

Shine
like
stars
in the
world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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WMU Kentucky Notes



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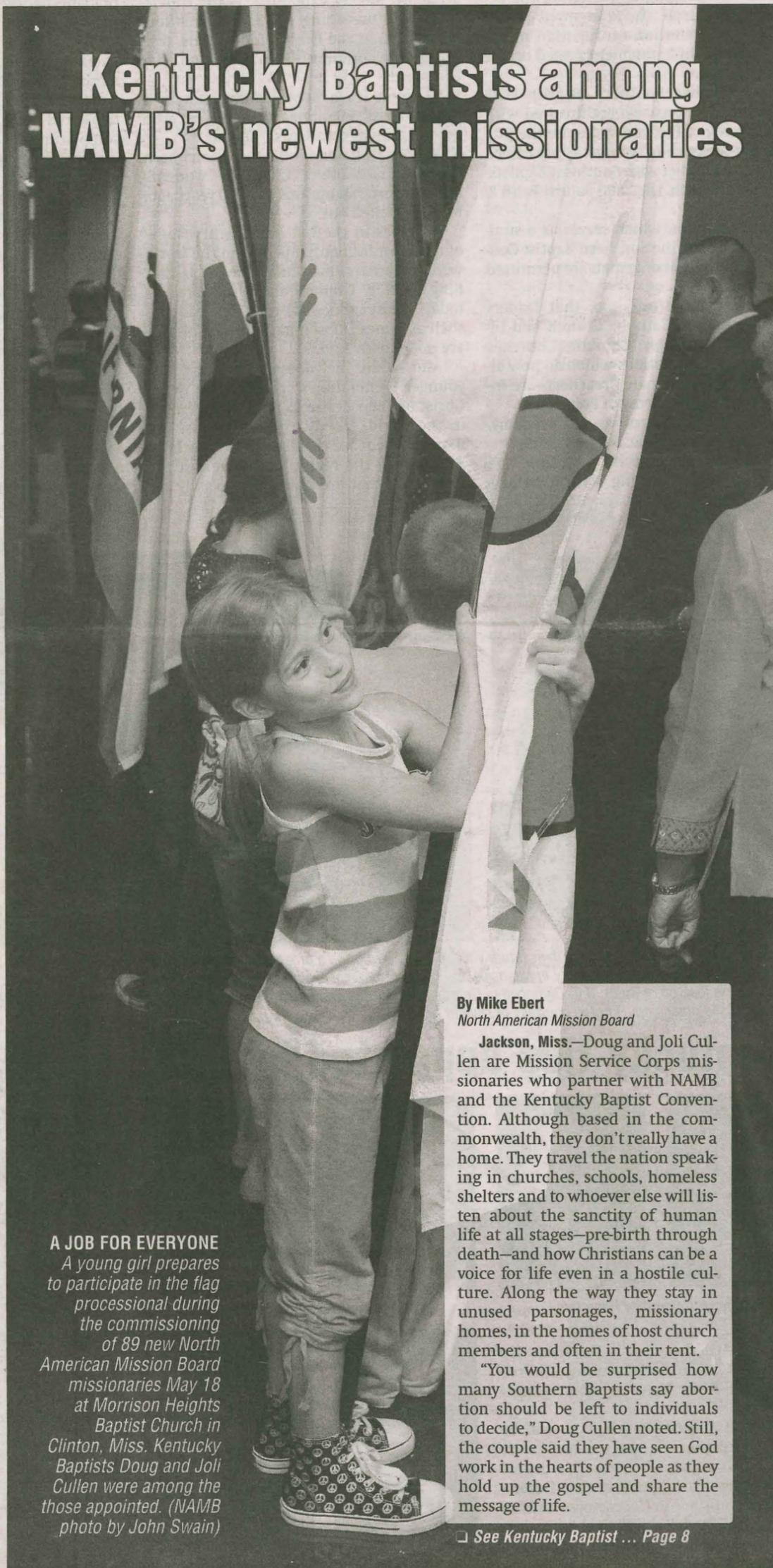
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Kentucky Baptists among NAMB's newest missionaries



A JOB FOR EVERYONE

A young girl prepares to participate in the flag processional during the commissioning of 89 new North American Mission Board missionaries May 18 at Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Miss. Kentucky Baptists Doug and Joli Cullen were among the those appointed. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

By Mike Ebert
North American Mission Board

Jackson, Miss.—Doug and Joli Cullen are Mission Service Corps missionaries who partner with NAMB and the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Although based in the commonwealth, they don't really have a home. They travel the nation speaking in churches, schools, homeless shelters and to whoever else will listen about the sanctity of human life at all stages—pre-birth through death—and how Christians can be a voice for life even in a hostile culture. Along the way they stay in unused parsonages, missionary homes, in the homes of host church members and often in their tent.

"You would be surprised how many Southern Baptists who would be left to individuals to decide," Doug Cullen noted. Still, the couple said they have seen God work in the hearts of people as they hold up the gospel and share the message of life.

□ See Kentucky Baptist ... Page 8

Academy of Preachers

New program seeks to shepherd young preachers to pulpits

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—From the time Dwight Moody's daughter, Kate, expressed an interest in theater, a world of opportunities were open to her in which she could "cultivate her interest."

The doting father recalled a daughter's adolescence failed with theater groups, clubs and camps where "she could hone her skills (and) be encouraged and affirmed."

"All sports are like this," the longtime Baptist minister said. "If you want to go into business, you can join Junior Achievement or Future Farmers of America. If you want to be a farmer, you could join the 4-H Club or Future Farmers of America."

Last year, when contemplating his own vocation—that of a preacher—he noticed a void. "There is very little support network" for young preachers, he observed.

That led the former chapel dean at Georgetown College to address this with the Lilly Endowment, an Indianapolis-based philanthropic organization.

"I took to them a concern for the lack of attention given to young people who want to be preachers," he said.

The Lilly Endowment agreed and the Academy of Preachers was born.

Thanks to a \$395,000 grant, Moody now heads the new program which he describes as a "national and ecumenical initiative for young people" who are called to preach.

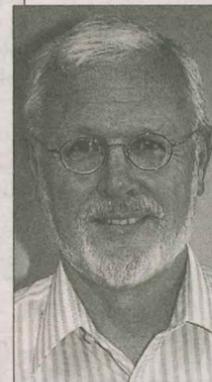
With Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church on board as a partnering institution—through which the grant money is administered—the Academy of Preachers launched its initial 18-month pilot project in January.

Lilly agreed to fund the program for 12 years if Moody would direct it for that long, he said. "This has the potential, they thought, for influencing a whole generation of preaching in the United States."

Based in Louisville, the academy has focused its efforts on 70 institutions of higher learning within a 150-mile radius of the city. All are schools "connected with the Christian tradition," representing a wide variety of denominational traditions, Moody pointed out.

In his initial work, Moody recruited a team of 16 ministerial students from a variety of backgrounds to form the Young Preachers Leadership Team that will help design and plan programs for the initiative.

The team is "male/female, it's liberal/conservative, it's Protestant/Catholic, it's □ See Academy seeks to shepherd ... Page 2



Dwight Moody

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 3

Academy seeks to shepherd young preachers into the pulpit

Continued from page 1

black and white and Hispanic," Moody said.

This week, the group is embarking on its first event, a six-day leadership camp in Indiana. Twelve of the 16 leadership team members are involved, as well as preaching coaches and guest presenters. The camp offers "personal coaching in the art and science of preaching," according to the academy's Web site.

Understanding his target audience, Moody has stayed well connected via the Internet and social media. He frequently updates both the Web page and the academy's Facebook site, which has nearly 200 fans.

Moody recently invested in a Flip video camcorder which allows him to record short videos during his travels, then immediately upload them to the Facebook page. Curtis Woods, campus minister at Kentucky State University, John Hurtgen, dean of Campbellsville University's School of Theology, and Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, are a few of the notable individuals who have recently been featured endorsing the academy.

In addition, Moody has assembled a team of consultants, a board of advisors and 16 partnering institutions. Several current and former Kentucky Baptist leaders participate as consultants and advisors, in-

cluding a pair of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors, T. Vaughn Walker, pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville, and Hershael York, pastor of Buck Baptist Church.

"By cultivating and sharpening preachers and encouraging and exalting the act of preaching itself, the academy is poised to shape a generation of Christian ministry," York said in a statement posted on the Web site.

Several other Southern Baptist leaders and institutions also are involved with the Academy of Preachers, despite the program's acceptance of women as preachers, a perceived conflict with Southern Baptists' statement of faith, the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message.

The document, which serves as a summary of faith for the Southern Baptist Convention, states that only men are permitted to serve as pastors.

Moody pointed out, too, that leaders from the Roman Catholic Church and Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ—denominations which do not allow or recognize female preachers—are involved with the Academy of Preachers.

But, when it comes to the academy, Moody insisted the topic is a non-issue.

"We're dealing only in preaching," he said. "We're not dealing with theology.

We're not dealing with ordination. We're not dealing with authority or sacraments or even pastoral work. We're dealing only with ... trying to bless, inspire and support young people who are called to preach."

The primary motivation behind the academy, Moody explained, is his conviction that "preaching is a transformational vocation in the lives of individuals, congregations, communities, nations and even the world."

"I think it's a noble calling, but it is not nearly as popular as it used to be, even among ministry students," he said.

The rise of non-profit and parachurch organizations offers Christian students more ministerial options than 50 years ago, Moody pointed out.

Whereas in the last half-century, some of the most influential people in the world were preachers—men like Martin Luther King Jr., Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell—today's most influential religious leaders—such as James Dobson and Chuck Colson—are not, Moody said.

And while he doesn't question the young generation's passion for Jesus Christ or their desire to make a difference in the world, Moody explained, "just not many of them see themselves as preachers. And part of the reason is they've lost the conviction that preaching is a socially sig-

nificant vocation."

One way Moody intends to showcase preaching's significance is through the Festival of Young Preachers, to be held Jan. 7-9, 2010 at St. Matthew Baptist Church.

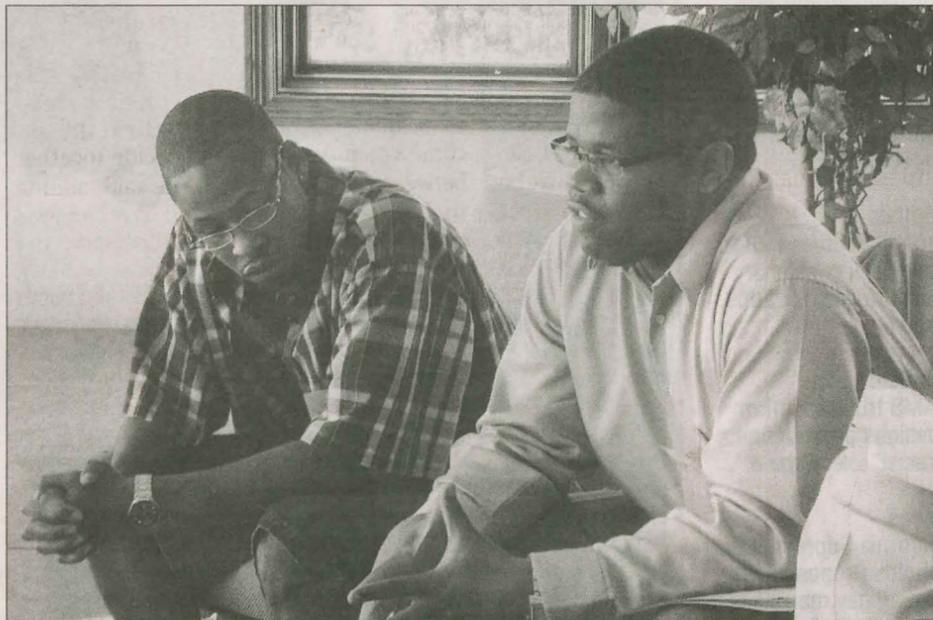
Similar to a speech tournament, 100 participants between the ages of 16-28 will have the opportunity to deliver an 18-minute sermon during the two-day event. Moody said he expects all 100 slots to be filled and attendance to approach 2,000.

As of last week, 20 young preachers had registered for the festival. That includes completing an application from the prospective participant; submitting a letter of endorsement from a sponsoring congregation, which pays the \$100 entry fee; and presenting a letter of support from a mentoring preacher who commits to be present and introduce the young preacher at the festival.

"You have to have a preaching mentor from your own tradition," Moody said. "That's what is going to shape you."

"What we're trying to do is bless these young people and say, 'Stick with this. You're doing a great thing. This is a vocation worthy of your life.'"

The deadline to register for the Festival of Young Preachers is Oct. 1. For more information on the event or the academy, visit www.AcademyofPreachers.net.



HENRY IN SESSION Members of the Academy of Preachers' Leadership Team discuss their future vocation on this day during a preaching camp going on in this area at Country Lake Christian Retreat Center in Henryville, Ind. ■ **Left:** Scott Claybrook (center), a recent graduate of Belmont University in Nashville and member of ClearView Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., shares his story while Kara Hildebrandt (right), a recent graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School, and others look on. ■ **Right:** J.C. Campbell, a Georgetown College student and member at First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville, listens as Brandon Perkins, a student at Fisk University in Nashville, discusses preaching. (Photos courtesy of Dwight Moody)

Missionaries with Kentucky ties appointed by IMB

Denver—Several missionaries with ties to the Bluegrass were appointed as International Mission Board missionaries at a May 20 session at Riverside Church in Denver.

The Southern Baptist missions organization commissioned 101 new missionaries, the fourth-largest appointed group in its history. The appointees will join more than 5,600 missionaries already on the field worldwide.

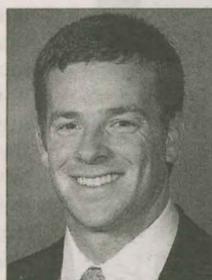
Among those appointed were:

Roger and Courtney Hampton, who will be serving in a community outreach role in Bangkok, Thailand. They served as International Service Corps missionaries from 2006-08. Both are University of Louisville graduates and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. They are members of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah. They have an infant son, Asher.

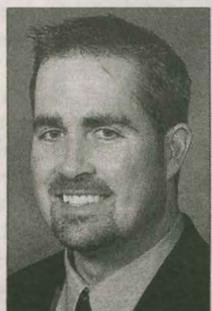
Reid and Kyra Karr, who will be working with university students in Rome. Roger currently is a student at Southern Seminary and serves as a student missions co-



Roger and Courtney Hampton



Reid and Kyra Karr



Mike and Rebecca Powell

ordinator with the school. The Karrs are members of Sojourn Community Church in Louisville. They have an infant daughter, Nolyn.

Mike and Rebecca Powell, who will be serving as missions strategy coordinators in Brazil. Mike earned a master's degree in missiology from Southern last December. The Powells live in Georgetown and are members of Center Point Church in Lexington. They have three children, JohnMark, 11, Jackson, 8, and Jayden, 6.

Mayfield pastor Larry Hawkins dies at age 66

Mayfield—Larry Hawkins, who had served as pastor of West Broadway Baptist Church in Mayfield since 2008, died April 12. He was 66.

Hawkins was called to lead the Mayfield congregation last April. According to Kentucky Baptist Convention records, he also was pastor at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Arlington from 2004-07.

Hawkins is survived by his wife, Mary, three children, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held April 14 at Bryn Funeral Home in Mayfield with Ronnie Stinson, pastor of Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield, and Ronnie Stinson Jr., associate pastor at Trace Creek, officiating.

'Great Commission Resurgence' KBC leaders express support, concerns

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Louisville—Four Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders have voiced both their support for and concerns raised by Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt's call for a Great Commission resurgence.

While historically Southern Baptists have shared a commitment to the Great Commission, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey allowed, "We all know that individuals, families, churches and denominational entities need a greater commitment to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to take His good news to all people." Mackey added that his hope and prayer was "that this will be a time when God will move among His people in a way that renews our passion for sharing the gospel."

KBC President John Mark Toby shares that passion. "It is my hope and prayer as Kentucky Baptists that we will lead the way that would bring about revival and spiritual awakening not only in Kentucky, the nation but around the world," Toby said. Recalling an opportunity he had to travel the state, praying with Kentucky Baptists, Toby said he was impressed by "hearing their heart for God to move mightily in our midst."



John Mark Toby

While SBC First Vice President Bill Henard agreed that the "main focus must be that all of our ministries help us to do Great Commission evangelism," he remains "cautiously optimistic" about the outcome of a Great Commission resurgence.

"Little doubt exists that we need to overhaul our systems and become more effective and efficient, especially in today's economy," Henard said. "If we are honest, we have to admit that we are doing some things simply out of tradition or habit, yet these activities see little or no fruit."

And International Mission Board Chair Paul Chitwood observed that while anyone could critique the specific wording of the Great Commission Resurgence document, "Make no mistake about it, I am for the Great Commission being highlighted in our cooperative work as Southern Baptists."

With regard to Kentucky Baptists, Chitwood stated that although he is proud of their track record, he believes that the time has come for the convention to re-evaluate its CP formula. "I think a Great Commission resurgence in Kentucky will require us to get more missions money given by our churches to the overseas mission fields," Chitwood explained.

Though some may be concerned about its implementation, the Great Commission Resurgence document addresses some important and challenging issues and concerns in Southern Baptist Convention life, Mackey acknowledged.

"It is healthy for us to closely examine our work and explore ways of improving our efficiency and effectiveness. Being good stewards of the resources that God has provided means always being willing to examine ourselves and seek better ways of serving," Mackey said.

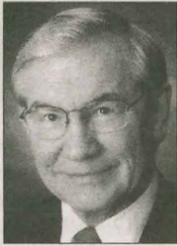
If the proposal to form a Great Commission Resurgence Committee is approved by the SBC messengers later this month, one of its toughest challenges likely will come in deciding how best to direct Cooperative Program funding, Mackey noted. "It has been my experience that each ministry or entity feels that it is doing excellent work and deserves support. And each ministry can often justify its position with Kingdom results."

"If it were simply a decision between the 'good' and the 'best,' these funding choices would not be quite as difficult as they become when we all have to decide together between 'best' and 'best,'" he said, adding that the GCR committee will have "an awesome responsibility" and will deserve the prayers of all Southern Baptists.

Emphasizing the importance "for us as a convention to keep our eyes on the author and perfecter of our faith," Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, pointed out, "The Great Commission challenges us as believers to stay on task."

"We do many things well," Toby affirmed, "but we need to be more effective in communicating the good news of the gospel and coordinating our efforts."

Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, however, cautioned Baptists to refrain from making sweeping accusations and blanket statements. "Additionally, we must remember that all of us are passionate about differ-



Bill Mackey

ent aspects of Southern Baptist life, whether it is seminary education, LifeWay, International Mission Board or North American Mission Board," he observed. "Let's be careful in our rhetoric and retort."

Because of a need for greater CP funds to support the rising numbers who are seeking to be appointed as missionaries, Henard said that appeals for softer language should not imply that each state convention be absolved from determining how its organization can be streamlined. "It also does not excuse each church from giving sacrificially to the Cooperative Program, especially for those of us elected to office," he asserted.

Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington and assistant professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, sees talk of a Great Commission resurgence as "welcomed news to those of us who have places of service on the leading edge of Southern Baptist's Great Commission spear."

Chitwood maintained that a Great Commission resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention—if the Great Commission is what Southern Baptists really want to accomplish—will have one unmistakable quality: "We will pledge ourselves and our resources to make disciples of all nations. That is, after all, the Great Commission," he asserted.

"Should not a Great Commission resurgence be marked by a surging of workers to the fields? Should not a Great Commission resurgence be marked by a surging of resources to the nations?" he asked. "Should not a Great Commission resurgence be marked by more missions dollars being marked for the mission field?"

While there will be much speculation about the work of the GCR committee in the coming months, Southern Baptists do not need to wait for someone to instruct them to be Great Commission Christians, Mackey asserted. "Jesus has already given us the Holy Spirit to empower us."

"If 50 percent more active Southern Baptists would decide to be Great Commission stewards, most church and missions funding concerns would be solved, and witnessing and growth would exceed all expectations," he said, adding, "It is my conviction that the resources are in the harvest, including personnel, finances and spiritual energy from God."



Paul Chitwood

Penned by Ky. pastor

Care plan for chaplains to be unveiled at SBC

By Ken Walker

Alpharetta, Ga.—The Southern Baptist Convention's first ministry care plan for churches whose pastors are called to active duty with the military will get its official launch at this year's SBC annual meeting, June 23-24 in Louisville.

Keith Travis, director of the North American Mission Board's chaplaincy and evangelism team, said the plan—written by a Kentucky pastor—outlines steps churches can take when a pastor or staff member has to serve as a National Guard or reserve chaplain.

"If they do mobilize and leave, it is difficult for churches and pastors to work out how they're going to transition and what's going to happen in that transition," said Travis, who, as a pastor, was called to duty the day after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "This plan addresses all of those things."

The 67-page handbook was written by Jay Padgett, minister of music at Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy, as part of his doctor of ministry studies.

"If it helps one chaplain or church, this plan will be worth it," said Padgett, who is completing training this spring prior to heading to Iraq for the second time. Endorsed by North American Mission Board in 1999, he will serve with the Kentucky National Guard's 103rd Chemical Battalion.

The plan features extensive suggestions about steps churches can take before, during and after a pastor or staff member departs for duty.

Padgett said he hopes the plan also will help educate Southern Baptists about chaplaincy. While researching the document, he discovered that many Baptists don't know that the mission board endorses chaplains and their qualifications or that their service is rooted in the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom.

A six-member work group from Graefenburg the plan, brainstorming about the things the church did right during his first tour in Iraq and how it could improve. The plan is now part of a group of resources available at www.NAMB.net/Chaplain. (BP)

National health care leader honored by Campbellsville's Louisville campus

Louisville—A leading health care administrator from Louisville was honored recently by Campbellsville University's Louisville campus.

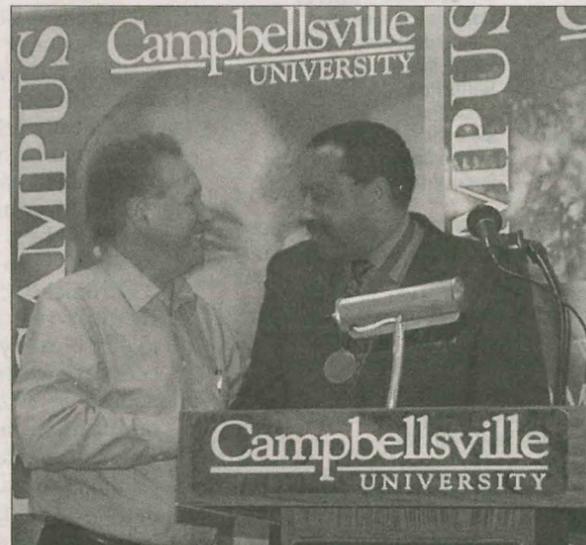
Norton Healthcare Vice President Al Cornish was awarded the Campbellsville University Leadership Award for his national, state and local leadership in the field of health care. The presentation was made at the Louisville campus' May 22 convocation.

"Al Cornish has demonstrated a life of helping others," said Keith Spears, Campbellsville's vice president for regional and professional education. "As indicated by the award, the universal attributes of fellowship, leadership and scholarship are those that are displayed daily by

this community leader. Al Cornish goes well beyond any expectations of executive leadership."

Cornish, who has been recognized both regionally and nationally for his civic and business leadership, is a two-time honors graduate from University of Maryland and Lacrosse University.

"Al Cornish is the type of individual whom we would like for our students to emulate," noted Frank Cheatham, vice president of academics at CU. "His success in business corresponds directly with his accomplishments in the many community associations in which he participates. We are pleased to welcome him into the Campbellsville University leadership circle."



HONORED Norton Healthcare Vice President Al Cornish (right) shakes hands with Frank Cheatham, Campbellsville vice president for academics during convocation ceremonies at CU's Louisville campus. Cornish was awarded the school's Leadership Award for his national, state and local leadership in the field of health care. (Photo by Linda Waggoner)

Great Commission and partnerships

The Great Commission has always been the focus and foundation of Southern Baptists, especially the commitment to missions, ministries and evangelism locally and around the world. This is seen in the central role the Great

Commission plays in the missions of associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

However, it is easy to see that there is much room for greater intensity, passion and commitment for the Great Commission among Southern Baptists. Our denomination will continue to experience limited success and decline unless we see our lost world through the eyes of Jesus and develop a true sense of urgency about reaching every person.

SBC President Johnny Hunt is one person who has the sense of urgency we all need. In recently addressing the SBC Executive Committee, he said he would give everything he had to see the gospel shared with the whole world. To this end, he has given his name to a document titled "Toward a Great Commission Resurgence," which is a call for all Southern Baptists to move to a new level in commitment to the Great Commission.

Ten declarations in the document call for significant commitments that can make a difference with individuals, families, churches and every denominational entity. As far as the document goes, I am disappointed that evangelism is not explicitly listed along with North American church planting, pioneer missions around the globe and theological education as priorities around which Southern Baptists will rally. But I am pleased to see that negative statements about the state conventions and the national convention have been removed from the latest drafts of the document.

Although the document may not be perfect, the call to action is energizing to me. It is a healthy thing for denominations, churches and individual Christians to regularly examine our hearts and lives and to rededicate ourselves to God's calling.

While recently watching a Memorial Day program, I was reminded of the sacrifices made by soldiers to ensure our basic freedoms. We need to have the same willingness to sacrifice in order to win our world for Jesus.

Statements and pronouncements in themselves do not change the hearts of God's people—only God can do that. But if we work together as believers, families, churches and denominational entities, God can use us as Southern Baptists to experience a true Great Commission resurgence.

David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., recently said all "partners" will be needed for a Great Commission resurgence, and I agree. It comes down to the commitment of individual believers.

For me it is very personal: It will be worth everything, even my life, for Kentucky Baptists and KBC churches to become passionate about the Great Commission.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

The ultimate 'win-win scenario'

Two weeks ago, I did something that I haven't done in 20 years: graduate.

In the past few weeks, more than 1,075 students were awarded degrees from five of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. (Golden Gate's commencement services were held May 29 and are not included in this figure.) I was among the 210 students to receive diplomas at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., as one of the first three from a 15-member cohort to earn degrees through its new doctor of education program.

Meanwhile, closer to home, 886 students participated in spring commencements at one of three universities with ties to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. At Campbellsville University, 311 were awarded diplomas, including 101 master's degrees; at University of the Cumberlands, 239 seniors received baccalaureate degrees and 46 received master's degrees; at Georgetown College, a record 290 students graduated. And, all across the Commonwealth, tens of thousands of Baptist students are graduating from high schools and universities.

While each of the ceremonies celebrating significant milestones in Christian higher education no doubt featured notable commencement addresses, the one that I heard delivered by Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary, was exemplary, for it was applicable to all graduates—whether from high schools, colleges, graduate schools or seminaries.

Akin challenged graduates to experience the "ultimate win-win scenario." Basing his remarks on Philippians 1:21—which Paul wrote to the church at Philippi while he was imprisoned—Akin declared, "Regardless of the future, in life or in death, it is all about Jesus."

All of us will inevitably make a personal decision as to what makes life worth living. That decision, Akin explained, will be the motivating force in one's life. What moves you, what excites you, what turns you on is what you are living for, he observed. "What will be that driving engine in your life?" Akin asked graduates.

"Life is not just marking time and punching a

clock," he corrected. "Real life has a purpose, and it is about Jesus. He is the one who said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' He's either right or wrong. If He's the King of Kings and God raised Him from the dead, then He is right."

For Paul, life was all about Christ. Paul had one ambition: that whether in his life or death, he would bring glory to God, Akin said. Making that commitment, he urged, enables one to experience both a life worth living and a death worth having.

"Living for anything other than Christ would mean to die is loss," Akin asserted. He then described scenarios that in every instance are lose-lose: "If you say, 'For me to live is money,' then to die is to leave it all behind; ... 'For me to live is fame,' then to die is one day to be forgotten; ... 'For me to live is power,' then to die is to be eternally impotent. ... 'For me to live is a career,' then to die is to be eternally unemployed; ... 'For me to live is sports,' then to die is eternal retirement; ... 'For me to live is food,' then to die is to die without the Bread of Life; 'For me to live is to travel,' then to die is to go nowhere worth going."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

But for those whose life is Christ, then life is gain and death is gain. "It's a win-win scenario. Life is Christ and death is even more of Christ," Akin concluded.

As family and friends gathered around each graduate in front of Binkley Chapel following the commencement ceremony to congratulate them and take photos, I was impressed by the thought of experiencing a greater graduation one day. Yes, it does simplify life when we say, "All that I am and all that I ever will be is all in Jesus' hands," but in placing our faith in Christ, we also can look forward to the day when we graduate from this life to enter eternity. Akin described that joyful day in this way: "Death is not my enemy ... It's my friend, my escort into the very presence of Jesus." For the believer, it is the ultimate win-win scenario: abundant life today, eternal joy tomorrow—with "the second win actually being better than the first one." Now that's a message students of all ages need to hear!

Hunt issues challenge to Southern Baptists

Dear Southern Baptist Convention Family,

Thank you for the trust you placed in my leadership last year at our national convention. It has been an honor to serve you this year and I appreciate your prayers as well as your concerns you have shared with me as we have presented to you the "Great Commission Resurgence" declaration. I have heard you loud and clear, and with that in mind

I have attempted to honor James 3:17, knowing that wisdom comes from above and that the Bible gives us marvelous characteristics of what that wisdom looks like. The words that stand out in this passage that really speak to my heart are: easily to be entreated, willing to yield, or reasonable. I want to be God's man who is reasonable and always generating kindness, and a man with pure motives that are displayed with pure manners.

With that being said, there have been several revisions that I have made to this document that I trust will give greater clarity, as well as gain greater support. As David Dockery has said, "A Great Commission resurgence needs Great Commission partners" (see article, page 5). It is my prayer that each of us, regardless of whether we serve in a convention leadership role, a local church or as a layperson in the fellowship of one of our churches, would rally behind the Great Commission Resurgence. With that being the ultimate motive of our hearts, the nations will have an opportunity to hear the gospel.

At our annual meeting you will hear in the president's address a passionate plea that God would touch us again, even as the cry came from Almighty God in 2 Chronicles 7:14, that we must be visited from heaven. He must once again touch the hearts and claim the allegiance of every pastor and every spiritual leader in this convention. The last words our Lord Jesus gave to the church were that of the Great Commission. It must be our ultimate task.

I believe that the answer to our ills lies in the context of our local pastors. I often have said that whatever is important to us, as pastors, is what becomes important to the people in the pews. I believe the grassroots of the

Southern Baptist Convention are the local churches, the people in the pews, and the pastors and staff who lead those churches. Let me also be quick to recognize our local, state and national partners with whom we are able to do a more effective ministry in reaching this nation and the nations of the world. It is my prayer that God would call all of us together, and as Jay Strack often has said, "That we would

all check our 'egos' and our 'logos' at the door," humbly bow before God, and let Christ work through us as a unified body. I have discovered through leading our convention over these last 11 months there is great diversity; yet, in so many places there is such great unity.

In recent days the economic downturn has caused all of us to reevaluate our priorities. What better time than now for us to take a deep spiritual look inside all we do to make sure His priority is ours. May He also challenge us spiritually to take the same type look and see if there is any need to streamline on any level mentioned thus far in this letter so that we might surrender to Almighty God and become more efficient and more effective in doing the Great Commission like never before.

Many throughout the nation have said, "that as goes the Southern Baptist Convention, so goes the evangelical world." I am not sure if that is 100 percent true, but I believe that it is more truthful than false. With that being said, let us rise up, under the lordship of Jesus Christ, for the expressed purpose of embracing God's heart for the nations.

I deeply love all of you, my dear brothers and sisters, and it is my prayer that we would experience God's touch at the Southern Baptist Convention this year. May His Kingdom be empowered! May His Kingdom be advanced! May His Kingdom be embraced! May His Kingdom's work be enjoyed! May we seek to celebrate the Great Commission like never before. There are nations waiting to hear, and may there be a Southern Baptist Convention more eager than ever to tell.

Johnny Hunt
SBC president

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June Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

"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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Maximize your giving impact

By Laurie Valentine

Maximize the impact of your charitable giving by:

■ Determining if the causes you want to support are qualified charities—the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov/charities/index.html) can tell you if they are “qualified” 501(c)(3) organizations (Note: churches are qualified charitable organizations but do not have to register with the IRS).

■ Determining if the cause will be a good steward of your gift—talk to the organization’s leadership; check out Web site databases that report on the activities and finances of charities such as www.give.org (Better Business Bureau’s database on charities that solicit nationally with links to local BBB sites), www.guidestar.org and www.charitynavigator.org.

Maximize tax savings by:

■ Giving appreciated assets (stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, or real estate) rather than cash—the after-tax cost of your gift will be lower than the same-size cash gift when you consider both the income tax savings and the capital gains savings you may realize from using the appreciated asset to make your gift.

■ Selling depreciated long-term capital gain assets and giving the cash sale proceeds—you will get a charitable income tax deduction if you itemize and a deduction for the capital loss.

■ Establishing a Donor Advised Fund. DAF’s allow you to make your gift in a year when the deduction can save taxes, but defer the decision about what causes will benefit from your gift until later years.

■ Increasing your gifts to charity in years in which you will have the most income—the amount of income tax savings depends on your tax bracket; the higher your tax bracket, the more tax savings from charitable gifts, if you can itemize deductions.

Maximize your income by:

■ Setting up a “life income” gift such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Such gifts provide an opportunity to set up a future, irrevocable tax deductible gift for charity while possibly increasing current cash flow to you and/or others for life or a term of years.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Is it time to change our CP spending habits?

By Paul Chitwood

“If you will, with a broken heart, affirm the recommendation of our staff to temporarily suspend the ISC and Masters programs, and limit other new missionary appointments, please say ‘aye.’” The motion passed.

After a prayer by a trustee for God to provide the resources necessary to once again fund all of these missionary-sending programs, I wiped the tears from my eyes and saw our president, Jerry Rankin, do the same.

During the tenure of Rankin’s leadership over the International Mission Board, the total number of Southern Baptist missionaries has increased by more than 1,500. Our current count exceeds 5,600. But we do not have the money to support additional missionaries, nor will we be able to replace many of those who are completing their assignments. Therefore, our overall number of missionaries will soon fall.

In an era when more God-called individuals are coming to conferences to explore potential service with the IMB and more students are enrolling in SBC seminaries with the goal of being appointed as missionaries, have Southern Baptists decided they don’t need any more missionaries? Have we reached the limits of our giving in support of international missions? Have we determined that we need do no more than we are currently doing to take the gospel to the ends of the earth?

Because of the current formulas determining how Cooperative Pro-

gram dollars are spent, only 18 cents of each dollar given through the CP in my state will ever make it to the overseas mission fields. While some states do indeed forward more money, they are the exception.

As a seminary graduate, pastor and professor, I am eternally grateful for all of the ministries supported by the Cooperative Program. The CP paid for a significant part of my education, and the CP continues to partially support my current salary as a professor.

Matching funds from my state’s CP budget are contributed to my retirement. I share that information so you will know that what I am about to say does not come from one who is personally or financially detached from the CP.

My modest proposal is this: The time has come to change the Cooperative Program formula. Our prayers for workers for the harvest have been answered. The Lord of the harvest is calling out incredible numbers of workers for fields that are already white to harvest. Shall we tell them we are unable to send them? Shall we communicate to the lost we cannot afford to reach them? My conviction is that the time has come for us to make tough choices between the good and the best when it pertains to the Cooperative Program.

I am not suggesting that all North American CP ministries be defunded. Vital Kingdom work is supported by CP dollars in every state convention and in the Southern Baptist entities and institutions operating in the States. The time has come,

however, to invest more of our CP funds in making disciples of all the nations.

I am proposing that every state convention and our national convention revise the formula they use in dividing CP funds by applying a simple two-question test to how and where every dollar is spent. First, will this expenditure have a direct and transformative impact on lostness? Second, could this money be better spent by sending a waiting missionary to a place where the gospel will not be heard unless that missionary goes?

I believe such a test would dramatically change our stateside CP formulas. More importantly, it would provide the funds necessary to support every called and qualified missionary to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Just as Americans are changing spending habits during the economic crunch, the time has come for Southern Baptists to change their CP spending habits. Ministries and programs we enjoy during times of plenty but that have little or no actual impact upon lostness must be sacrificed for the sake of those facing hell with no access to the gospel.

I plead with Southern Baptists to change the Cooperative Program formula to ensure that the majority of money given to get the gospel to the nations no longer gets held back in our own nation. We are a Great Commission denomination. The urgency of the times demands that we prove it. (BP)

Chitwood is pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington, Ky., and chairman of trustees for the International Mission Board.



Paul Chitwood

‘Resurgence’ needs Great Commission partners

By David Dockery & Timothy George

Over the past two years we have called for consensus, renewal and bridge building in our shared work across Southern Baptist life. We applauded the spirit of that call is reflected in so many aspects of the recently released statement, “Toward a Great Commission Resurgence,” by SBC President Johnny Hunt.

We are thankful for the call to place Jesus Christ and His Great Commission in the center of our service across the convention. Particularly are we thrilled to join with those who call upon Southern Baptists to make the gospel of Christ central in our lives, our churches and our denominational ministries. We affirm the Bible as God’s totally truthful Word and rejoice that Southern Baptists are a people of the Book.

The heartbeat of Southern Baptists is the Great Commission. We also recognize that Southern Baptists have been and will be able to carry out the Great Commission mandate by God’s providential enablement, blessing and provision through the cooperative and collaborative efforts of Great Commission partners. We support the spirit of the Great Commission Resurgence effort, but there is a need to emphasize the call for partnerships and adding this emphasis we believe will strengthen the document.

The Cooperative Program creat-

ed partnerships whereby churches could combine gifts, given to and through state conventions and passed on to the national convention, for the purpose of supporting missions, education, benevolence efforts and other ministries. These gifts are employed to send and support missionaries, equip pastors and church leaders, facilitate educational institutions, including colleges, universities and seminaries, and address benevolent, social, ethical and moral issues. We are thankful to God for each of these effective partners in Great Commission work at all levels: associational, state and national. Many of these partners employ wise stewardship of Cooperative Program dollars; we should offer them generous praise and bountiful support.

The Cooperative Program has been the glue that continues to hold together 44,000 Southern Baptist congregations for the purpose of advancing the gospel around the world. With the global population exceeding 6.5 billion, Christ’s command to take the gospel to every nation requires Southern Baptists to enhance our collaborative efforts.

Cooperating churches, associations, state conventions, national conventions, colleges, universities, children’s homes, seminaries, commissions and mission boards must work together in a renewed partnership that is grounded in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Denominations are a God-honored means for carrying forth the work of Christ in the world. When any denomination becomes an end in itself, it will invariably end with itself. As we move forward into the 21st century, we will need to ask hard questions about historical structures to see if they are continuing to be faithful and effective for the challenges of our day. We must together pray for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we pursue answers to these questions. We believe that all Baptist entities can and must work together to advance the work of North American church planting, strategic global missions and faithful cultural engagement.

Yes, we need a Great Commission resurgence in Southern Baptist life. And we believe that such an initiative will require renewed efforts in building Great Commission partnerships. May this call for a Great Commission resurgence in cooperation with Great Commission partners across the SBC enhance our understanding of the gospel, deepen our commitments to Scripture and to our Baptist confessional heritage, and bring renewal in our worship, our approach to Baptist education and in our shared service together in missions and evangelism as we seek to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

Dockery is the president of Union University, and George is the founding dean of Beeson Divinity School of Samford University

Too much praise?

By David Garrard

My friend, Dan Yeary tells about a little boy who says to his dad, “Let’s play darts. I’ll throw, and you say ‘wonderful.’” In many ways, Dan’s story describes a particular approach to education and parenting that takes the good goal of building self-esteem too far. While proper praise can encourage and motivate, an endless stream of undeserved praise ultimately does more damage than good.

Bestselling author, Keith Ablow contributes as an editor for Good Housekeeping and Men’s Fitness magazines and serves as a psychology correspondent for Fox News. On a recent segment, Dr. Ablow addressed the question, “Do our kids receive too much praise?” Ablow answered with a resounding “yes!”

Ablow argues that many of today’s children need a reality check more than additional praise. They have been told time and again that they are destined for greatness—all of them. As a result, many are stunned when their best efforts result in failure of any kind. Ablow says these children do not know how to cope. They often experience anxiety, panic and even depression when things don’t go their way, or when they fall short of the unrealistic expectations.

Do children need praise? Absolutely! Does praise contribute to their sense of well-being? Without question. However, in order to serve them best, the praise that we give our children needs to be honest, and it needs to be coupled with the cold, hard facts that sometimes others are smarter, faster, stronger—in short, simply better than they are at a particular task or endeavor.

Recognizing this reality will not harm our children. On the contrary, it will better equip them to live in the real world. It can also provide parents the opportunity to teach the tremendous biblical truth that our ultimate value does not depend on what we do, or how well we do it.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.



IMB missionary appointments to be scaled back due to economy

By Shawn Hendricks & Erich Bridges
International Mission Board

Denver—In response to reduced giving during the current economic downturn, International Mission Board trustees approved suspending new appointments to the International Service Corps and Masters programs during their May 19-20 meeting in Denver.

The IMB also will reduce the number of new appointments to its career, apprentice and associate programs. New appointments will continue on a more selective basis, involving only the most strategic assignments.

Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt, who spoke at the meeting, said, "It is not acceptable in my heart that we can have missionaries in the pipeline and need to tell them we can't send them."

"I believe that the people of God will rise to the occasion," said Hunt, pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.

But Hunt also noted: "We will have a significant reduction (of missionary appointments) in 2010 ... unless Southern Baptists respond."

This summer when Southern Baptists sent out 1,088 new missionaries through the IMB. This year, long-term appointments will be capped at 300. With 220 already appointed to date, only 80 more appointments will be made for the fiscal year.

In any given year, the IMB typically appoints missionaries in all categories to replace attrition through end of term, retirement, resignation and other reasons. In 2008, 5,495 personnel were serving in the field—4,286 of whom were long-term missionaries.

"Today, we have more candidates knocking on our door and downloading our applications than ever before," said Paul Chitwood, IMB trustee chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

"Yet on this day when God has answered our prayers for workers for His harvest, lack of funding has forced us to temporarily suspend categories for service."

Suspension details

The suspension of new assignments to the ISC and Masters programs will take effect immediately and continue until further review in early 2010.

The ISC program is designed for Southern Baptists age 21 and older who wish to serve two- or three-year terms abroad; the Masters program is for individuals age 50 and older. More than 800 ISC and Masters missionaries currently working overseas will continue their service.

Other short-term programs—the Journeyman program and "2-plus-2"—will continue, but new appointments will be limited to the most strate-

gic assignments.

The Journeyman program sends 20-something, single college graduates overseas for two years. The "2-plus-2" program involves two years of seminary study and two years of missionary service abroad.

These adjustments are vital since 70 percent of the organization's budget and financial resources go toward the support of missionary personnel, IMB officials noted.

This past fall, IMB trustees adopted a \$319.8 million budget for 2009—\$10 million of which was earmarked to offset the rising cost of support for the missionaries already on the field. The 2009 budget made no provision for an increase in the number of missionaries.

Suspensions in short-term appointments could bode poorly for future long-term appointments. In 2007, the IMB appointed 845 new missionaries, including 504 short-term personnel. Of the 341 long-term appointments, 30 percent previously had served two years or longer with the IMB through one of the short-term programs.

Falling short

The results for the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions still are being collected and will be released in a few weeks. However, early projections show that the offering is expected to fall short of the \$150 million received in 2007. From Oct. 31 through April 30, giving was nearly \$8 million behind the \$121.5 million contributed through state conventions during the same time frame a year ago.

Investment losses, a slight downturn in Cooperative Program giving and harsh economic conditions also have taken a toll on IMB funding.

"The economic recession has had an impact on every facet of our nation, including Southern Baptists and our churches," Steverson urged. God "has given us a task, a mission and we must remain faithful to what He has called us to do."

Though significant adjustments will be necessary to meet future needs, Steverson said he remains optimistic.

"The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program have held up dramatically well when you consider everything happening in our economy," he added. "We must be about our Father's business," Steverson urged. God "has given us a task, a mission and we must remain faithful to what He has called us to do."

Trustees voted to cancel their July 10-11 meeting in light of the economic situation. The July 12 appointment service will be held in Lebanon, Ohio. The next board meeting is planned for Sept. 15-16 in Jacksonville, Fla., where an appointment service is scheduled at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville Sept. 16. (BP)

Hunt, Rankin urge Baptists to reprioritize global missions

Denver—After a vote by International Mission Board trustees to suspend some short-term appointments and limit the number of new missionaries, Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt told trustees it's time "to take the gloves off in Jesus' name."

"We need to ... tell the truth so the people will know," Hunt said at the IMB's trustee meeting.

Lack of funds is forcing the IMB to limit the number of missionaries it can send to the field.

"I think Southern Baptists are going to say there are some things we can cut, but sending missionaries is not one of them," Hunt said.

IMB President Jerry Rankin, in his report to trustees, endorsed the concept of a Great Commission resurgence as advocated by Hunt. Rankin described the health and vitality of the Southern Baptist churches and the future effectiveness of the denomination as dependent on reclaiming the focus for which the SBC was formed.

Rankin also challenged Southern Baptists to retool "outdated" denominational formulas to reach a lost world for Christ.

"God has blessed Southern Baptists in numbers and resources,

and we will stand accountable before God for whether we use those resources to serve our own needs, church programs and denominational entities or fulfill our mission task to reach a lost world," Rankin noted.

With 95 percent of the world's population living outside the borders of the United States, Rankin said the percentage of Cooperative Program funds being channeled toward overseas missions is not enough. In order for Southern Baptists to adjust to a changing world, he suggested the percentage needs to be increased.

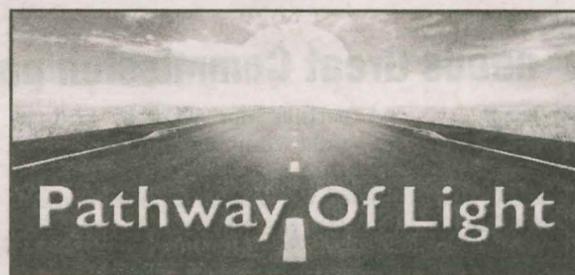
"The number of missionaries we can support is totally contingent on the voluntary giving of Southern Baptists and determined by the allocation of Cooperative Program resources as determined by state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention," Rankin said. "Although we are driven by a vision to reach a lost world ... we must operate within available resources."

Rankin acknowledged that the problem begins with personal stewardship; the number of Southern Baptists who tithe regularly is diminishing.

Yet the opportunity to reach a lost world has never been greater, he said. (BP)



Johnny Hunt



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BAPTIST DIGEST

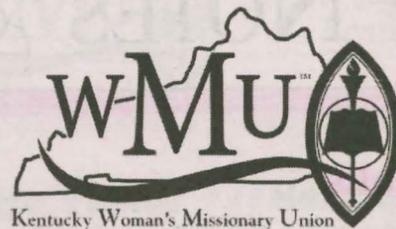
Deweese to retire as history society head—Charles Deweese is retiring in October at age 65 after 10 years as executive director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society. Deweese, who was treated for lymphoma in 2007 and 2008, said his health is excellent and is not the reason he is stepping down. Before becoming the society's executive director in 1999, Deweese worked at the former SBC Historical Commission from 1973 until 1994 and for Providence House Publishers in Franklin, Tenn., from 1995 until 1998.

Missions pioneer Winter dies—Ralph Winter, a veteran missiologist who 35 years ago sparked an emphasis on unreached people groups worldwide, died at his home in Pasadena, Calif., May 20 after a battle with cancer. He was 84. In 2005, Time magazine listed Winter as one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in America, noting that in 1974 at the International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, Winter revolutionized missionary work

overseas by calling Christians to look beyond national borders and serve the world's "unreached people." Time said Winter helped produce "a new generation of Christian message carriers, some native, ready to venture out to places with such ready-to-be-ministered flocks as Muslim converts to Christianity and African Christians with heretical beliefs."

Group says IRS should review Liberty—A church-state watchdog group says the IRS should review Liberty University's tax-exempt status for its decision to revoke recognition of its Democratic Party student club. University officials ordered the student group May 15 to cease using the school's name, logo, seal or mark in any of its publications, including electronic postings on a Web site, Facebook or Twitter. Mark Hine, vice president for student affairs, said the school could not "lend support to a club whose parent organization stands against the moral principles held by Liberty University."

KENTUCKY NOTES



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\$1,052,450.12
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\$1,052,008 goal!

Can we exceed last year's
total of \$1,105,721.92?

Summer 2009

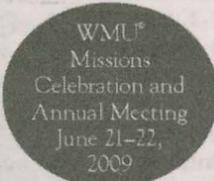
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Visit www.wmu.com/events for updates on this free missions event.

A Personal Word

In just a few short weeks, we will be hosting the National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting. It has been 50 years since the Southern Baptist Convention and related meetings came to Louisville. We have a picture of the ushers from the 1959 National WMU Annual Meeting, and several are still living. It will be a very special meeting for all of us, and especially these ladies who were there for the last time!

The Missions Celebration will be Sunday and Monday, June 21-22 at St. Matthews Baptist Church. It begins with a Kentucky Missions Fair and Disaster Relief Dinner at 4 p.m. There will be 45 Kentucky missions displays in the St. Matthews gym. Be there to greet our missionaries, learn more about their work, and find ways to be involved. Many of the exhibitors represent ministries that have received funding through Eliza Broadus Offering.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-Treasurer

Kentucky missions will also be the focus of the Sunday evening session beginning at 6:30. Larry Martin and Bill Barker will share stories that will make you laugh and cry.

The Monday morning session at 9 a.m. will focus on missions in North America. Brenda Crimm, a featured missionary in this year's Week of Prayer for North American Missions, will be on the program, as well as Chris Clarke, MSC missionary with Happy Trails Equestrian Ministry.

A boxed lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. Tickets for the luncheon must be purchased in advance from Kentucky WMU. A special awards program will take place during lunch.

Breakout sessions featuring missionaries, training and topics will be offered from 12:45-4:15 p.m. A number of Kentucky missionaries, writers and missions leaders are among the presenters.

Benita Decker, president of Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship, will provide a Baby Boot Camp workshop. KBC Literacy Consultant Rebecca Carnell will provide a literacy workshop. Eileen Mullins, MSC missionary with Haven of Rest, will talk about prison ministry.

Our Resident, will present a workshop on "Missions In Your Backyard." LaRaine Rice and Joe Ball will present "Missions Education and the Youth Minister." Lorie Looney Keene, Children's Minister at Pleasureville, will lead a workshop on her book *Pull Up a Chair: You, Me, and the Gospel of John*. And Jennifer Kennedy Dean of Marion, Ky., will present material from her book, *Set Apart*, a study of the Beatitudes.

On Monday afternoon at 4:30, we will focus on international missions. I am particularly excited about the recognition of Gerald and June McNeely and their family. The McNeely's are emeritus missionaries, missionary parents and grandparents. As missions educators, their tradition is also carried on by their daughter and son-in-law, GA and RA leaders at St. Matthews. We also will hear from several international missionaries about their work.

The National WMU Meeting will conclude by 6 p.m. and you can be home before dark. Or enjoy the evening and stay over for the Southern Baptist Convention. All Kentucky Baptists may attend as messengers or visitors. If you have never attended an SBC meeting, this is a great opportunity to attend and see our convention in session.

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2009

- WHAT?** Equipping, motivating, inspiring and experiencing the joy of missions
- WHO:** Church WMU & Baptist Men on Mission leaders, associational WMU leaders, pastors
- WHY?** To create an excitement and develop expertise in missions education
To lead others to be compelled to impact their world for Christ and His mission
To become the leader God wants you to be

- HIGHLIGHTS:** Speakers: Gary King, director of R/6 Mentoring Program; local ministry leaders.
Special workshop just for pastors led by KBC's Steve Thompson which will include missions involvement from a pastor's perspective.
Associational WMU Leadership Track

- WHEN? & WHERE?** July 17-18, Central Baptist Church Winchester (Eastern Time) July 24-25, First Baptist Church Madisonville (Central Time)
Friday 6-9:15 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- COST?** \$20 per person (registering by June 26)
\$25 per person (registering by July 10)
\$30 per person (registering after July 10)
Special registration for Pastors: \$5

- Includes:
- Friday and Saturday workshops and sessions
 - Saturday lunch
 - WMU participants receive a 2009-10 WMU Year Book
 - Baptist Men on Mission participants (Baptist Men, RA and Challengers) receive related resources

- HOW?** Request a registration brochure from Kentucky WMU, complete and return with registration fee.

- QUESTIONS:** Call (502)-489-3534 or (866) 489-3534 or e-mail: Brenda.Price@kybaptist.org

Churchwide



Important things are worth repeating.

Training, training, training. The importance of attending and participating in training can't be said enough. Not just for you as a WMU director, but your entire team,

leaders and officers.

World Missions Unlimited is the opportunity for everyone to get the information, leadership materials and time to network with others to prepare for and have the most effective Woman's Missionary Union in your church.

It is easy to say, "I don't have time" or "I can just read about it." But, how effective will you be to lead your church with missions education?

How do you engage your church in the six areas of missions focus? Do you know the six areas of missions focus? How will you incorporate the emphasis in your church? How does WMU Focus Week look in your church? How do you use the WMU Year Book? (*Year Book, what's a Year Book?*) What about curriculum? Yes, curriculum.

These are a few things you and your WMU leadership team, leaders and officers can experience. It is time we get excited again about WMU and its age level organizations. This year's event features a pastor track. Engage your pastor in missions education by inviting him to attend with your team.

Leadership forms, *leadership forms, leadership forms.* Again, this is worth repeating. Please make sure you complete your church leadership forms and return them to Kentucky WMU and your associational office. Getting this information ensures the right people get the right information during the course of the church year.

A copy of this form was included in the 2009 ACP packet sent to church clerks. It can also be found at kywmu.org/maillinglist. Please complete a new list every year, even when leaders stay the same. This lets us know that the names and addresses we have are current.

Someone from your association may call you for this information. You can save them the call by mailing the completed form from the ACP packet to your association WMU director.

Work to have your 2009/10 team in place by the time summer training is held. That will make everything flow smoother with preparation for the fall.

Enjoy your summer!
Wanda Walker

Adults

Often I am asked, "When is the fall retreat?" Fall retreats have been a great time to rest, relax and become rejuvenated while being inspired through speakers and missionaries.

However, each year costs increase, missionaries are not available as often and needs change. With the culmination of those factors, adult retreats are taking on a new look over the next few years for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

You may be aware that a winter regional retreat started in 2007. The group size is smaller and the format is different. It is a more intimate type of retreat and women develop relationships with each

other and the speaker.

This fall, there will not be a retreat at Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore. Instead, we will host a series of regional women's missions retreats. This fall, there will be a central Kentucky retreat. In January, there will be another regional retreat in eastern Kentucky and in March a retreat in western Kentucky. All retreats will provide the opportunity for small group experiences, rest, relaxation, rejuvenation and inspiration. Cost will be significantly lower for the retreats, and the schedule will be different. Brochures for each retreat will be sent only to the churches in the region where the retreat will be held.

As always, your comments are welcomed and heard, but please note that decisions are made with the needs of the

whole taking priority.

There will not be a fall retreat in 2010 so that more of us can get involved in the World Equestrian Game ministry opportunities. Learn more in the 2009 state missions material

Yes, retreats are changing. And we pray it will be good.

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship has a team going on its first (ever) mission trip to the Spirit Nation in Fort Totten/Devil's Lake, N.D., June 29-July 3. They will conduct Baby Boot Camps, women's health care, a children's health fair and a block party. Please keep them in your prayers as they go and serve our God through medical missions.

Blessings!
Wanda Walker



Youth

Youth experienced a "Metamorphosis" at Exalt and 4:GO in Corbin.

The events were held at Central Baptist Church, April 17-18. Wini Moran spoke with the young women at Exalt about allowing God to transform them into Christians who share their faith. Shelby Crawford, of the University of the Cumberlands, led in worship. She was joined by other dynamic young women from UC who led in special interest workshops. David Garrard demonstrated the faith through illusion on Friday night. It was an action-packed weekend!

At least two young ladies became Christians after the weekend. We are excited about these new lives in Christ and for the churches that reached out to them.

This summer will be packed. It starts with the National WMU Missions Celebration at St. Matthews Baptist Church, June 21-22. Your youth are welcome to attend. They will be inspired by national leaders and missionaries.

That's not all that takes place that week. June 22-26 will be Acteens week at Mission Adventure Camp. The week will feature Bible study, a missionary, recreation and ministry opportunities.

Acteens Splash will occur June 26-27 at Jonathan Creek Camp. Katie Richards, who spoke at Exalt 2007, will be



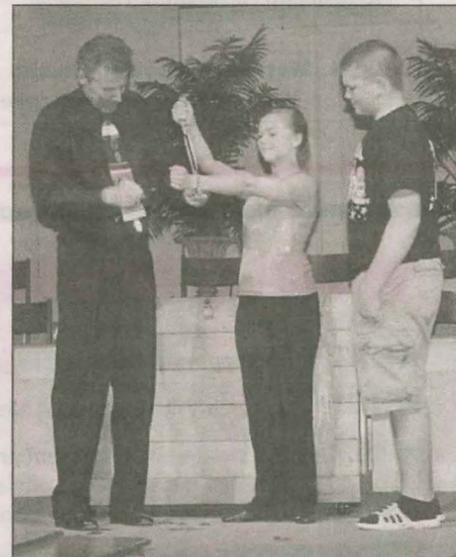
Music and magic were part of the program at Metamorphosis and 4:Go in Corbin

the speaker. The weekend will feature games, waterfront activities and breakout sessions.

World Missions Unlimited will provide leadership training for Acteens and Youth on Mission leaders. We will focus on "Called to Love: Find it Here." Leaders will not only learn about the organizations but also how youth can be involved with the statewide evangelism emphasis, "Find it Here," during the coming year.

Remember: Change a student, change the world. That's exactly what is happening in Acteens and Youth on Mission.

LaRaine Rice



Preschool & Children

Do you think the boys and girls in Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action are worth it? Are they worth you being the best leader you can be? The answer to both questions is, of course, "Yes!"

To be an effective leader and have a strong missions education program for preschoolers and children, attend World Missions Unlimited this summer. There will be something to learn and share whether you are a new leader or an experienced one. (See page 1 of this insert for the details.)

In September, preschoolers and children in your church will want to participate in the Season of Prayer and Offering

for State Missions. It would be a great way to start the new church year.

Start, the curriculum for Mission Friends, will feature Kentucky missionary Bessie McPeck during September. The preschool state missions study and prayer material will enhance the *Start* with preschoolers learn about Eliza Broadus and her role in missions in Kentucky.

The study and prayer material for children will focus on ministries to ex-offenders in Kentucky. Teaching guides for both age levels are available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

Brenda Price



Children in Action Missions Day Camp

Location - TBA
Date - Saturday, Sept. 19
Time - 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cost - \$10 per person

For members of Children in Action (boys and girls, grades 1-6)

Meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, do crafts, play games and have fun galore!

Contact the Kentucky WMU office after July 1 for details.

President's Perspective

God's Amazing Grace, what blessings our annual meeting in March had for us. I want to thank Dianna Ackerman and all the wonderful folks at First Baptist in Richmond for providing the place and workers to have our meeting. When I hear a song about "grace," memories flood my head about the meeting. And, of course, when I put on earrings I wonder, are they big enough? You had to be there!



Pat Reaves
Kentucky WMU
President

It is a humbling experience to be elected again to serve as your president. As I have said, it is "beyond belief."

Sandra Duguid and Cheryl Hatfield will serve as vice-president and secretary. Twyla Sheffield will serve as development specialist. She would love for you to give to the Heritage Fund. Benita Decker serves as president of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship. I'm grateful for all they do for Kentucky WMU.

Some dedicated board members rotated off the board. Thank you to Linda Alexander, Dolores Gilmore, Linda Cooper, Susan Bryant, Carole Kemper, Loretta Simpson, Marcia Ballard, Shirley Cox, Estella Brashear and Molly Hall. Take a little time to rest and then we will see you at the next event!

We welcomed new board members: Mitzi Noel, Tina Nicely, Patty Renfrow, Laura Morris, Joy Roberts, Marilyn Creighton, Teresa Vanzant and Lisa Nickell. Thank you for being willing to serve.

Again this year I spent the weekend with amazing Acteens at Exalt at Central Baptist in Corbin. I appreciate the leaders who take time to bring the girls. They are helping change lives.

Kentucky WMU is gearing up for the new year. If you need someone to help with your training or other needs, the resource team would love for you to call on them.

You should be in Louisville at St. Matthews Baptist June 21-22 for the national WMU meeting. Thanks to the people at the church for their hospitality. Also thanks to Mary Lou Crutcher for leading all the committees needed to have this meeting.

World Missions Unlimited is being planned. Please attend one and bring the leaders in your association and church. They will learn about the plans for the new year and be trained in how to have an effective WMU organization, whether it is Mission Friends or Adults on Mission.

If I can help you, give me a call. I hope to see you someplace in the state as we continue to "work together."

Love God. Love Others.
Pat

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

Dec. 1, 2008—Feb. 28, 2009

The following people were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the second quarter of the 2008-09 fiscal year. Thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU.

We also continue to receive gifts for the 1000² Campaign for the Heritage Fund. Please note the pledge gifts in our report each quarter, which also may be given in honor or memory of someone. You can participate in the 1000² Campaign by making a pledge or gift today.

In Honor of:

June Rice
Horace & Maribeth Hambrick
Pat Reaves/KY WMU Staff
Linda Alexander
June Jarvis
Betty Williams Chandler
Joy Bolton
Katrina Crutcher

Donor:

Cathy Mattingly**
Frankie Johnson
Cathy & George Chinn*
Richard & Amanda Major**
Charles & Patty Renfrow*
Carol Russ*
Anna White
Charles & Patty Renfrow*

In Memory of

Joyce Thompson
Ada Young
Paul Wayne Batsel
Louise Hayes Williams
Ressie Votaw
Oliver Costy

Donor:

Judy Wilhelm
Daviess-McLean Assoc. WMU
Christian County Assoc. WMU
Carol Russ*
Helen Hoderman
Jenny Ross Women on Mission Group
Laurel River Assoc. WMU
Marcia Ballard

Other Gifts:

Dr. & Mrs. T. R. Sisk, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Allen

* Toward pledge
** 1000² Campaign gift

1000² Campaign Contributions Dec. 1, 2008-Feb. 28, 2009

(includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments and other campaign gifts)

William & Charmaine Nichols	Twyla Sheffield
Crestwood Baptist WMU	Cheryl Hatfield
Kentucky WMU Staff	Dry Ridge Baptist Night
Pulaski Association WMU	Women on Mission
Dolores Gilliland Peterson	Parkway Baptist WMU
Westport Road Baptist WMU	Daviess-McLean Assoc. WMU
James & Linda Cooper	Bettie Sue Wells
New Salem Baptist WMU (PGDL Circle)	Bethel Baptist WMU (Mary Williams & Tablow Groups)
Jo Pelham	Joy Bolton

2009-10 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

President: Pat Reaves
Vice-President: Sandra Duguid
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Hatfield

Region 1: Mitzi Noel
Cecilia Wallace
Marjorie Yandell

Region 2: Tina Nicely
Jo Pelham
Kim Thomas

Region 3: Mary Lauer
Patty Renfrow
Konnice Smith

Region 4: Cathy Mattingly
Betty Montfort
Laura Morris

Region 5: Jessica Childers
Joy Roberts
Darlene Schadler

Region 6: Marilyn Creighton
Linda Devine
Mary Lou Ray

Region 7: Kim Price
Mae Renner
Teresa Vanzant

Region 8: Andrea Cable
Lisa Nickell
Mary Lou Walzer

BNF President: Benita Decker
Development Specialist: Twyla Sheffield

Heritage Fund 1000² Campaign a solid investment for WMU's future

In these days of a roller coaster ride on the stock market, some people have wondered about the Heritage Fund.

Like other endowment funds, we have felt the impact of the declining stock market. However, we have a great asset manager in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Every dollar given has been preserved and continues to earn a distribution for Kentucky WMU. What we have lost has been some of the increase in value, but we believe those increases will return in the future. It also means that now is an excellent time to give to the Heritage Fund. Endowment dollars are used to purchase shares of stock which currently are at historic lows. Every dollar given now will see an increase in value when the stock market goes up again.

It's not too late to participate in the 1000² campaign, our effort to enlist 1,000 donors (individuals or groups) to give \$1,000 by the end of 2010. Send a pledge today and we will provide you with envelopes to fulfill your pledge gifts.

Christian Estate Planning and Your Money

Did you know that more than 70 percent of Americans do not have a current will. Perhaps it has to do with the complexity of the process, cost of the documents or the confusion of goals and objectives.

If you die without a will or other such document, the state will decide how to disburse your estate. And if you have minor children, the state will decide who will raise them. If you want to leave certain assets to specific persons or make charitable gifts to various causes, without a will, the state will follow its own agenda and disregard yours. You can avoid that scenario with a will.

A free tool is available to help you get started. The **Estate Plan Organizer** will help you gather in one place all of the information you will need to draw up a will. Once completed, you can print the information and take it to your attorney or financial planner.

Estate planning might be the single-most important act of stewardship that most of us as Christians will ever perform. Whether nearing the end of life or younger, with a growing family, estate planning comes down to determining the how, when and to whom we will transfer the stewardship of what God has entrusted to us.

To learn more, visit the Kentucky WMU website (www.kywmu.org/christianestateplanning) or call the state office to receive a copy of the Estate Plan Organizer.

Back to Basics

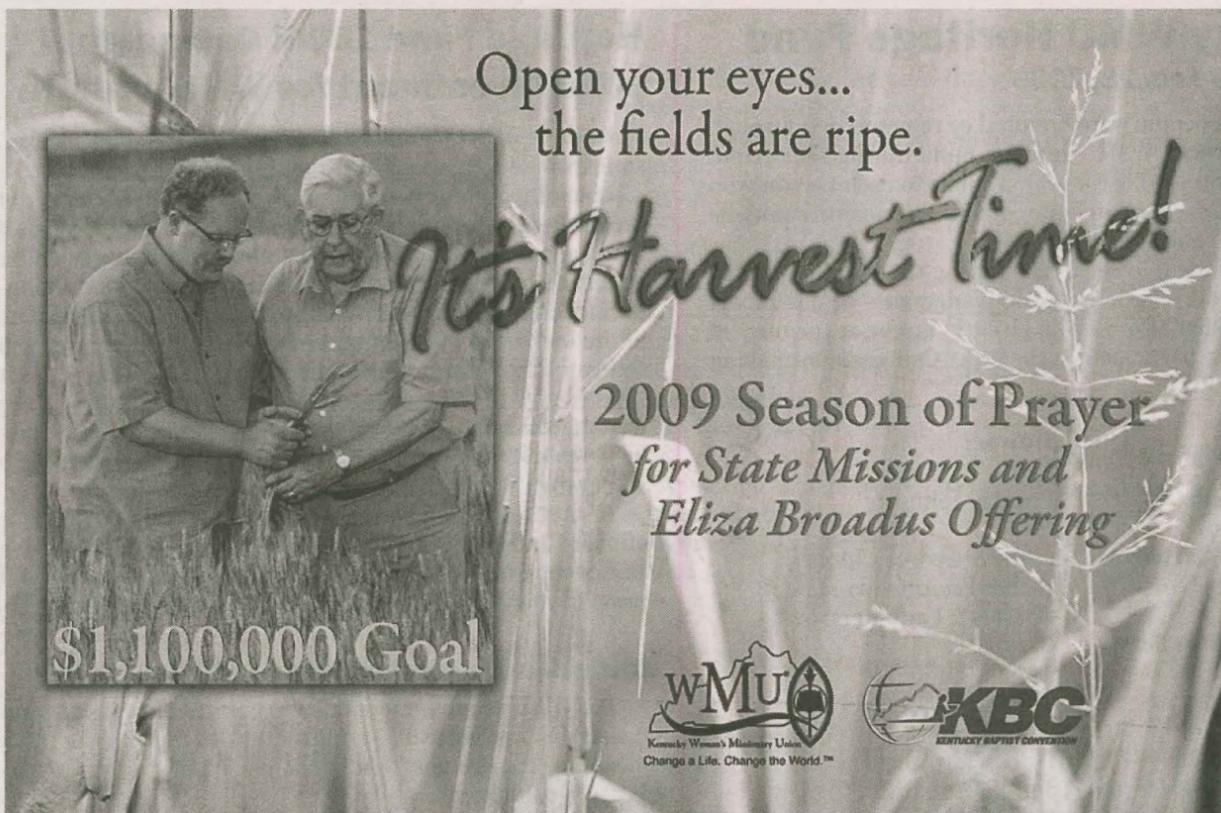
Central Kentucky Regional
Women on Mission Retreat

Sept. 25-26, 2009

White Mills Christian Camp,
White Mills, KY

Brochures were mailed
to local associations in May.

Reservations should be
received on or before Sept. 11.



Open your eyes...
the fields are ripe.

It's Harvest Time!

2009 Season of Prayer
for State Missions and
Eliza Broadus Offering

\$1,100,000 Goal

WMU
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
Change a Life. Change the World.™

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

It's Harvest Time

Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2009

Offering Goal: \$1,100,000

- A packet of state missions teaching materials, DVD, poster, offering envelope and promotional ideas will be mailed to every church in July.
- An additional DVD will be mailed to pastors.
- DVD includes: Four short promotional videos; mission study video; bonus videos; prayerwalk training materials; computer files of all print materials and graphics.
- 2009 materials include information about these ministries:
 - R/6 Mentoring Program and other ministries to released offenders
 - Equestrian ministries
 - "Find It Here"
- Please return the order card for additional envelopes, prayer guides and posters.
- All state missions materials are provided free of charge.
- The material is undated and may be used any time in September.
- Suggested date: Sept. 13-20, 2009.

Calendar

June

- 15-19 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 19-20 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 21-22 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, St. Matthews BC, Louisville
- 22-26 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls grades 3-10, Cedar Crest
- 23-24 Southern Baptist Convention, Louisville
- 26-27 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Jonathan Creek
- GA Overnight, grades 4-6, Jonathan Creek
- Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, Jonathan Creek
- 29-July 1 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Boys and Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 29-July 3 BNF Mission Trip, North Dakota

July

- 1-3 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Boys and Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 6-10 Mission Adventure Day Camp, Lincoln Association
- 13-17 Mission Adventure Camp, Boone's Creek Baptist Camp
- 17-18 World Missions Unlimited, Central BC, Winchester
- 20-24 Mission Adventure Day Camp, Green Valley Association
- 24-25 World Missions Unlimited, First BC, Madisonville

August

- 22 Super Saturday, Immanuel BC, Lexington
- 29 Super Saturday, Severns Valley BC, Elizabethtown

Join us for

A European Excursion



Mission Adventure Camp

Experience the cultures of Spain, Germany and France. Best of all, learn how missionaries are sharing God's love in Europe. You won't want to miss the *European Excursion*

Mission Adventure Camp staff, Cedar Crest

Director: Stacy Nall
Recreation Leader: Jocelyn Yuen
Worship Leader: Amanda-Grace Richey
Technology Leader: Amber Trantham
Missions Leader: Rachel Sherron
Fellowship Leader: Sisa Hobson
Kitchen Coordinator: Brandy Nelson
Lifeguard: TBA

Nature Leader: TBA
Crafts Leader: TBA

We are hiring until all positions are filled.
 Staff members receive \$200 per week and a small scholarship.
 Contact Stacy for more details, (502) 489-3454, Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org

2009 CAMP SCHEDULE

Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest

Girls in Action Camps

grades 3-6
 June 15-19
 June 22-26

Express Camps

boys & girls, grades 3-6
 June 29-July 1
 July 1-3

Acteens Camp

girls, grades 6-10
 June 22-26

Mother/Daughter Overnights

girls, grades 1-3 and moms
 June 19-20
 June 26-27

Note: Church chaperones required for all camps.

Overnights at Jonathan Creek



June 26-27:

Mother/Daughter Overnight
 GA Overnight
 Acteens Splash

For more information or to check availability, call the WMU office, (866) 489-3534

Advancing Christ's Kingdom in the future

There are several ways to give to support God's work

The title of this column could be the theme of any church, association or other church-related ministry, such as an educational institution, children's home, hospital, newsjournal, foundation, camp, conference center, mission board or mission support organization. It could be the theme of every generation of Christians.

Through the ministry of Kentucky Baptist Foundation, it is my privilege and joy to regularly assist individuals and families who have been grasped by God's call on their lives to use some of the financial resources He has entrusted to them "to advance His kingdom in the future" through the mission of one or more of the church-related ministries with which they are affiliated, including their churches. They are men and women of a variety of stations in life—affluent and not so affluent. They are dedicated to Christ and His mission in this world through their church and other church-related ministries.

Regardless of your station in life, you too should consider some kind of legacy gift "to advance Christ's kingdom in the future" through your church and the oth-

er church-related ministries with which you are affiliated. Give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you to determine the legacy giving method (or methods) most appropriate for your circumstances and to accomplish your wishes.

Perhaps the simplest and most appropriate method for you is a bequest provision in your will or revocable living trust. You may own a cash value life insurance policy, and the purpose for which you purchased it years ago no longer exists. There are several ways such a policy could be used to make a legacy gift.

The giving of appreciated real estate, stocks, bonds or mutual funds constitutes a possible tax-advantaged method of making a legacy gift. Charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities offer you both tax advantages and life income opportunities. Finally, a charitable lead trust offers you a way "to advance the Kingdom" now, and provide for your family later.

These "advancing the Kingdom" ideas deserve your prayerful consideration. Call us 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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Heavenly being (Fr.)
- 5 "___ gave names to all cattle" (Genesis 2:20)
- 9 Get equipped
- 12 "Who shall ___ us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" (Mark 16:3)
- 13 By the side of (prefix)
- 14 Talk baby talk
- 15 Made footprints
- 16 Arab chieftain
- 17 Classic auto
- 18 Looks at a book
- 20 Bureau
- 22 On the ___ day Jesus rose from the dead
- 24 Pronoun for an ocean liner
- 25 ___ Grande
- 26 Have a ___
- 29 Minor prophet
- 33 "So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month ___" (Nehemiah 6:15)
- 35 Like henna
- 36 "Take also of the tree of life ... and ___ forever" (Genesis 3:22)
- 37 "I am, and none ___ beside me" (Isaiah 47:8)
- 38 Ruby, and others
- 40 Born (Fr.)
- 41 "I took the little book ... and ___ it up" (Revelation 10:10)
- 43 "For I know the thoughts that I ___ toward you" (Jeremiah 29:11)
- 45 Rhombus or rectangle, for example
- 48 Dashes off
- 50 Poetic contraction
- 51 Solo for Dame Sutherland

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
		18	19			20	21				
22	23					24					
25				26	27	28		29	30	31	32
33			34		35			36			
37					38			39		40	
				41	42			43	44		
45	46	47				48	49				
50				51	52			53		54	55
56				57				58			
59				60				61			

- 53 "They came to the threshing-floor of ___" (Genesis 50:10)
- 56 Force to be accepted
- 57 Sacrifice
- 58 Singer McIntire
- 59 "I the Lord search the heart, I ___ the reins" (Jeremiah 17:10)
- 60 Table d'___
- 61 High school course (abbr.)

- 22 "I give to eat of the ___ of life" (Revelation 2:7)
- 23 "I set my king upon my holy ___ of Zion" (Psalm 2:6)
- 24 Flower part
- 27 Boundary
- 28 Popeye's short answer
- 30 "Thou shalt be a good ___ of Jesus Christ" (1 Timothy 4:6)
- 31 "The day cometh, that shall burn as an ___" (Malachi 4:1)
- 32 "___ ye first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33)
- 34 ___ year
- 39 Female saint (Fr. abbr.)
- 42 "I will ... ___ thee in the way which thou shalt go" (Psalm 32:8)
- 44 "The law of his God is in his ___" (Psalm 37:31)

Down

- 1 "Our Father which ___ in heaven" (Matthew 6:9)
- 2 Conjunction
- 3 "The light of the ___ gospel of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- 4 "Rebuke not an ___, but entreat him as a father" (1 Timothy 5:1)
- 5 Mimicked
- 6 Hoover, and others
- 7 Exodus hero
- 8 The ___ sisters of Little Women
- 9 Seaport in Israel
- 10 European deer
- 11 ___ point
- 19 Classified material
- 21 "___ the sick, cleanse the lepers" (Matthew 10:8)

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
G	I	L	D	S	H	E	L	P	S	T	E		
A	R	E	A	P	L	E	A	P	L	E	A		
P	E	A	R	L	M	E	R	L	A	T	A		
		19	K	I	D	21	S	T	A	I	R	S	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32				
S	L	E	E	P	E	R	N	E	T				
T	O	R	N	T	A	M	E	R	H	O			
U	S	E	S	E	N	O	R	M	A	N			
B	E	B	A	R	G	E	L	A	T	E			
		39	C	A	N	41	E	S	C	A	P	E	S
42	43	44		45	A	W							
B	R	A	N	D	S								
46	E	A	R	47	L	L	48	L	Y	D	I	A	
49	A	R	E	54	L	A	I	R	56	E	O	N	S
57				58	S	P	I	N	59	R	E	N	E

COSBE Presents
Anticipating His Return

DR. JOHNNY HUNT, DR. ERGUN CANER, DR. SAMMY TIPPIT, REV. JIM MCNIEL, DR. RON HERROD

Sunday Morning Worship Service
June 21, 2009
9:00 AM to Noon
Kentucky Fair & Expo Center
HALL C 201-205
Louisville, KY

MUSICIANS
 Sons of The Father, Jeff Cleghorn, Gaye Ramsey, Cindy Johnson

ONE June 21 @ 6 PM
 Kentucky Fair & Expo Center
 HALL C 201-205
 A Great Sunday Night
STUDENT EVENT
FREE ADMISSION

www.onestudentrally.com

Kentucky Baptist couple among NAMB's newest missionaries

Trustees affirm NAMB's 'crucial' role

Jackson, Miss.—Trustees of the North American Mission Board unanimously approved a resolution describing the entity as “crucial to the weaving together of Southern Baptist partners to fulfill the Great Commission.” Trustees took the action during their May 19-20 meeting in Jackson, Miss.

The trustees said they believe “that the North American Mission Board is an efficient and effective Southern Baptist entity that takes seriously the good stewardship of the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering dollars entrusted to us by Southern Baptists.”

The statement of affirmation came three weeks after board chairman Tim Patterson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., was quoted in the Florida Baptist Witness as supporting a “singular world missions agency” for Southern Baptists. Before the trustees’ May 20 sessions, Patterson said he did not intend to speak on the board’s behalf and apologized for the way the information was shared.

The meeting took place as the denomination-wide conversation about SBC President Johnny Hunt’s Great Commission Resurgence declaration continued to unfold. NAMB President Geoff Hammond, in his address to trustees, called for a North American Great Commission Task Force. He told trustees the committee would study the actions and activities that will impact the continent for Christ in more effective ways.

“I believe we are in greater need of a missions force in North America today than at any time in our history,” Hammond said. “We need a Great Commission refocus that will bring a great emphasis to this mission field.”

“This board is absolutely vital to the weaving together of Southern Baptists in the cooperative missions effort. This cooperative effort is not just about funding. It’s about doing missions together, and it’s not about one church saying, ‘I can do

it without any partners.’”

In addition to adopting the resolution of support, trustees unanimously re-elected Patterson for a second year as chairman of the board, as well as Tim Dowdy, pastor of Eagles Landing Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga., as first vice chairman, and Mike Palmer, pastor of Salmon Valley Baptist Church in Salmon, Idaho, as second vice chairman.

Carlos Ferrer, NAMB’s chief financial officer, reported that Cooperative Program dollars received by the entity are down 3.7 percent compared to budget. NAMB still holds a 10 percent reduction in spending enacted by Hammond at the beginning of the year.

In other business:

■ Trustees heard that NAMB’s number of endorsed chaplains now totals 3,078. In the first quarter of 2009, Southern Baptist chaplains reported 8,615 gospel presentations and 1,972 professions of faith.

■ The evangelization subcommittee reported that 315,000 households were touched with the gospel during the recent GPS (God’s Plan for Sharing) pilots that took place in Philadelphia, Stone Mountain, Ga., Lubbock, Texas, and Riverside, Calif. “Can you imagine what is going to happen when GPS launches continent-wide in 2010,” asked Stan Gilcash, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Watertown, N.Y., and chairman of the evangelization committee.

Hammond ended the meeting with a tribute to Southern Baptists who serve as chaplains in the military. About 100 currently are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Trustees previewed a video that will be shown later this month at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville, spotlighting the ministry of Chaplain Major Daniel Middlebrooks, who ministers in the hospital emergency room at Camp Victor in Baghdad. (BP)

Continued from page 1

“A few months back,” Doug recalled, “we were scheduled to speak at a church and the pastor e-mailed and said, ‘I don’t know if you want to come or not. One of our members strongly believes abortion should be legal and I’m afraid she will make things very tough on you.’ But we came anyway and after the service, that 75-year-old woman came forward with tears in her eyes and said she had been wrong about the issue.”

The Cullens joined 87 other missionaries and chaplains appointed by the North American Mission Board during a May 18 service at Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Miss.

Among them was Sarah Ferguson who talked about her ministry to New Jersey commuters whose long hours en route to and from work in New York City take a toll on family life.

“I’m helping train parents to be the spiritual leaders of their children,” she explained. “I’m sharing the gospel and helping families find ways of focusing on Christ in their everyday lives.”

Ferguson said she is convinced that families are the most important link in passing a Christian legacy to the next generation. She serves as a US/C2 missionary through NAMB and the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey.

She always has a story ready about the latest family in which she has seen God work. One father recently rededicated his life to Christ and started taking his family back to church.

“They were having a lot of problems with their oldest daughter. She and another sibling didn’t want to have anything to do with church. Through our ministry, the dad decided he was going to start leading his family and bring them back to church even if the children disagreed. Now the daughter is in our leadership program and is leading other kids.”

Ferguson’s story was one of dozens that the newly commissioned missionaries and chaplains shared. The group represented multiple ethnic backgrounds and will join more than 5,600 NAMB missionaries serving throughout the United States, Canada and their territories.

NAMB President Geoff Hammond cited the Apostle Paul’s visit to Thessalonica in Acts 17 in telling the group to be bold as they go into the mission field.

“There is a trend in ministry today that says you have to first go to a community and fit in and be a part of things,” Hammond said. “Too often we fit in so much nobody can tell the difference. You need to go be a part of the community, but let them know what you believe. Jesus said it well—don’t hide your light under a bushel.”

Woman’s Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee addressed the missionaries and led a time of prayer.

“Our partnership with these missionaries does not end tonight,” Lee declared. “Out of a heart of love we are called to pray for these missionaries and to learn about their needs so you can pray more than just, ‘God bless our missionaries.’” (BP)

‘Just do something’

Too often, Christians rely on passivity, not action, when following God’s call

By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

In his book, “Just Do Something,” author Kevin DeYoung writes about passivity among Christians:

“Passivity is a plague among Christians. It’s not just that we don’t do anything; it’s that we feel spiritual for not doing anything. We imagine that our inactivity is patience and sensitivity to God’s leading. At times it may be; but it’s also quite possible we are just lazy. When we hyper-spiritualize our decisions, we can veer off into impulsive and foolish decisions. But more likely as Christians we fall into endless patterns of vacillation, indecision and regret. No doubt, selfish ambition is a danger for Christians, but so are complacency, listless wandering and passivity that pawns itself off as spirituality. Perhaps our inactivity is not so much waiting on God as it is an expression of the fear of man, the love of the praise of man, and disbelief in God’s providence.”

One of my most important moments of growth came when I read “The Coming Revolution in World Missions” by K.P. Yohannon. I realized God was at work through His people all over the world all the time. I had been raised to believe that my participation in God’s work happened when I had a “burning bush” experience of being “called.” If I wasn’t specifically called, I wasn’t responsible.

But Yohannon caused me to see that on any day I can ask, “What is God doing in India?” or anywhere else in the world, and I can find out that God is at work and I can be of help and sup-

port now, without a major revelation. As Jesus said, look up and see the fields white for harvest, then pray and go. Don’t wait. The work is going on now; your part is there to play.

DeYoung has rightly identified the sin of passivity and inactivity that is common among many Christians. They are “waiting” for God to show them what to do, when what needs to be done is obvious to anyone who takes even a few moments to look and learn.

Most of us never will be career missionaries or church planters. We will be witnesses in our world, we will support our local churches and, if we take the time to look and see, we will have the opportunity to be active supporters of what God is doing elsewhere.

I am not saying we shouldn’t be led by God in our giving and going. I am saying that we do not need to put God on orders to give us a particular experience before we do so. When the need is there and

our resources are there, what is our reason for not helping?

Ministries like Oneida have needs every day. Our financial needs are critical in these days of financial downturn. We need volunteers. We need churches to send us students. We have material needs, construction needs and needs for work that any church could do if they take the time. We need prayer and encouragement.

As we share our ministry with you week after week, our prayer is that you won’t wait, but will “come over and help” us as you have the opportunity and means.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

In her own words

Graduating senior Morrell offers one final goodbye

Our seniors conduct the last chapel service of the academic year. The following words are from senior Charitie Morrell who shared some final thoughts about graduation from Clear Creek during the senior chapel service.

“This has been a long journey for me. In one way I am sad to see it end, but I am also excited because I do know that this is a new beginning that God has in store for another phase of my life as I seek to follow His call.

“I give all the praise and glory to God for this accomplishment in my life. He is the one who made it possible for me to come to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. I truly want to thank all the staff, faculty and my fellow students who have encouraged me over these last few years.

“I can still remember the first day that I moved to campus; I was scared to death. I had left everything that was familiar to me and was in a strange place. I remember sitting in my apartment that first day and thinking to myself that I did not want to be here—I just wanted to go home.

“But I’m glad I didn’t go home. God has shown me that He has

called me here for a purpose, and that is to be equipped to share the gospel. I am so honored to be here where so many others have come throughout the years and have gone out from this place to share the gospel. To think that God has called me here to equip me to do

the same is an honor for me. I want to follow the example of those that have gone out from this place before me.

“This is just the start of God’s preparation for me. I know there is so much that God has in store for me. I am so excited to get out there and be a part of whatever it is that God has next for me.

“Clear Creek means so much to me. I love this place and I look forward to coming back to visit for years to come.”

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

California Supreme Court upholds ban on gay marriage, existing unions legal

San Francisco—The California Supreme Court upheld a statewide ban on gay marriage May 26 but preserved the estimated 18,000 marriages that were performed before voters approved the ban last November.

By a 6-to-1 majority, the court said that by approving Proposition 8 last fall, California voters had spoken clearly that marriage should be reserved for heterosexual couples.

A number of religious groups used their money and influence to push for Prop 8, which was backed by 52 percent of California voters.

Chief Justice Ronald George, author of the court's majority decision, said same-sex couples maintain the right to form civil unions, which are "officially recognized, and protected family relationship(s) with 'all of the constitutionally based incidents of marriage.'"

He said the amendment merely "carves out a narrow and limited exception to these state constitutional rights, reserving the official designation of the term 'marriage' for the union of opposite-sex couples as a matter of state constitutional law."

Still, those civil unions will differ—in name at least—from the estimated 18,000 still legitimate marriages performed between the court's decision to legalize gay marriage last May and the passage of Proposition 8.

Gay rights leaders had argued that Prop 8 amounted to a "revision" to California's constitution, and thus needed the approval of two-thirds of the state legislature before it went on the ballot last fall.

The California ruling comes on the heels of a string of victories for gay rights advocates as Iowa, Vermont and Maine have legalized gay marriage in recent months. Similar initiatives are underway in New Hampshire, New York and New Jersey. Gay marriage currently is legal

Poll: Majority still oppose gay marriage

Washington—Results from a Gallup poll released May 27 show that a majority of Americans continue to oppose same-sex marriage—but that the youngest voters support equal marriage rights for gay couples by a wide margin.

The survey results—the latest set of data from a poll on beliefs and values Gallup conducts each May—showed that 57 percent of Americans oppose legal recognition of same-sex marriage, while 40 percent support it. Those figures are virtually unchanged from last year.

Levels of support and opposition to same-sex marriage have remained fairly close to those same figures every year since 2004, when Gallup began asking the question annually. Gay marriage support reached its peak—and opposition its low point—in 2007, with 46 percent supportive and 53 percent opposed.

But, as previous polls have

shown on the topic, opposition to gay marriage decreases with age. While all age groups surveyed, except for 18-29 year-olds, opposed same-sex marriage by large margins, the youngest group supported marriage rights for gays by a margin virtually opposite that of the nation as a whole. Fifty-nine percent of 18-29 year-olds support same-sex marriage, while only 37 percent oppose it.

"While Americans have become increasingly likely to believe that the law should not discriminate against gay individuals and gay couples, the public still seems reluctant at this point to extend those protections to the institution of marriage," Gallup researchers concluded. "Public support for gay marriage appears to have stalled in the last two years, even as the gay marriage movement has scored a number of legal and legislative victories at the state level in the past year." (ABP)

in five states; 29 states have constitutional prohibitions against gay marriage or same-sex unions; 12 more have statutory bans.

California is the first state to legalize gay marriage only to later rescind the law. Maine may follow suit either this year or next when citizens there likely will decide whether to overturn a gay marriage law recently passed.

Praise and criticism

Tony Perkins, head of the Washington-based Family Research Council, praised part of the court decision, saying "even this widely-recognized liberal court understands that overturning Proposition 8 would

represent a repudiation of the state constitution it is sworn to uphold."

But Perkins criticized the court's decision to keep intact the 18,000 same-sex marriages performed before Prop 8 passed last year.

"The court's recognition of these 'marriages' clearly seeds the ground for a possible legal battle before the U.S. Supreme Court," he said in a statement.

Many legal experts had predicted the court would rule as it did, in part because court decisions to undo constitutional amendments because they were improperly approved are extremely rare in California.

Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press, Baptist Press and Religion News Service

Hispanic Christians divided on Obama's high court pick

By Adelle Banks

Washington—For Samuel Rodriguez, the recent announcement of the first Latina nominee to the nation's highest court was cause for equal parts celebration and caution.

"I'm caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place," said Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.



Sotomayor

"As a Puerto Rican American, as a Latino, I do commend President Obama for making a very practical strategic, political nomination. ... As a Christian leader—which I am first and foremost—I have concerns."

With Obama's nomination of Sonia Sotomayor, a judge in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, conservatives and liberals are lining up on their sides of either criticism or support. But for Hispanic Christians, especially some evangelicals, the choice may be a mixed blessing.

While liberals are hopeful that Sotomayor would support their positions on matters such as gay marriage, conservatives worry that she may reflect "judicial activism" and the creation of policy, rather than interpretation of laws, from the high court.

As leading conservative Christian groups label Sotomayor a liberal, Rodriguez said he has to research her history before his group can make its own verdict about her.

"What does that mean for religious liberty?" he asked. "What does that mean for the child in the womb? What does that mean for traditional marriage? What does that mean for limited government?"

Daniel Delgado, pastor of Third Day Missions Church on Staten Island, N.Y., shares Rodriguez's concerns.

"I know Latinos are very excited," said Delgado, the New York/New Jersey director of the NHCLC. "But I'd just like to hear some more about her and her positions."

While some Hispanic pastors are on the fence about Obama's pick, others are forging ahead with support.

"I am very hopeful that some of the issues that affect the Hispanic community directly or indirectly can be addressed ... a lot more than in the present," noted Jesse Miranda, who runs a leadership institute at Vanguard University, an evangelical school in Southern California.

While he is aware of the conflicts felt by leaders such as Rodriguez, Miranda said "nothing is perfect" and he expects Hispanic Christians will support a judicial nominee who reflects their ethnic and cultural heritage.

In her brief remarks after Obama announced her nomination, Sotomayor described her modest upbringing in a public housing project in the Bronx, her studies at Princeton and Yale, and work in private and public legal sectors.

"I hope that as the Senate and the American people learn more about me they will see that I am an ordinary person who has been blessed with extraordinary opportunities and experiences," Sotomayor said.

The White House said Sotomayor was raised Catholic and continues to attend Catholic churches for important events, including family celebrations. If confirmed, she would be the sixth Catholic on the nine-member court.

Miguel Rivera, chairman of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy & Christian Leaders, said his organization has sent a letter asking Republicans involved in the confirmation process to strenuously question her positions.

"We support strong, conservative, non-activist judges for the Supreme Court," he said of his conservative evangelical group. "We're commending the choice, but we're not totally behind her until we evaluate her experience."

Some conservative organizations, while generally criticizing the choice of Sotomayor, noted that she wrote an opinion that upheld a ban that prohibited federal funding of overseas abortion, a policy Obama has since overturned.

Daniel de Leon, pastor of Templo Calvario, a megachurch in Santa Ana, Calif., said he would welcome Sotomayor as the first Hispanic on the bench.

"I think it's long overdue," he said. "We're the largest minority in this country and I think we have a lot to contribute. I hope and pray that she will not only be nominated but accepted and passed."

But de Leon, who noted that Hispanics—both Catholic and Protestant—tend to be conservative, expressed concern about how much her choice may reflect future nominees. "If this is an indicator of what Obama is going to be doing," he said, "it's going to take off to a real liberal left." (RNS)

Texas school district allows Bible distribution

Frisco, Texas—Some parents in a suburban Dallas school district are angry that volunteers with Gideons International were permitted to leave Bibles on school office counters for middle- and high-school students to take at their choosing and, in one case, allegedly handed Bibles to students.

The Frisco Independent School District allowed the Bibles to be placed at its 13 secondary schools next to other non-school-related literature promoting such things as local scout troops, soccer leagues and summer camps. The district has what it calls a "viewpoint neutral" policy on such material, provided it meets strict guidelines for decency and civility. District policy prohibits solicitors from distributing materials or engaging students.

District spokeswoman Shana Wortham said the incident involving a Gideon allegedly handing the Bibles to students was resolved immediately.

In past years the Gideons have distributed Bibles on sidewalks near Frisco secondary schools, causing public safety issues and concern

from parents, the district said. This year, the Gideons submitted a formal request to offer the Bibles with other non-school materials, which was approved because the Bibles met district criteria.

But parents like Debbie Lutz, who told Dallas television station WFAA that she has two children in Frisco schools, said she was angry upon learning the Gideons were allowed to bring the Bibles onto the campuses.

"That is unbelievable," Lutz said. "No one has ever sent a letter home from the school district telling me that."

"I just think religion should be out of schools," Lutz told the station.

Another parent, Michael Baier, told FoxNews.com that such things as Bibles should be available where families worship, not at school. "School is a place to learn, not to worship," Baier said.

Responding to critics, the school district said in its statement: "Those opposing the recent distribution of the Bibles must understand that if the district prohibits the Bibles from

being placed in the distribution area, it must also prohibit all groups ... from utilizing the distribution area as well. The law requires the district to permit all or none, there is no middle ground."

The Frisco schools' policy for non-school materials states, "Activities such as distributing literature, displaying signs, petitioning for change, and disseminating information concerning issues of public concern are protected by the First Amendment."

Some parents, meanwhile, did not mind the Bible distribution.

Holly McCall, a PTA president at Roach Middle School in Frisco, told FoxNews.com the Gideons did not disturb anyone.

"I didn't feel like (the Bible) was being pushed upon" students, she noted.

Wortham said the school district communications office received 12 phone calls and e-mails voicing concern about the Bibles. The 13 secondary schools where the Bibles were left serve several thousand students, and several reported contact from a few parents. (BP)

PLAN OF SALVATION

By Rick Reeder

Nothing about the term "lost church member" sounds right, but it is a reality for many people. Someone might be saying right now, "Wow that is very direct." Yes it is. But I know, because that is what I was for 16 years.

I first heard the gospel when my father explained John 3:16 to me at the age of 8. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I knew then how much God really loved me.

It wasn't long before I took my first journey down the aisle of a Baptist church to learn what I must do to have eternal life. Sadly, the person who talked to me simply filled out a card with my information, handed it to the preacher, who dutifully read the card. The church voted on me to be baptized and I was on my way to being a "lost church member."

After serving in the Navy and returning home, God directed me to a church where the pastor, Greg Giltner, unapologetically preached the riches of Christ and the need to be forgiven and saved from my sins.

After about six months of conviction from God's Spirit, I fell on my face before God in my home and confessed and repented of my sin. I called upon the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith, to save me from hell. He heard my cry, immediately forgave me and gave me the eternal life my father had told me about. Since 1977, I've been a "saved church member." I hope you are too, but if not, now is the time.

"What must I do to be saved?"

■ Realize that without Christ you are lost in sin. (Romans 3: 23, 6:23; John 3:18-19)

■ Believe in your heart by faith that Jesus is the only way to salvation and repent (turn) from your sin. (Acts 4:12; John 10:9, 11: 25-26, 14:6; Mark 1:15)

■ Receive the gift of salvation. (Acts 16: 30-31; Romans 10:13; Revelation 22:17)

Rick Reeder is director of missions for Caldwell/Lyon Baptist Association

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Good Hope Church will hold a note burning service June 7, 10:30 a.m., with KBC Executive Director **Bill Mackey** as guest speaker. Lunch will follow the service. **Al Hardy** is pastor.

Saloma Church will host its annual Sunday service at the Green River Lake State Park amphitheater June 7, 9 a.m. A potluck lunch will be held at noon. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CYNTHIANA**—**Al Simmons** recently resigned as pastor of Irvingsville Church.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Tunnel Hill Church will host vacation Bible school June 6, 3 p.m.; June 7-12 6 p.m. This year's theme is "Boomerang Express." For more information, visit www.TunnelHill.org. **Nathan Whisnant** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—First Church recently called **Matt McCraw** as minister

to students. He previously served at North Naples Church in Naples, Fla. **Todd Linn** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—**Alecia Ward**, who served as an administrative assistant at Porter Memorial Church, died May 11. She was 46. The mother of a 20-year-old daughter, Lynsey, who has special needs, Ward was actively involved with Special Olympics. In addition to her daughter, Ward is survived by her mother, Patricia Cartwright, and sister, Dana Cartwright. Funeral services were held May 21 at Porter Memorial with Pastor Bill Henard and Bill Bales, pastor of Bethel Christian Church in Nicholasville where Ward attended, officiating. The family requests that gifts in Ward's honor be made to the Lynsey Frances Ward Special Needs Trust, c/o Sandy Hall, 200 Apple Grove, Nicholasville, KY, 40356.

Welcome
Campbellsville Baptist Church
Church Newsletter Plan
Skip Alexander, pastor

Campbellsville Univ. TV program airing on state cable network

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University's "Dialogue on Public Issues" TV program, hosted by John Chowning, now is being aired on Kentucky Educational Television, the statewide public TV network.

The series, a public affairs forum featuring interviews with state and national newsmakers, recently began airing on KET KY, "The Kentucky Channel," one of the network's four cable channels.

Chowning, who is vice president for church and external relations at Campbellsville, hosts the show which will air Mondays at 5:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m. in June and July.

"This is another opportunity to help get the word out to the public about the mission and work of Campbellsville University," Chowning said.

"I am personally honored that KET deems these shows newsworthy, and it further reflects back on the quality work of Jim Wooley, Ed McGuire, Jeannie Clark, and our student workers who produce 'Dialogue on Public Issues,'" he added.

"We continue to have some very fine guests who have stories to share, issues to discuss and insight that is of interest to our viewers. We will continue to work hard to present interviews that are of interest and that present diverse perspectives on the many issues we face in the 21st century."

The programs already have been taped and are lined up through the end of July. Guests include:

■ Emmanuel McCall, pastor of Fellowship Group Baptist Church in

East Point, Ga., and adjunct faculty member with the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta, June 4.

■ Neville Callam, Jamaican pastor and general secretary for the Baptist World Alliance, June 8 & 11.

■ John Johnson, executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, June 15 & 18.

■ E. Bruce Heilman, Campbellsville alumnus, chancellor of University of Richmond (Va.) and member of Campbellsville's board of trustees, June 22 & 25.

■ Velma Speight-Buford, trustee chair and chancellor search committee chair for North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, June 29 & July 2.

■ Carey Cavanaugh, former United States ambassador, now director of the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce and professor of diplomacy and conflict resolution at University of Kentucky, July 6 & 9.

■ Crit Luallen, state auditor for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, July 13 & 16.

■ Jim Tackett, executive director of Forward in the Fifth and associate vice president for the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, July 20 & 23.

■ Byron Crawford, former columnist with the Louisville Courier-Journal, who recently was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, July 27 & 30.

For more information about the program or where to find KET KY on specific cable and satellite providers, visit www.KET.org.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

6 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

13-20 Kentucky Changers, Princeton.

14-21 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Retreat & Tour, Campbellsville University.

15-19 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

19-20 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

22-26 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

25-27 Pursuit Student Leadership Academy, Campbellsville University.

26-27 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Conference Center, Hardin.

26-27 Girls in Action Camp, Jonathan Creek Conference Center, Hardin.

26-27 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek Conference Center, Hardin.

26-27 Catch the Excitement State Missions Event, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta.

27-7/4 Kentucky Changers, Frankfort/Lawrenceburg.

29-7/1 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

Graduation day



Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduates line up on the seminary lawn during the school's 203rd graduation ceremony May 15 in Louisville. More than 240 students made up the graduating class. (Photo by John Gill)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit www.WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

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 for information and a free sample CD. Call for special church pricing.

SEEKING: Part-time student minister for Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead, Ky. Inquire at www.drippingspring.com. Send resumé to jkwilson@hhsheetmetal.com, or call (270) 893-0097.

SEEKING: Part-time, energetic worship minister to plan, organize and lead a growing worship ministry toward a dynamic, blended worship style that will cultivate genuine worship. Responsibilities: weekly leadership of worship choir, praise team, instrumentalists, as well as seasonal events. Qualifications: college degree with seminary-level training, preferably in music. Submit resumé to Ballardville Baptist Church, 4300 S. Hwy 53, Crestwood, KY 40014; or e-mail Darlene@BBCLife.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, Ky. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 756, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. E-mail: jcw8855@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Part-time director of missions for Franklin Baptist Association. Please send resumé to DOM Search Committee, PO Box 1093, Franklin, KY 40602.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music. Some responsibilities include leading blended worship services, working with praise band and choir, assisting audiovisual team in preparation for worship. Seminary degree and prior experience required. Send resumé to Red House Baptist Church, 2301 Red House Road, Richmond, KY 40475, Attn: Alex Poulter; or e-mail dawn@redhousebc.com.

SEEKING: Full-time children's pastor to lead our loving and growing congregation in preschool and children's ministries to community and church families. Please send resumé to Children's Pastor Search Committee, Campbellsville Baptist Church, PO Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719; or e-mail to BradL@cvillebaptist.com.

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.

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.

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

Relief leader's new book urges focus on 'whole gospel'

By Adelle Banks

Federal Way, Wash.—About a decade ago, Richard Stearns made a dramatic career change, moving from the top, Jaguar-driving post with Lenox, a fine tableware company, to the presidency of World Vision U.S., an evangelical relief organization.

In a new book, "The Hole in Our Gospel," Stearns, 58, talks about the transformation in his own life and the one he thinks churches need to make—from solely emphasizing evangelism to embracing a "whole gospel" that puts equal focus on the poor.

You spoke of your struggle to move from being the head of Lenox to helping the world's poor through World Vision. Bottom line: What made you make that move?

At the end of the day, for me it was more about sheer obedience than any attraction or joy at the thought of it. I wish I could tell you that I always wanted to do this and I was just waiting for the opportunity and, when it came, I jumped. The honest answer is I didn't really want to do this but I felt ... kind of like Moses in the Old Testament, that God was calling.

You say there's a need to embrace a "whole" gospel rather than one with a "gaping hole." Does the

church have it wrong when it focuses solely on evangelism and the afterlife and does not address people's needs in this life?

I would say 'yes' in capital letters. The word 'gospel' means good news, and the good news was more than salvation through Christ. The good news was that yes, we could be saved by faith in Christ and his atoning death on the cross, but now we who were saved ... were going to ignite this social revolution, which Jesus called the Kingdom of God, where the poor and the downtrodden would be lifted up.

You write about how you have been moved by children you met in person in places like Uganda, where entire families have been ravaged by AIDS. What difference did that make for you when you started your work with World Vision?

I think for any of us to really be compassionate about poverty we have to put a face on it. We have to know that these are real people with real names and real tragedies in their lives. And most of us would not turn away from a real child in desperate need, but we easily turn away from the 26,000 children who die every day because we don't know their names.

You have a provocative version

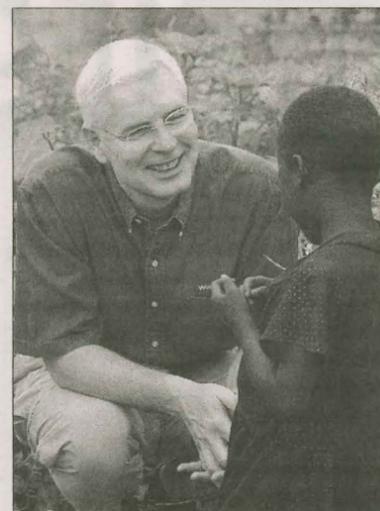
of verses in Matthew 25 that begins, "For I was hungry, while you had all you needed. I was thirsty, but you drank bottled water." Do you have a sense of outrage about how Americans neglect the world's poor?

I feel God has a sense of outrage about it, and that worries me more than whether I'm outraged. I've learned in this business that if you get into the judgment game you become a very bitter person. I like to take the more positive approach of join us, do what you can do, listen to what the Scriptures say, be obedient. ... I do get angry a bit at our materialism and how much money we waste and how much we turn a deaf ear to the poor, but I don't count myself as any better than the next guy.

Is the responsibility for the poor the same for those inside the church as those outside of it?

I think those of us in the church are more responsible because we have the knowledge of God's expectations of us. The fact that those outside the church sometimes do more than we do should shame us.

Perhaps the most visible reminder of the poor in this country is panhandlers on the street. What do you do when you are asked for money, and what do you think others should do?



That's a good question that I'd rather not answer. It kind of depends. I often will offer them a dollar or two; sometimes I don't. But I feel that it's kind of like the work of World Vision: It doesn't do a lot of good to give a man a fish so he'll eat for a day—or drink for a day in this case. We've got to get at the root causes of these things. I don't think it's a bad thing to give a panhandler a couple of bucks. If you have the time, it's maybe better to buy him a meal. (RNS)

Some answers were edited for length and clarity

10 Minutes With ... Richard Stearns

Multi-site churches offer challenges, rewards

By Shawn Hendricks
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—The opportunity to be in two or more places at once might be tempting to many pastors. Churches often seek new and creative ways to reach a larger audience more quickly and efficiently.

Some are finding that one way to do that is by launching additional sites in their communities, states and throughout the country.

It is a growing trend that many congregations find both rewarding and overwhelming, according to Scott McConnell's book, "Multi-Site Churches: Guidance for the Movement's Next Generation," recently released by B&H Publishing Group.

"Adding a site does not simply add an address to your church," he writes. "It adds complexity. ... Traveling the multi-site journey unprepared could cause irreparable damage to your church."

But it also can impact an area of the community for Christ that just one church campus otherwise could not reach.

In the book, McConnell, who serves as associate director of LifeWay Research, provides detailed advice and information for churches that are in the process of starting a new site or considering it.

After in-depth interviews with leaders from more than 40 multi-site churches, McConnell and his research team outlined what they had learned about how to do everything from deciding whether to become a multi-site church to choosing the right leader and location.

"This became more than simply a new set of research findings," McConnell said. "It became a story of

God's movement that needed to be told and guidance for which many churches have asked."

The number of multi-site churches has grown from about 10 in 1990 to more than 2,000 in the United States last year.

In the book, McConnell takes a look at what seems to be working for these churches—and what is not going so well.

"We specifically asked (churches) to share the challenges they faced, so that the next generation of multi-site churches could be better prepared," he writes.

McConnell contends that churches should try to avoid any new approach that shifts them from their "God-given evangelistic focus."

"The focus of the church should be nothing less than sharing the message in both words and actions that God loves the world so much that He sent Jesus to die for us," he explains in the book.

Even as a church examines practical aspects of its readiness to add a site, leaders and planners must see evidence of God's activity in essential milestones such as providing a campus leader, a core group and finances.

Though the campuses have a connection, each one quickly can take on a life of its own with a unique personality.

The Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge, La., is one example. In 2004, the church added its first two additional locations. Within the next four years it added seven more.

"On the surface, no two sites look alike," said lead pastor Dino

Rizzo. "Some of our campus pastors wear goatees, ... some tuck their shirts in, others go tails out and others might even wear a tie once in a while."

One campus is Spanish-speaking, two are on the other side of the world in communities hit hard by AIDS, another is in a poor neighborhood, and yet another is in a relatively affluent community.

But even with all their differences, Rizzo maintained there is one thing that holds it all together.

"There is a God-given vision and core DNA that guides Healing Place Church," he said. "We are a healing place for a hurting world."

Sharing the same vision and values at each campus is crucial, McConnell insists.

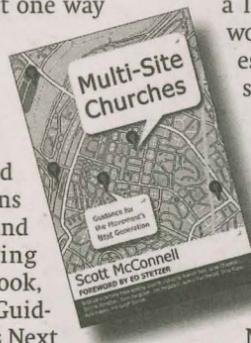
There are those who may have doubts about the multi-site church approach, but many church leaders believe the ultimate goal—reaching a lost world for Christ—is worth the headaches that come with it.

"The advantages of being a multi-site far outweigh the challenges," noted Barry Galloway, a campus pastor at the Tehachapi Mountain Vineyard campus of Desert Vineyard in Lancaster, Calif. He added that having access to the resources of the original church is particularly helpful.

McConnell explains in his book that, for a time, the original church often provides "central services" to its sites. These services include everything from preparing bulletins to writing new employee policies.

In the end, McConnell contends, the multi-site avenue simply is a tool to accomplish God's work.

"The multi-site movement is only one small piece of God's movement through His church to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the entire world."



CrossBooks venture offers traditional, self-publish options to aspiring writers

Nashville—James Draper published more than 25 books throughout a distinguished career as pastor, Southern Baptist leader and president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Now retired, Draper continues to write, and his latest book puts him in the company of 20 fellow veterans and first-time authors who share one thing in common: They have just released books with CrossBooks Publishing, an innovative new concept that blends attributes of traditional and self publishing.

Launched this spring by LifeWay as an "alliance publishing" venture, CrossBooks is seeking out new and veteran authors to produce Christian books that run the gamut from Bible commentaries to children's fiction.

"The book publishing business is going through a challenging period in which creative new relationships between authors and publishers are gaining favor," noted LifeWay President Thom Rainer. "CrossBooks gives authors greater influence in the content, design and marketing of their works, while at the same time reducing the publisher's costs and speeding production time. We're finding there are many gifted Christian authors whose stories need to be told but who may not have a traditional publisher or who may not want to self-publish."

Here's how it works:

- An author submits a manuscript at CrossBooks.com and selects a print-on-demand solution, ranging from a basic package to a comprehensive package that includes marketing and other features.

- CrossBooks editors provide theological and editorial reviews and work with the author to complete the manuscript, design a cover, lay out the book's interior, and propose marketing opportunities—all of which the author approves.

- Within 60 days the book is completed and available for purchase at CrossBooks.com, other online retailers and Christian bookstores.

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