby Handley**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Preston Harrell**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Will Holbrook**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
- Matthew Howerton**, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- Ashton Howton**, Hawesville Baptist Church.
- Makayla Huffines**, Hartford Baptist Church.
- Haley Humphrey**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Sydney Isbell**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Andrea Jameson**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Natalie Joseph**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Olivia Kessinger**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
- Danielle Lanham**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Libby Lewis**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
- Reagan Martin**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Trevor Martin**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Jordan McCay**, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- Reagan Miller**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Stephanie Morgan**, Hartford Baptist Church.
- Halle Nicks**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Ashlee O'Bryan**, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro.
- Ethan Peck**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
- Sarah Pemberton**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Sydney Pemberton**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Craig Redden**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Emma Robinson**, Hawesville Baptist Church.
- Mason Sims**, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.
- Montez Sinclair**, First Baptist Church of Kuttawa.
- Katie Suggs**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Olivia Swadley**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Brayden Thomas**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
- Cody Tynes**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
- Brooklyn Vance**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Bailey Vandiver**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Brad Walker**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Jeff Walker**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Grant Wallace**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Ashley Ware**, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro.
- Adam Watkins**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Matti Whitledge**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
- Kylie Withrow**, Cave City Baptist Church.
- Abigail Wright**, First Baptist Church of Kuttawa.

# UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

## Baptist Campus Ministries

### SPRING BREAK MISSIONS



2009

**Bethlehem Baptist Church & Seventh Metro Church - Baltimore, Md.**

Maddie Branstetter  
Forrest Coleman  
Pedro Costa  
Courtney Hamm  
Jody Howard  
Lindsey Jones  
Trevor Laughlin  
Kenneth Newman  
Paul Pryor  
April Smith  
Tommie Thompson

**Big South Fork National Park - Oneida, Tenn.**

Justin Adams  
Sarah Burton  
Ram Das  
Rajendra Ghimire  
David Intal

Elva Lu  
Joni Maharjan  
Lusako Mwanjejele  
Jyoty Nepal  
Jayant Parajuli  
Sujan Pokharel  
Sunil Sah  
Rabinsom Shakya  
Ashley Singer  
Niranjan Upreti  
Wenny Wen  
Sean Xuan

**Carver Baptist Center - New Orleans, La.**

Amanda Allen  
Marcus Bradbury  
Stephanie Florence  
Casey Hamm  
Jason Hammack  
PJ Hughes  
Brooke Jackson  
Kayla King

Madison McCalmon  
Christina Perkins  
Ariel Robinson  
Matt Smith

**Mountain Christian Academy - Corbin, Martin & Prestonburg, Ky.**

Brook Blackburn  
Ki Young Cha  
Jessica Cox  
Erika Dobbs  
Kevin Lewis  
Yiting Lu  
Jacob Moak  
Josh Ousley  
Wenny Wen  
Dean Whitaker  
Chen Xuan

**Mountain Outreach - Letcher County, Ky.**

Nicholas Irvin  
Stephanie Lawless  
Nick Bunch  
David Lee Hall  
Amy Roberts  
Jancee Wright  
David Cupp  
Sandy Zhou-Hae in Cha-Kevin Flora  
Candice Mack  
Chris Tucker  
Jonathan Bowman  
Patrick Hendy  
Victoria Kirby  
Alicia Hasty  
Sarah Whitaker  
Josh Watkins  
Josh Powers  
Matt Henson  
Riley Perkins

Kendra Sammons  
Brian Jones  
Adam Chaplin  
Heath Davis  
Mallory Mathena  
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Jerelle Callihan  
Stacy Roth  
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