

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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Father's Day Offering
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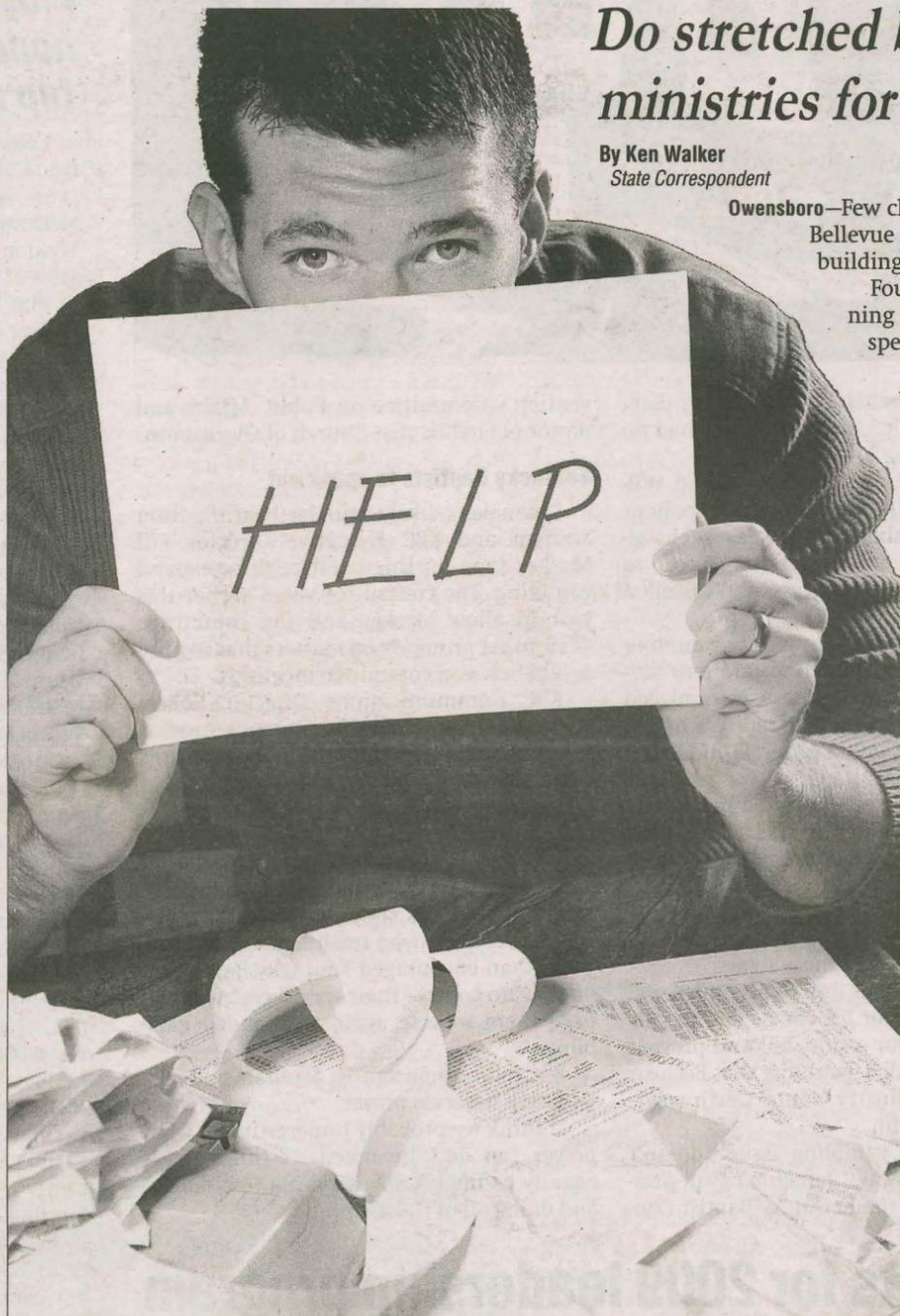
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Financial ministry in a tight economy

Do stretched budgets mean reduced ministries for Kentucky Baptist churches?

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent



Owensboro—Few churches have felt the sting of this year's economic downturn like Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, which moved last October to a new building just west of the U.S. 60 bypass.

Four months into 2009, the Kentucky Baptist congregation was running 7.5 percent behind budget—and that was after slicing its original spending plan by 10 percent.

Yet Pastor Greg Faulls said he sees numerous silver linings behind the cloud.

"My people are more spiritual; they seem to complain less," said Faulls, who has been at Bellevue for 11 years. "I don't want to paint too rosy a picture, but I've seen faith emerge in my congregation.

"Most people are saying, 'This is a good thing. It's forcing us to save and forcing us to realize what matters most.' I think God's hand is in it."

More than six months after the stock market started a dramatic dive, the economy remains the leading issue in the public's consciousness.

Still, many Kentucky Baptists are not taking part in gloomy laments over the situation.

Instead, they are encouraging those who have lost jobs with such assistance as prayer, financial assistance, helping them find new jobs or offering classes to teach money management.

In addition to offering Financial Peace University—a 13-week course published by financial talk show host Dave Ramsey—Bellevue offers individual counseling.

Thanks to several members with financial management experience, over the past year Faulls has referred about eight families for private sessions.

Too often, though, even people who complete some kind of class do not follow up on their own, he said.

"They go home, lay out all their bills and get paralyzed," Faulls noted. "They don't know what to do. These (advisors) are good with personal finances and are passionate about ... living on a budget. That's been real helpful and takes the pressure off me."

Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence is another KBC congregation offering Financial Peace, with its third class scheduled for late August.

For more immediate assistance, the congregation tries to
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Chapman: Another SBC restructuring is not necessary

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Nashville—A proposal to study a restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention is not needed, according to Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Chapman made his feelings known about a proposed Great Commission Resurgence declaration—which was issued in late April by SBC President Johnny Hunt—in a lengthy Baptist Press column on May 29.

The declaration will be presented at the SBC annual meeting in June, and if approved, Hunt will appoint a task force to make recommendations on a Great Commission resurgence and the structure of the convention.

According to Hunt, the 10 commitments (or articles) called for in the Great Commission Resurgence document reflect "what we

hear from grassroots pastors and grassroots leaders of local churches across America."

In that article, Hunt said the strongly worded declaration, "Toward a Great Commission Resurgence" was a needed "shock" for an unhealthy SBC.

Chapman wrote that as he began reading the 10 articles in the declaration, he "rejoiced in the strong affirmation of our convention's biblical convictions."

Article IX: Sticking point

He noted, however, that he discovered that Article IX and "its commentary stood starkly apart from the other nine articles. It suddenly departed from biblical affirmations in order to address the reorganization of structure and methodology within our denomination."

"The article included several neg-

ative characterizations and unsupported judgments of the denomination," observed Chapman, who has not signed the document.

Chapman acknowledged the language in Article IX was "revised within 48 hours when several leaders in the convention rightly expressed their concern and indicated they could not sign the document as written."

The declaration now has been revised a third time, removing the reference to "restructuring" the denomination, Chapman wrote.

The statement in the declaration now reads, "our convention must be examined."

Yet, he added, "changing the language has not made the perceived intent any more acceptable."

Chapman emphasized he is not opposed to effective and efficient organization and noted that periodic

changes are necessary.

"But revival in our churches and appointing a task force to study convention structures are not two parts of one whole. They are two separate objectives that, if sought under the same banner, have the potential to cause both to fail," he explained. "When the time is right, a successful study can happen, following established processes, as has occurred before. However, to put the two objectives together is like trying to mix oil and water."

Chapman noted in his column that if Article IX remains in the declaration, all attention will remain riveted on it. "Article IX is causing distractions already. Since the release of the original declaration, it seems as if all eyes and discussions have focused primarily on Article IX."

□ See Chapman calls for ... Page 8

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 10

Video slots bill part of special legislative session

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Frankfort—Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear and Democratic leaders are once again leading the push for expanded gambling in the commonwealth.

The governor announced June 4 that a bill to allow video racing lottery terminals at Kentucky's horse racing tracks will be on the agenda of a special legislative session set to begin next week. The session was announced June 3 to address a projected \$996 million budget shortfall for the 2010 fiscal year.

Beshear's proposal, in his view, would help close the budget gap in years to come, as well as help the state's horse racing industry.

Track owners and lobbyists claim they are losing out to other states and venues that supplement their purses with money from video slots at the tracks. Beshear has said that adding VLTs at Kentucky's racetracks would make their purses more competitive and keep horse owners from taking their horses out of state.

Beshear's proposal is similar to one House Speaker Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonburg, proposed in January. While full details had not been released at press time, the bill would authorize the Kentucky Lottery Corp. to "establish, license, regulate and tax video lottery terminals at authorized licensed racetracks in Kentucky," according to a statement released by Beshear last week.

The governor was quoted by the Louisville Courier-Journal as saying he would not let Kentucky's horse industry end up like Detroit's auto industry.

Expanded gambling opposed

However, groups and other legislators already have lined up in opposition to the governor's plan.

The Family Foundation of Kentucky has been the loudest voice thus far, promising a lawsuit if the video slots bill is approved.

The group argues that lawmakers cannot make such a decision on their own without placing a constitutional amendment before Kentucky voters.

In a letter to the editor printed in Monday's Courier-Journal, Family Foundation senior policy analyst Martin Cothran wrote that state voters did not approve "anything remotely resembling video slots" when they approved a statewide lottery in 1988.

He called lawmakers' current tactics to push the VLT bill through without a state



vote a "bait-and-switch strategy to get (Kentuckians) to vote for something they had no intention of voting for."

Meanwhile, Senate President David Williams, R-Burkesville, an outspoken opponent of expanded gambling, last week acknowledged the threat out-of-state tracks pose to horse racing in the bluegrass, and unveiled his own rescue plan.

Williams proposed taxing state gambling that already exists, including a lottery surcharge, a tax on out-of-state wagers placed at Kentucky's racetracks, and redirecting tax revenues from the state's general fund to the horse industry.

Last week, Gov. Beshear opted not to add Williams' proposal to the special session's agenda, saying it did not provide a solution to the problem.

However, Courier-Journal columnist Joseph Gerth suggested the move may have been a power play on Beshear's part.

"Allowing Williams' bill to be considered would open the door for the Senate to substitute that plan for a slots bill and prevent the vote on expanded gambling that Beshear and the racing industry want," Gerth wrote in his June 8 column.

The expanded gambling issue "doesn't ever seem to go away," lamented Paul Strahan, chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Con-

vention's Committee on Public Affairs and pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro.

Kentucky Baptists to speak out

Lawmakers likely will be hearing from Strahan and KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey soon on this latest push to expand gambling. The committee voted earlier this year to allow Mackey and the committee chair to act promptly on matters that require action between committee meetings.

KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves said the committee intends to send a letter voicing its opposition to Beshear's video slots bill. "We feel very strongly that Kentuckians are going to lose" if the bill is passed, Strahan said.

The Owensboro pastor pointed out that the money "has to come from somewhere" and that statistics show "most of the time, it's from ... those who really can't afford it."

Strahan encouraged Kentucky Baptists to once again contact their state legislators and urge them to vote against expanded gambling.

But more importantly, Strahan said, the situation deserves prayer.

"I think we probably underestimate what prayer can do," he noted. "I think that's equally as important as calling (legislators) and doing all of those things."

KBC selects college students for 2009 leadership program

Louisville—More than 20 college students from across the state have been selected for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 1:8 Leadership Experience this summer.

According to Keith Inman, director for the KBC's collegiate and young adult department, the summer program is designed to combine missions work with leadership training: Now in its second year, the two-month program began May 31 and concludes July 25.

"The 1:8 Leadership program allows us to train student leaders across the state so that when they go back to their schools, they can play key roles in their churches and schools," Inman explained.

Preparing students for leadership is central to the KBC's approach to college ministry, he said. The students will learn from experienced leaders in both classroom and personal settings.

Following the missions model presented in Acts 1:8, Inman said the 1:8 Leadership Experience is designed to prepare students for ministry at the local, national and international levels.

Service opportunities also are a critical

component of the program. The students will serve at Jefferson Street Baptist Community Center in Louisville, as well as other ministries throughout the city. They will be participating in the Southern Baptist Convention's Crossover initiative in Louisville leading up to its annual meeting at the end of June, and also will be involved in Kentucky Changers projects to provide repairs for low-income housing residents.

Later this summer, the group will travel to the Dominican Republic to help out with water purification projects and evangelistic outreach.

Daniel and Heidi Freeman of Richmond are again serving as team coordinators for the summer. The Freemans are both graduates of Eastern Kentucky University.

Students selected for the 2009 1:8 Leadership Experience are:

Micah Bennett, Eastern Kentucky University.

Bradley Brown, Morehead State University.

Joseph Dickens, Morehead State University.

Trenton Fleener, Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Evelyn Fuson, Georgetown College.

Audrey Kelley, University of Louisville.

Emily McGuire, Western Kentucky University.

Jenna Ott, Berea College.

Sarah Payne, University of Kentucky.

Jon Raley, Northern Kentucky University.

Peggy Ray, University of Kentucky.

Mallory Sewell, Campbellsville University.

Allyson Smith, University of Kentucky.

Susan Stine, Northern Kentucky University.

Breanna Stone, Morehead State University.

Christopher Swift, University of Louisville.

Kristen Trotter, Kentucky State University.

Dillon Walls, University of the

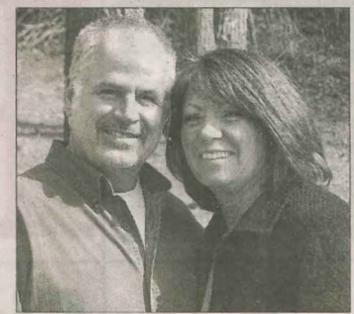
Cumberlands.

Anna White, Eastern Kentucky University.

Matthew Willian, Morehead State University.

Kelsie Witham, Morehead State University.

For more information about the 1:8 Leadership Experience, contact the KBC's collegiate and young adult department at (502) 489-3573, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3573.



Lynn and Angie Wagoner

Floyd Co. couple honored as Ky.'s top missionaries

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has selected Lynn and Angie Wagoner of McDowell as Kentucky's 2009 Mission Service Corps Missionaries of the Year.

The Wagoners serve as directors for God's Appalachian Partnership, a ministry center they founded in 1999. Based in McDowell, the center provides food, clothing, job training, home repairs and other basic necessities to those in need in Floyd County.

"Lynn and Angie keep evangelism as the No. 1 priority of their ministry and do an exceptional job in connecting new believers with local churches where they can grow in their relationship with Christ," said Teresa Parrett, missions mobilization coordinator for the KBC. "They have a deep love for the people they serve."

As MSC missionaries, the couple oversees the ministry at God's Appalachian Partnership. Lynn serves as director for the center, and Angie serves as office manager.

Originally from St. Cloud, Fla., the Wagoners moved to Floyd County in 1999 to establish the center. According to Parrett, God's Appalachian Partnership has assisted more than 1,800 families and currently serves an average of 350 families each month.

Each year, the KBC recognizes an MSC missionary for his or her commitment to and effectiveness in ministry, evangelism or church planting.

As the state honorees, the Wagoners will serve as Kentucky's nominees for the National Missionary of the Year award to be presented by the North American Mission Board later this summer.

Last year, fellow MSC missionary Harrell Riley was recognized as NAMB's national honoree. He directs Hell Is Real Ministries and prison and Job Corps outreach programs primarily in Western Kentucky.

The Wagoners have three children and are active members of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

Mission Service Corps missionaries are self-funded missionaries who are commissioned by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Economic downturn amplifies need for financial ministries

Continued from page 1

link those who have lost jobs with members who own businesses or are involved with organizations that are hiring new employees.

It also maintains a benevolence fund and clothing closet, which sometimes distributes donations of furniture or appliances.

Bill Risher, associate pastor at the northern Kentucky church, said a primary concern expressed by members is getting out of debt, especially those who feel "overwhelmed."

Still, with donations nearly current with the 2009 budget, Risher said the loss of jobs by some members has not dramatically affected its ministries. Instead, he said he also has seen an upsurge of interest in eternal matters.

"It has enhanced the spiritual climate of the church," the associate pastor said. "I know of individuals who have felt support, whether through assisting them (financially), prayer or just being there for them."

"It lets people know we're there to help them. I think it helps them in their spiritual growth, knowing they have a body of believers that are encouraging them. It helps reassure people God is in control."

That is a timely message for Evergreen Baptist Church, located just north of Frankfort.

The country congregation has been struggling to meet its budget this year, forcing it to reduce the salary offered for the part-time youth and children's pastor it hopes to hire soon.

Pastor Brad Hockensmith said the church recently hosted Financial Peace—with a second session planned for the fall—to help members get a stronger biblical perspective on finances.

Still, tight funds have not reduced the church's desire to help. It has hosted special breakfasts and other fund raisers to stock its food pantry, which the pastor said has

supplied numerous homes within a five-mile radius.

Like many other KBC pastors, he said he also sees spiritual benefits to the tight economy.

"If anything, it's drawn us closer in our walking with the Lord," Hockensmith noted. "Sometimes we don't realize God is all we've got until God is all we've got."

"I think people outside the church have gained an appreciation for what we do and what we stand for," he added. "They see us as a church that's trying to make a difference and meet the needs we can. I hear comments of appreciation and gratitude for what we're doing."

Louisville-area First Baptist Church of Middletown had to cut this year's budget five percent and reducing planned salary increases from three percent to less than one percent.

Pastor Jim Cobban and his staff were all nervous about what 2009 would hold. But thanks to starting the year with some reserves, a slight seasonal decline in receipts has not affected its ministries.

Expanding beyond the traditional outreach, Cobban has been using his contacts in the town's chamber of commerce in an effort to find work for members who have been laid off.

The veteran pastor said he sees positives to the economic situation, saying it has made people more caring, particularly for those who have lost career-type jobs in recent months.

The relevance of faith and money emerged during a recent mid-week Bible study discussion, when Cobban taught on the parable in Luke 12 of the rich man who built bigger barns but then died.

"It was a good conversation," Cobban said. "Yes, money's important and yes, we need to be good stewards, but our calling is to be about more than money."

Churches forging ahead during recession

Lawrenceburg—With a \$23,000 surplus four months into the year, and 2009 contributions to its building fund running \$7,000 ahead of schedule, Lawrenceburg's Sand Spring Baptist Church is bucking the economic downturn.

In late April, the congregation held the first service in its new 800-seat sanctuary, two years after it started its fundraising campaign for the \$5.3 million facility.

Although it still owes \$4.3 million on the building, Sand Spring intends to retire the debt in 10 years.

Pastor Mike Hamrick bases that on the church paying off a \$2.5 million educational building and fellowship hall in 2006, less than five years after it opened. "We're an example of a church that should be worried about the economy, but our people are so faithful our giving has been up."

Despite the current surplus in the five-year pledge campaign, the pastor admitted that he would not be leading his church into a \$5 million building program today.

Though the church is not hurting financially, several members have lost jobs as area factories have reduced staff.

While no members have asked for help from its benevolence ministry, the church did help a family whose trailer burned during the winter. In addition, its "Widow's Mite" outreach spends up to \$10,000 a year, helping non-church members with utility bills, rent and food.

Despite the economic setbacks, Hamrick said he thinks people should remain calm, reflecting the advice given in late April at a series of "Town Hall" meetings organized by financial talk show host Dave Ramsey. Sand Spring was one of 46 Baptist churches (most of them affil-

iated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention) in the state that hosted meetings.

More than 6,000 sites across the nation attracted an estimated audience of more than one million to listen to a satellite-televized talk by Ramsey, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Hamrick said he was encouraged by Ramsey's reminder that the economy was not as bad as many people are saying. "He was talking about how selfishness and sin led to the problem we have right now."

That lined up with a recent sermon from Haggai, where the pastor pointed out that God told Israel that turning away from Him had caused their financial problems.

"I wonder: Is God trying to get our attention?" Hamrick asked. "When the economy is down, it's going to improve the spiritual climate. It causes us to turn to Him."

Paul Badgett agrees with that assessment. The pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville led a recent revival in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he said bleak economic conditions have created a tremendous hunger for spiritual matters.

"Most of our woes have been brought on by greed and corruption," Badgett noted. "People understand there's been a spiritual dearth and there needs to be a revival and spiritual awakening in the country if we're going to have the kind of life God wants us to have."

"It's turning people's hearts toward Scripture and prayer and they're seeking God," said Badgett, who saw conversions each session of the four-day event. "They want to understand morally where we need to be. We need strong morals and ethics if we're going to have good communities."

Financial tips

Accountant, author Jeremy White offers some money-saving ideas in latest book

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Paducah—Jeremy White doesn't mind shopping in thrift stores, buying used appliances or renting tools, vacation homes or recreational vehicles.

That is all part of his suggested plan to reduce expenses as a tool for money management instead of working a second job or long hours in hopes of boosting income.

"My wife goes to a beauty school and gets a manicure for \$3," White said of his mate, Sharon. "Some savings ideas are more in vogue now. I'm not ashamed of shopping at a thrift store."

Buying used items is an especially good idea for major purchases, White suggests in the appendix to his latest book, "Surviving Financial Meltdown." The certified public accountant and deacon at First Baptist Church of Paducah is a regular contributor to the Western Recorder's weekly Financial Forum feature.

Although it takes planning and some elbow grease, co-author Ron Blue mentioned a co-worker who needed a refrigerator for his new home after relocating to Atlanta.

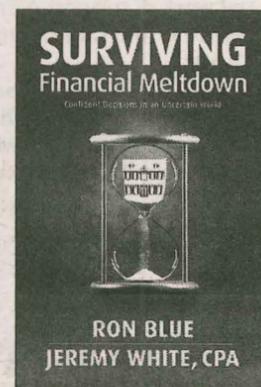
Through studying refrigerators in Consumer Reports magazine, scanning classifieds and making a number of calls, the co-worker found a nearly-new refrigerator for \$250. That was one-third the going rate for a new one at the time.

Some other money-saving tips from their book include:

- Shopping garage sales, which are an excellent source of children's clothing at a fraction of the original price.
- Using membership warehouses, which often offer items at 5 percent above wholesale.
- Comparison shopping, such as obtaining more than one estimate for major car repairs,



Jeremy White



auto insurance, telephone service or appliances.

- Buy generic items instead of name brands.
- Wait at least 24 hours before making any major purchase and discuss it with your spouse.
- Form a babysitting co-op with neighbors, trading time on a child-by-child basis.
- Negotiate with store managers or owners to see if they will lower the price on major purchases.
- Pay cash instead of charging. Not only may it cost less, studies show that those who pay cash spend less than those who use a credit card.
- Take advantage of county health departments for vaccinations or inoculations, which may be available for free or at a nominal cost.
- Take advantage of any matching-price policies at nearby stores, showing them a sale ad for another store to get an item for less instead of driving across town.
- Become a faithful library user instead buying books or renting movies.
- Plant a vegetable or flower garden, which can help trim food bills and florist expenses.

May Cooperative Program gifts fall short, budget gap widens

Louisville—With three months left in the fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts now are \$851,982 (4.73 percent) behind budget through the end of May.

According to Kentucky Baptist Convention Business Services Team Leader Lowell Ashby, Kentucky Baptists gave \$1,669,633 through CP in May, bringing the total dollars received to \$17,148,018 nine months into the 2008-09 fiscal year.

The CP budget for this fiscal year is \$24 million. At least \$18 million was needed through May to stay on budget, Ashby explained.

Cooperative Program giving also is behind last year's pace by \$550,343 (3.1 percent). Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$17.6 million through CP over the same period in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

"Sacrificial and generous are words that describe Kentucky Baptists who continue to give through the Cooperative Program in a dif-

ficult economy," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "The needs of mission causes funded by CP dollars are making an eternal difference in peoples lives, and we are grateful for the faithful giving of Kentucky Baptists."

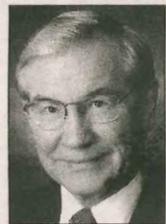
At the KBC Mission Board meeting last month, Ashby projected that Cooperative Program receipts for the fiscal year likely would fall short of the \$24 million budget goal by as much as \$1 million. Current KBC projections indicate the 2008-09 budget shortfall could reach nearly \$1.5 million.

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

The role of KBC in missions

Sometimes it is easy to think that the reach of the state convention is limited to its geographic boundaries. But have you ever stopped to consider the tremendous global impact of the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board?

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Let me share with you just some of the ways Kentucky Baptists are impacting our world. Through the KBC Mission Board:

- Baptist Men on Mission works in places like Bosnia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Republic of Georgia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Russia and South Africa. Disaster relief teams serve both nationally and internationally.

- Partnership missions coordinates partnerships in numerous countries including Tanzania, Brazil, Peru, Panama, Nicaragua, Portugal, Italy, Poland and Barbados.

- Baptist Campus Ministry involves more than 1,700 college students in short-term mission trips annually, many of these international. Because of these experiences, a number of these students become North American Mission Board and International Mission Board missionaries.

- More than 1,000 international students on Kentucky college campuses receive direct ministry and witness through Baptist Campus Ministry groups each year. Sometimes, the best way to reach inside a nation that is closed to missionaries is by reaching students who will return home to become leaders.

- New churches are started each year with a heart for missions and for starting new missions-minded churches built right into their DNA. It is exciting to see churches that are still new themselves reaching out to help other new church plants.

- Numerous new Hispanic churches are being planted. Leaders are being trained through the Hispanic Bible Institute.

- A major evangelistic push to place the gospel in 1.5 million households next year is made possible through partnership with the North American Mission Board, associations and churches.

- Leaders who understand and are committed to missions are being trained through conferences and events that reach more than 27,000 Kentucky Baptists each year.

Space does not permit me to share the impact of every KBC Mission Board ministry, but just these few examples make it easy to see how the state convention is a vital partner in Baptist efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. Whether through sending more than \$15 million to the SBC for missions causes and world hunger annually, reaching out through direct ministries, or doing the essential work of strengthening the local church, the KBC has an essential function in our broader efforts to win people for Christ.

It is a privilege to serve with staff members who are called of God to serve the churches and the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. Next week, I plan to focus on the fine work of KBC institutions, agencies and auxiliaries. Stay tuned.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Do we really need to be told, 'Say something nice'?

Last Sunday was being promoted by a Baptist layman in another state as "Say Something Nice Sunday." According to a news release, the certified speech-language pathologist wanted people in churches on June 7 to actually say something nice to each other. The story arrived too late for the Western Recorder to use in advance. Perhaps that is just as well, for do Christians really need to be urged to be kind to one another in their speech and actions?

Mitch Carnell, a member of First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., thinks so. After volunteering at an inner-city middle school, Carnell was struck by the "pervasive negativity among both students and teachers."

Now, it comes as no surprise to any parent that children can be insensitive and cruel to each other, but the adults, too? Surely he was mistaken!

Regrettably, we all have to admit, to our chagrin, that sometimes—in our less than admirable moments—we can make some pretty thoughtless comments or degrading remarks about others.

For example, recently some middle schoolers participated in a derby car race. The kids worked hard on their cars for several weeks, assisted by a host of adult volunteers. What a fantastic project to learn new skills, build teamwork and encourage sportsmanship! But after the race, an award was presented to the unfortunate students who had built the slowest car—hopefully with the good intention of consoling and teaching them to laugh at themselves when things do not go well. The award was given a tongue-in-cheek title: "You Should Have Walked Award." Amusing? Perhaps, but could the award also subject these disappointed kids to further sarcasm and ridicule from their peers?

It happens too often in our churches, too—where we expect people to be careful to conduct themselves with uprightness and integrity, and in a peaceful and friendly manner. And it happens too often among those who should represent the best of our denomination. Is it any wonder when some among us accuse and criticize fellow Christians so harshly, that the world gawks in amazement? Could the way we sometimes treat each

other have anything to do with declining baptisms and our need for a Great Commission resurgence?

The framers of the Great Commission Resurgence statement suggested as much: "We believe too many of us have lost some of our love for God and others somewhere along the way. This has devastated our witness."

They continued, "Though we believe that God calls believers to speak out against moral ills, this must not be done in a way that is hateful toward unbelievers or trades gospel priorities for political influence." Their appeal is for Southern Baptists to be ever mindful of our words and actions that may lead to broken relationships and harm our witness.

Wanting to stem a growing tide of harsh rhetoric in schools, homes and churches, Carnell published a booklet entitled "Say Something Nice; Be a Lifter." A business consultant who leads workshops on communication and improving customer relations, he "has seen, up close, the power of words," the article noted. He urges church-goers to set a tone on one Sunday by saying something nice to someone. "If the first person you meet in your day says something nice to you, you get a smile on your face," he explained. "If the person says something ugly, you start out on a bad foot."

But I ask you, why stop the good will there? Christians should be known for showing kindness to others and for being encouragers of praiseworthy and honorable acts every day and everywhere. How often do we forget that the right word spoken at the right time can work miracles in another person's life? After all, what better door is there for sharing an authentic witness?

Paul understood this, too: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (Philippians 2:1-2).

Do we, as Christians, really need to be reminded to say something nice? Isn't this the very heartbeat of the Great Commission: "Love each other as I have loved you"? If so, let a resurgence start—with me!

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Why a world without newspapers isn't a place we want to live

By Erich Bridges

"Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink."

High school kids used to memorize that line from Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." In the poem, sailors go mad with thirst under a scorching sun as their cursed vessel sits, day after day, "idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean."

Thirsty in the midst of an ocean: Sounds like our relationship to the ever-increasing torrent of information flooding us from every direction. We can't even begin to absorb it, much less use it effectively.

Drenched in a waterfall of data, we often remain dehydrated when it comes to the knowledge and insights we need to understand God's world and how to respond to it.

Several pastors and mission ministers were asked what they read regularly. They cited multiple types of print and digital media, but they needed more. "I can get information online," one pastor said. "Give me something I can use."

Others agreed. They want handles, context, practical tools they can use to get their families and churches involved in the wider world.

At a moment when all kinds of media are multiplying, however, one of the best tools available for understanding the onslaught of information is on life support: journalism. For all their biases and shortcom-

ings, good newspapers tell us what is happening, where and when it's happening and, often, why it's happening. They summarize the world and give us options for responding to onrushing events.

With a newspaper in one hand and a Bible in the other, we can cut through the clutter, get to the heart of the matter, and act.

A vital free press was important enough to our nation's founders to appear in the Bill of Rights, right up top in the First Amendment, alongside freedom of religion, speech, assembly and petition. Thomas Jefferson understood it well: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Newspapers might, however, disappear altogether a few decades from now—not from state oppression, but from public neglect.

You've heard about newspapers large and small closing up shop in one city after another. More than 22,000 newspaper jobs were lost in 2008; another 7,000 employees have been laid off this year. One analyst predicts the last newspaper printing press will stop rolling by 2043. Others think the end will come much sooner amid a tough economy, generational declines in readership, and the demand for free content online.

Religious media face all of those pressures—plus the decline of support for denominational institutions. Baptist state newspapers have a long, noble tradition of informing the churches and holding leaders and institutions accountable to the people. They're still doing both, but they're struggling to survive in the new multimedia environment.

Stop whining, respond new-media proponents. Journalism isn't dying, they assert, it's just being forced to change like everything else. More good news reporting than ever is available online at the touch of a keypad—sifted and sorted by personal interest. And it's being greatly enriched by "citizen journalism," blogs and social media.

True enough, but the big Web portals still get most of the news they offer from newspapers and wire services. If those news organizations cease to exist, where will the Web portals get the news of the world that pops up on your homepage or mobile phone?

So, I challenge you to buy a newspaper. Read it. Put it into the hands of a young person in search of knowledge and understanding. Subscribe to a Baptist state paper.

You can't make an impact on your mission field—which is the world, from your town to the ends of the earth—unless you understand it.

Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

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

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The Call for a 'Great Commission Resurgence'

By Bob Terry

Would you vote against motherhood and apple pie? Of course not. There are some things all of us support or at least say we do. The recently released "Toward a Great Commission Resurgence" declaration is like motherhood and apple pie. All of us support practically every word in the document. We support a commitment to Christ's lordship, to gospel centeredness for our personal lives as well as the lives of our churches and denominational ministries. We support a commitment to the great commandments to love God and to love others.

Southern Baptists are united around the firm conviction in the full truthfulness and complete sufficiency of Christian Scripture in all matters of faith and practice. We believe the Baptist Faith and Message is a sufficient guide for building a theological consensus for partnership in the gospel. We believe in biblically healthy churches, in sound biblical preaching and in methodological diversity that is biblically informed. And certainly we believe in distinctively Christian families.

It does not take a special Southern Baptist Convention task force to examine these nine commitments. Baptists are already united around them. It is the 10th commitment in this declaration—a commitment to a more effective convention structure—that causes some SBC leaders to see the need for a new task force. SBC President Johnny Hunt has taken the lead in rolling out the "Toward a Great Commission Resurgence" declaration and calling for Southern Baptists across the nation to sign on. However, the document is the acknowledged brainchild of Southeastern Seminary President Danny Akin who shared the original version of the commitments document with Hunt. Southern Seminary President Al Mohler and LifeWay

Christian Resources President Thom Rainer also had input to the document in its current form.

These and other SBC leaders are concerned that SBC statistics continue to drift downward—baptisms, membership, Sunday school attendance, even percentage of giving to the Cooperative Program. A reason for this downward slide, the document says, is that the denomination has failed "to understand how mid-20th century methods and strategies are not working in the 21st century."

Surprisingly the resurgence declaration makes no mention of the Covenant for a New Century adopted by Southern Baptists in 1995. That action restructured the national convention in order to avoid the plight now described in the new document. The new structure was to prepare Southern Baptists for the new century, not perpetuate the past century.

All of us lament the statistical declines, but are they the result of denominational structure? No. People are led to faith in Christ through the work of local churches, not denominational structure. Believers join churches, not a denomination. Missions are done by churches. The International Mission Board has repeatedly emphasized that mission boards do not do missions "for the churches." Rather, boards "enable the churches to do missions."

It must never be forgotten that in Baptist life, it is the church that is supreme, not the denomination.

The "Toward a Great Commission Resurgence" declaration has been called "a work in progress." That is a good thing. The first draft referred to state conventions as "bloated and inefficient bureaucracies with red tape a mile long." Now the document says "denominational structures at all levels need to be streamlined for more faithful stewardship of the funds entrusted to them." The change in tone is welcomed. In Alabama, for example, the size of the state staff has decreased by 20 percent in the last 10 years. And Alabama Baptists do their work in the sunlight of open meetings and full reporting by the state Baptist paper. It is messengers from cooperating churches who ultimately make convention decisions. Ours is not a "bloated and ineffective bureaucracy."

State conventions are directly tied to churches in ways no SBC entity is. State conventions work with churches to raise CP dollars. State conventions are the first to feel the pulse of the churches and first to respond to the desires of churches.

In its original draft and in its current draft, the document urges that more and more CP dollars be channeled to SBC causes. Perhaps that is not surprising since the document was prepared by SBC leaders. Not mentioned is the fact that many state Baptist conventions have increased percentage giving to the SBC over the last five years and in no case did that action result in greater CP giving by the churches. Whatever the cause of our giving trends, juggling percentages is not a magic cure.

Still every part of SBC life should be willing to examine itself from time to time. As Akin said, churches, associations, state conventions and national entities should be "self-critical in asking the question: Are we maximizing the resources entrusted to us by Southern Baptists for the fulfilling of the Great Commission?"

There is a difference between being "self-critical" and someone else being critical of you. Those entrusted with the welfare of the various ministries—the elected trustees, directors and senior managers—deserve the opportunity to examine themselves again in light of convention concern. They are the ones most familiar with the ministry needs and opportunities.

To have some kind of SBC task force examine an entity or program before trustees have opportunity to address the issue may even violate SBC Bylaw 26, which specifies that motions dealing with the work-

Guest Viewpoint



Bob Terry

Two investment mistakes

By Don Spencer

1. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Most folks would readily agree with this statement but, as P.T. Barnum said, "There is a sucker born every minute." When it comes to investment schemes, this appears to be true. People are curious about an investment promising above-average returns for little or no risk.

In the bad economy that we have had the last two years, I've talked to a number of people who have been enticed by such promises. Appeal of anticipated higher income causes the individual to ignore all the basic principles of good investing practices. Sadly, it usually is several years before people realize their mistake.

It has been proven over and over that risk and reward go together in investing. More volatile investments generally offer more opportunity of increased gain long term. However, there is an increased likelihood of losing money as well. As you increase the safety of an investment, you generally decrease projected earnings on a long-term basis. Human nature seems to make folks want to "beat the system." History has repeatedly proven that can rarely be done. But the appeal of the possibilities makes people susceptible to scam artists or to unethical sales representatives for financial products. Get good, competent advice before investing.

2. If you don't understand it, do not invest. Financial companies are adept at creating and marketing investments that appeal to the average citizen looking for a higher return. Each new product has a particular spin and promises of higher returns. Many are derivatives or hybrids of the underlying true investments. With all the spins and names, it is difficult for the average person to determine if an investment is appropriate for their needs.

History has proven that even professionals can sometimes be fooled. If so, it is more likely the average person can be fooled by a little understood investment strategy. If you don't understand a product, but a trusted financial professional feels strongly it is the right one for you, insist on their continuing to explain the product until you have a reasonable understanding. Until you do, you probably should avoid it.

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

What if your marriage is boring?

By Valerie Vincent

Our God is creative and diverse. Vegetation, animals and culture demonstrate this well.

It is difficult to imagine Christ being bored with His life or relationships when we consider His lifestyle of continuously engaging people and deepening the friendships He had.

■ Be creative. If you are not, seek ideas from someone who is or do some research on the Internet, at the bookstore or at the library.

■ Look for ways to do things differently. Change routines and patterns. Evaluate what is repetitious and make changes.

■ Add new features to the relationship. If you and your spouse never meet for lunch, start. Try a new hobby or take a class together.

■ The brain likes and needs novelty. We can get ruts in our brain where we do things that are familiar without having to even think about them. When we force our brain to think, it is very good for our brain and for our marriage.

■ Marriages need to be fertilized and provided nutrients. The same, old soil over time becomes devoid of the food a plant needs. Marriages also need to be fed.

Talk with your spouse about how you can feed your marriage for it to be healthy and grow. Do you need couple friends to socialize with during the week? Would a shared ministry event benefit the marriage? Do you need to renovate your nightly routine? What about your weekend routine?

Marriages get into trouble when one spouse seeks novelty outside the marriage in another relationship. Putting the same amount of time, money and energy into the relationship one already has committed to will be honoring to God and make an important difference in the marriage.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.



ings of an entity must first be referred to that entity before being considered by the convention. For example, consideration of how Southern Baptists should do missions in North America deals with the ministry assigned to the North American Mission Board. The SBC already has in place a mechanism for dealing with needed changes that such a study might discover. It is through the various entity program statements that are channeled through the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee also has the responsibility to work with the entities "to study and make recommendations to entities concerning adjustments required by ministry statements or by established Convention policies and practices" (SBC Bylaw 18, section E, No. 9).

Centralizing power in the hands of a few has never served Southern Baptists well. Neither has ignoring existing structures to work through issues in a careful and judicious manner according to Baptist polity.

If study and changes are necessary to achieve a Great Commission resurgence, then it should be done through existing channels involving those already charged with the ministries and not through some hand-picked special task force.

But the real issue may not be denominational structure at all. The real issue may be in committing to live out the nine commitments of the Great Commission Resurgence declaration Baptists support rather than just saying we support them.

Bob Terry is editor of the Alabama Baptist in Birmingham, Ala.

Lottie Moon offering falls nearly \$30 million short of '08 goal

By Shawn Hendricks
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—Despite financial hardships caused by the economic downturn, Southern Baptists gave more than \$141 million to support the work of missionaries through the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. But the total, which fell nearly \$30 million short of the \$170 million goal, is not enough to fund many of those who are ready to go.

The \$30 million shortfall is equivalent to what it costs to support the work of approximately 667 international missionaries for one year. The final figure for the 2008 offering is more than \$9 million less than the record 2007 offering of \$150.4 million.

The final offering results follow a May IMB trustee meeting during which trustees approved the suspension of new appointments to the International Service Corps and Masters programs. They also approved reducing the number of new appointments to the career, apprentice, associate and journeyman programs.

New appointments will continue on a more selective basis, involving only the most strategic assignments.

The IMB spends 71 percent of its total budget, including the Lottie Moon offering and a major portion of funds received from the Cooperative Program, on missionary support. That includes salaries, housing, medical care and children's education. The annual cost averages approximately \$43,000 per missionary.

By the end of 2010, the IMB's missionary force of 5,656 is expected to fall to a level "compatible with financial resources," IMB President Jerry Rankin said. The reduction will occur through retirements and completion of service.

"We will not be able to replace short-term personnel completing their assignments and will have to restrict the number of new personnel that can be appointed," he added.

Just a year ago, the IMB celebrated a record mark for Lottie Moon. Cumulative gifts to the offering, which was initiated by Woman's Missionary Union in 1888, topped \$3 billion.

"This year's giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering may be more sacrificial for some than ever before considering the level of unemployment and loss of in-

come experienced by many in our churches," said Wanda Lee, WMU executive director. "And yet, Christ's command to go into all the world compels us to give in support of our missionaries during these challenging times.

"I believe if we keep our hearts focused on the mandate of the Great Commission, God will be faithful in providing the people and financial resources needed to reach a world desperately in need of the hope found in Christ," Lee added.

Not enough funds

In November 2008, IMB trustees adopted a \$319.8 million budget for 2009—\$10 million of which was earmarked to offset the rising cost of support for missionaries already on the field. Now, though the number of Southern Baptists qualified to go keeps growing, there are not enough funds to support them.

With the growing number of job losses and the decline in financial markets, IMB treasurer David Steverson said the organization's situation could have been far worse.

"When you consider the number of our

constituency who have lost jobs and are directly affected by this economy," Steverson pointed out, "we are grateful that the offering experienced only a 6 percent decline," which nevertheless is the largest dollar decrease in the history of the offering.

According to the 2008 IMB Annual Statistical Report, 565,967 people were baptized and 26,970 churches were started overseas through IMB missionaries and their Baptist partners. The gospel also was shared among more than 1,190 people groups—100 of these groups heard about Jesus for the first time.

"We need to realize that God has blessed Southern Baptists with numbers and resources to be His instrument to fulfill His mission to the ends of the earth," Rankin said. "One day we will stand accountable to Him for how we have used our resources.

"It breaks my heart that God-called people want to go—and millions need to hear the gospel message from them—yet we don't have the funds to send them. I pray this situation will convict our hearts and challenge His people to do whatever it takes to get the gospel to the whole world." (BP)

NATIONAL NOTES

Scroggins is Pastors' Conf. VP nominee—Jimmy Scroggins, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference by Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. Scroggins previously served as teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville and dean of Boyce College. Information from the 2008 Annual Church Profile for First Baptist, West Palm Beach, the congregation gave \$29,335 (0.6 percent) through the Cooperative Program on total undesignated receipts of \$4.25 million. Scroggins is the first announced candidate for the position.

Texas church calls new pastor—A historic and prominent Texas Baptist church that was subject to a highly publicized controversy last year over homosexuality and other issues agreed May 31 on a new senior pastor. Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, voted to hire Brent Beasley, currently pastor of Second Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., as pastor. Beasley moves to a church facing possible ouster from the Southern Baptist Convention over a dispute in 2008 about whether to allow gay members to be photographed together as couples for a church directory. The SBC Executive Committee is expected to make a final recommendation on a motion brought last year declaring the church not to be "in friendly cooperation" with the SBC when it meets June 22, just prior to the annual meeting in Louisville.

Drake's comments start firestorm—Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., said he is praying "imprecatory prayer" against President Obama, and that he is asking for the president's death. The comments came the same day the former Southern Baptist Convention officer called the death of abortion provider George Tiller an "answer to prayer." Drake told Fox News Radio he did not understand why people were upset with his comments quoted from a webcast of his daily radio talk show. In response, the SBC Executive Committee's Roger "Sing" Oldham said he believes most Southern Baptists are committed to praying for the well-being of the president as instructed in Scripture. He added that Drake is not a spokesman for the SBC and his comments do not reflect the actions, resolutions or positions of the denomination.

25,000 prep for NAMB summer missions—An army of 25,000 student and adult volunteers will mobilize across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico in June, when the North American Mission Board's World Changers, PowerPlant and Families on Mission ministries launch for the summer. World Changers—the largest of the three summer ministries—will sponsor 92 projects in 85 cities between June 8 and Aug. 1, attracting 23,000 middle school, high school and college students. For PowerPlant, another 2,000 students have signed up for 16 projects this summer. Meanwhile, some 650 people are registered as families to participate in one of six Families on Mission projects.

SBC resolution would celebrate Obama's election

By Bob Allen

Arlington, Texas—A prominent African-American pastor is urging the Southern Baptist Convention to adopt a resolution celebrating the election of President Obama when the denomination meets later this month in Louisville.

A resolution submitted for consideration by Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, acknowledges policy differences with Obama, but terms election of America's first African-American president "a tremendous moment in our nation's history."

McKissic's resolution, referred to a committee that will decide whether to bring any or all of it to the convention floor, "celebrates the historic nature of the election of President

Barack Hussein Obama as a significant contribution to the ongoing cause of racial reconciliation in the United States."

It asks Southern Baptists to pray that the president "will use the constitutional authority assigned to his office to promote liberty and justice for all people, including the unborn" and pledges to join hands with Obama to "advance causes of racial justice insofar as those efforts are consistent with biblical principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"I certainly want Southern Baptists to have an opportunity to affirm and celebrate, along with the rest of America, this major milestone in our history," McKissic said in an interview.

He said he does not expect any

major opposition to the resolution. "Believing that Southern Baptists are good people at heart, I can't think of a good reason that the vast majority would have a problem with this resolution," he noted.

McKissic, who wrote on his blog in 2008 that he was supporting fellow Southern Baptist Mike Huckabee for president, explained his proposed resolution has nothing to do with politics. He said it is consistent with a 1995 SBC resolution pledging to "eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life."

Acknowledging "that our own healing is at stake" the 1995 resolution sought forgiveness from African Americans and pledged to pursue "racial reconciliation in all our relationships, especially with our brothers and sisters in Christ." (ABP)

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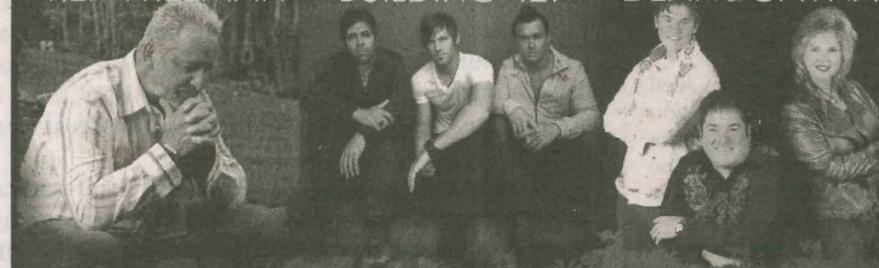
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Crossings' new additions

Students will benefit from new developments at camp

This year marks the addition of several new initiatives and activities at camp.

As Crossings celebrates 10 years of camp, it is amazing to reflect on the many changes and developments over the past decade. Most importantly, we look to future opportunities to see more students than ever make life-changing decisions as we continue to prepare for record numbers in attendance this summer.

Cedarmore campers will notice the new worship center under construction. The steel has been erected and the building is under roof. Our prayers are that the needed financial resources will be provided over this coming year to allow its completion prior to next summer.

Students also will experience our new fishing lake, new recreation additions and added beds for the large numbers of students.

At Jonathan Creek, campers will be excited about additional water activities that are afforded by the newly constructed lake on our property. This will allow our campers to be on private water away from public distractions on Kentucky Lake.

Students also will notice new improvements in conference space and housing.

Most importantly, each property will have significantly increased numbers of summer program staff. This year we will have nearly 110 staff members working with us throughout the summer. This represents a significant increase over approximately 70 staff last year.

Year in and year out, campers and youth leaders say that the staff makes camp. It is through their efforts that relationships are built, Bible studies are taught and the gospel is presented to thousands during the summer.

As with each year, we face enormous challenges as we grow in this ministry. We make mistakes, we learn and we struggle to best equip these young adults to withstand the rigorous schedule of summer camp. They will be working long hours and ministering to more than a thousand students each week.

Please continue to pray for the safety of camp this summer and for the staff members who will execute it.

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

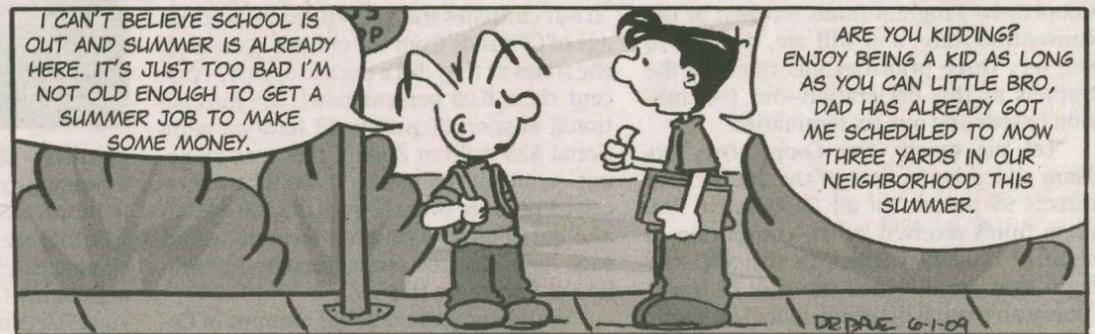
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 ____ canto (singing style)
- 4 Queen of ____
- 9 "The ____ of the Lord is at hand" (Joel 1:15)
- 12 Mirror
- 13 Instrument board
- 14 "The wheat and the ____ were not smitten" (Exodus 9:32)
- 15 "Blessed is the man that walketh not ... nor standeth in the way of ____" (Psalm 1:1)
- 17 "They that dwell in my house, and my ____, count me for a stranger" (Job 19:15)
- 19 Prong
- 20 "____ not sleep, lest thou come to poverty" (Proverbs 20:13)
- 21 Milk that doesn't require tears
- 23 "Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his ____" (Genesis 25:28)
- 26 Stubborn sort
- 27 Holds; restrains
- 28 One of the Kettles
- 29 Golfer Ernie
- 30 Alights
- 31 "And beneath upon the ____ of it (ephod) thou shalt make pome-granates of blue" (Exodus 28:33)
- 32 Simile syntax
- 33 Skin afflictions
- 34 Wise man
- 35 Shrinks
- 37 Fathers, familiarly

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	
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32			33							34		
35		36						37				
			38					39				
40	41					42					43	44
45					46	47					48	
49					50						51	

- 38 Burden
- 39 ____ meet (a spouse)
- 40 Onionlike vegetables
- 42 "I will ____ the lovingkindnesses of the Lord" (Isaiah 63:7)
- 45 Reply (abbr.)
- 46 "____ up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- 48 Before
- 49 Understand, really
- 50 Popular Parker Bros. game
- 51 Saw ____
- 18 Hertz competitor
- 20 Loans money
- 21 Smudge
- 22 ____ rate
- 23 Climbing vegetation
- 24 Greek letter
- 25 "Rather rejoice, because your ____ are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20)
- 27 Reveals, as one's soul
- 30 "His meat was ____ and wild honey" (Matthew 3:4)
- 31 More satisfied
- 33 "The stone ____ into his forehead" (1 Samuel 17:49)
- 34 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with ____" (Colossians 4:6)

Down

- 1 ____-relief (sculpture technique)
- 2 Upon; over (prefix)
- 3 Old World legumes
- 4 Exhausted
- 5 Rabbit's relative
- 6 Naval rank (abbr.)
- 7 Exist
- 8 What Aaron's rod yielded (Numbers 17)
- 9 Takes away moisture
- 10 First ____
- 11 Affirmative
- 16 Blue or White

Last week's solution

A	N	G	E	S	A	D	A	M	A	R	M	
R	O	L	L	P	A	R	A	C	O	O		
T	R	O	D	E	M	I	R	R	E	O		
R	E	A	D	S	C	H	E	S	T			
T	H	I	R	D	S	H	E					
R	I	O	S	E	A	T	A	M	O	S		
E	L	U	L	D	Y	E	L	I	V	E		
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R	A	M	C	O	S	T	R	E	B	A		
T	R	Y	H	O	T	E	T	R	I	G		

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Chapman calls for removal of Article IX from GCR document

Continued from page 1

Chapman said that a premise of the declaration is that Southern Baptists must unite around North American church planting, pioneer missions around the globe and theological education.

That already has been done, Chapman asserted in his column.

"The work of the Program and Structure Study Committee was completed in 1997 under the Covenant for a New Century. At that time, the Southern Baptist Convention was restructured so that 95 percent of all Cooperative Program funds received by the convention were, and still are, directed to the very three priorities identified by the framers of this declaration—our two mission boards and our six seminaries.

"Let me repeat, the Cooperative Program allocation budget of the SBC already directs 95 percent of all Cooperative Program funds received by the convention to eight of only 12 entities in the SBC—the eight that are assigned the task of North American church planting, global missions and theological education.

"At the Southern Baptist Convention level, our structure already has been 'streamlined for more faithful stewardship of the funds entrusted' to it," Chapman continued. "Why distract our convention from the potential blessings a Great Commission resurgence might bring when our current SBC structure already addresses the concerns expressed in Article IX over which the convention has control?"

Chapman wrote that although he constantly urges state convention leaders to increase their CP allocations to SBC causes to 50 percent, he "cannot concur that the states are bloated or seeking to retain more and more CP money in the states.

"In fact, just the opposite is true. The slippage in Cooperative Program giving is at the local church level," he pointed out.

"Why distract our convention from the potential blessings a Great Commission resurgence might bring when our current SBC structure already addresses the concerns expressed in Article IX over which the convention has control?"

—Morris Chapman

"If our churches still gave the same percentage of CP funds from the churches through the states as they did a decade ago (8.24 percent then; 6.08 percent now), the International Mission Board would have an additional \$35 million dollars this year alone, not counting the money it would have received pro rata over the past decade. NAMB and our seminary funding formula would each have received approximately \$17 million dollars more this year.

"While our annual dollar amount of Cooperative Program has continued to grow, we have reached a historic low in the percentage of CP funds forwarded by the churches, in spite of a restructuring that took place just over a decade ago and was hailed as the dawn of a new day for evangelism and missions. Reallocating our funds will not solve any perceived problems. But, a genuine revival might."

Chapman's rationale

Chapman offered five reasons for not signing the declaration.

■ "Though I embrace a call for a Great Commission resurgence, I cannot sign the declaration as long as Article IX remains. Merely reorganizing a national body will not ignite the fires of revival. We need to come together to put all of our energies into fulfilling our Lord's Commission in



Matthew 28:19-20. We need desperately to demonstrate the love of God to a world without a Savior. America is becoming a spiritual wasteland and we must put first things first. Why would we believe that reorganizing the convention is the road to revival? Getting bigger is not better. Getting smaller is not better. Only getting better is better.

■ "I cannot sign the declaration as long as Article IX is included because it is likely to be divisive. For 30 days the declaration boldly called for a restructuring of the state and national conventions. Therefore, a study with such an obvious, predetermined bias toward restructuring, whether of the national convention or more broadly, will likely undermine rather than enhance state and national cooperation and unity. Whenever the churches call for change, it is best done cooperatively, and in accord with SBC governing principles.

■ "I cannot sign the declaration if its Article IX is interpreted as a need to realign convention priorities. The Article IX commentary identifies 'North American church planting, pioneer missions around the

globe and theological education' as 'three priorities around which Southern Baptists will unite' But, as noted, Southern Baptists already unite around these.

■ "I cannot sign the declaration if it includes Article IX because we have not been told what is wrong with the convention structures and procedures, and even if we had, the convention does not have the authority to 'restructure' the 'denomination' at every level as initially urged by the SBC president. As I noted earlier, restructuring the convention did not result in revival in 1997.

■ "I cannot sign the declaration because an undercurrent accompanying the request for structural reorganization is the dissatisfaction that local church missions offerings are not counted as Cooperative Program gifts. I fear this particular dissatisfaction would find its way as a bias into the selection of any study committee or task force. Capitulating to this viewpoint would improve nothing, for if all missions offerings were added to the Cooperative Program totals, there would not be more money for missions, just higher totals reported under the Cooperative Program."

Chapman concluded that if SBC messengers "adopt the Great Commission Resurgence declaration including Article IX and empower the president to appoint a task force or study committee, I will work diligently with that committee to supply them all the information they may need from the Executive Committee.

"But for now, I am extremely burdened that what may be at stake is our cooperative methodology, our representative trustee system, and our Cooperative Program.

"For the reasons I have given, I believe the Great Commission Resurgence declaration would be much stronger and extremely more focused if its Article IX and the prospect of restructuring was eliminated."

Teaching again

God has taken the Wilsons' plans for retirement on a detour through Oneida

By Dean & Nona Wilson, OBI faculty members

No, we're retired—or at least we thought so. We retired intending to travel, play golf and do volunteer work. We came to Oneida on a church mission trip. Our knowledge of OBI was very limited. As a principal, Dean had referred a couple of students to the school. That experience and the Father's Day Offering was our only knowledge of Oneida.

During our volunteer week, the mountain roads, hard work and volunteering proved to be a great experience. We felt drawn to stay for a longer period, but had agreed to coach golf that fall. We talked with Dr. Underwood and agreed to return after golf season.

In October 2007, we loaded up the motor home and headed for Oneida. Dean worked with new construction and Nona at the gift shop. Each time we set a date to return home, something kept us at OBI. The holidays all passed and we were still here. We told Dr. Underwood we felt God wanted us to become permanent volunteers. He said, "You know what I'm going to ask you to do. I want you to teach." Our response was, "No, we retired from that pressure." Before leaving his office, we had agreed to teach the last quarter of 2008.

Dean had been a principal for 25 years and we were a little nervous about going back into the classroom. Dr. Underwood assured us that class sizes would be smaller than those of public schools and discipline handled much differently. Dean would teach U.S. history; Nona would teach elementary faculty and staff children.

Combined we had roughly 60 years of pub-

lic education experience. Class sizes had ranged from 43 first graders to an average of around 30 students per class in Virginia and Kentucky.

March 17, 2008, found us "back in the classroom"—OBI's classrooms. Our classes ranged in size from seven to 12 students. What a difference that made. We could spend extra time helping students who needed a push. One of our desires had been to get to know students; now we had that opportunity.

We started the 2008-09 school year with a renewed enthusiasm for teaching. The K-2 classroom had nine students and three teachers. Dean's U.S. history classes had become the highlight of his teaching career. We've had some new challenges: understanding different languages, finding materials, computerized grade-recording system, and running full speed again.

The class of 2009 was our first graduating class. Many of these students had been in our home; some had spent evenings cooking their favorite dishes. The joy of seeing them graduate, the feeling of sadness as they move on still brings tears. However, we wish them the greatest success. We fondly remember these young people with whom God gave us the opportunity to share our lives, time and His love.

What a blessing our experiences have been here at Oneida. It's impossible to explain the Oneida family to outsiders. Come, visit and volunteer, but be prepared to listen to God's plans. You just might be the next person led to Oneida.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

In his own words

Graduating senior Petree offers one final goodbye

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

"It has been a privilege for me to serve as senior-class president this year. It has been a long race for me to get to this point. Although this is my fourth year here at Clear Creek, it is actually my ninth year in college if you count all the years since I first started in other schools. I am so thankful for the wonderful faculty, staff and classmates that the Lord has brought into my life during my time here at Clear Creek.

"My journey through Clear Creek has not been without some struggles. There have been some issues I have had to deal with that almost drove me to quit. I can remember sitting with some of my professors and talking to them about how discouraged I was and ready to quit everything. I remember talking to my dad about some of the issues I was dealing with. They all told me that I needed to finish the race God had called me to run. I am thankful

for the people who serve at Clear Creek. They could be a lot of other places, but they followed God's call here to serve. I thank you for your service.

"I am so thankful for the encouragement I have received from my Clear Creek family during

some tough times for me.

During my time here, I experienced the sickness and then death of my father, and at the same time, the death of my grandmother and grandfather. That period of time between their passing and the time the next semester started, I really didn't know what I was going to do with myself. I came back to campus and the first couple of weeks people mentioned to me that they couldn't believe I was even here. But I had to come back; I couldn't be anywhere else. This place provided great therapy for me during that tough time in my life.

"I have enjoyed my time here. I now want to fulfill the Great Commission for my life by helping others through the hard times in their lives."

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu

U.S. panel commends Obama for pushing religious freedom in speech

By Lindsay Perna

Washington—President Obama urged Islamic nations to recognize the importance of religious freedom and democratic values in his June 4 speech in Cairo, Egypt, but he failed to take a hard line on repressive laws, according to the chairwoman of a United States religious freedom watchdog panel.

Felice Gaer, the chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, nonetheless commended Obama for voicing strong support for protecting religious minorities.

"All I'm saying is he could have sprinkled (his speech) with a few more examples of problems and what the U.S. is doing to solve them," Gaer said of Obama's speech. "This is not America versus the Muslim world; these are universal values that we are trying to uphold at home and abroad."

The independent, bipartisan panel, which advises the administration and Congress on religious freedom issues, had urged the president to stress the U.S. commitment to curb religious abus-

es—an idea that panelists said is not always understood in the Muslim world.

Religious freedom was one of seven major points Obama addressed in his bid to improve U.S. relations with the Muslim world.

"People in every country should be free to choose and live their faith based upon the persuasion of the mind, heart and soul," Obama stated. "This tolerance is essential for religion to thrive, but it is being challenged in many different ways. Among some Muslims, there is a disturbing tendency to measure one's own faith by the rejection of another's."

For Gaer, the speech indicated that "religious freedom is clearly on the map," and took it as a signal that the White House had opened the door to more vigorous activity from the commission.

Other religious leaders and human rights activists, however, were more disappointed that Obama did not speak out stronger against the violence in Sudan's Darfur region at the hands of a hard-line Islamic government. (RNS)

SBC's Land and other pro-life advocates condemn abortion doctor's murder

By Tom Strode

Washington—Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land and other pro-life leaders quickly condemned the May 31 killing of well-known abortion doctor George Tiller.

Tiller was shot to death inside the Reformation Lutheran Church, the Wichita, Kan., congregation of which he was a member.

Scott Roeder of Merriam, Kan., was arrested the same day on suspicion of committing the crime. Roeder is a member of the Freeman, an anti-government group, and strongly opposed abortion, according to The Wichita Eagle newspaper. He believed the killing of abortion doctors was justified, other abortion opponents told The Eagle.

The entire pro-life community "must swiftly and soundly repudiate" the one who killed Tiller if he "was acting in the name of the pro-life movement," said Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in a written statement.

Tiller's slaying "is a human tragedy," Land said. "Murdering someone is a grotesque and bizarre way to emphasize one's commitment to the sanctity of human life. People who truly believe in the sanctity of human life believe in the sanctity of the lives of abortion providers, as well as the unborn babies who are aborted."

The country's major pro-life organizations denounced Tiller's murder. Among those making statements decrying the killing were representatives of the National Right to Life Committee, Americans United for Life, Family Research

Council, Focus on the Family, Concerned Women for America, Care Net, Susan B. Anthony List, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, American Life League, Operation Rescue, Christian Defense Coalition, 40 Days for Life, Stand True, Priests for Life and Pro-Life Action League.

Tiller, 67, gained notoriety among pro-lifers as the leading late-term abortion provider in the country through his Wichita clinic, Women's Health Care Services. Women traveled to his clinic from throughout the United States and foreign countries in order to have abortions even into the third trimester.

Pro-life activists regularly kept a peaceful vigil outside Tiller's clinic and sought to persuade pregnant women not to go through with their abortions.

Tiller, who was shot in both arms in 1993, became the fourth abortion doctor killed in the United States in murders related to the profession, according to The Eagle. David Gunn was shot to death in 1993 and John Britton in 1994, both outside abortion clinics in Pensacola, Fla. In 1998, Barnett Slepian died in his New York home at the hands of a sniper.

Since Tiller's death, pro-life leaders have expressed concern that the doctor's murder could set back the effort to protect unborn children.

Land called for prayer for Tiller's wife and other family members, as well "all those who were forced to witness the terrible act of violence in a house of worship. The perpetrator of this violence should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." (BP)

Smoky Mountain Christian Village: Ideal setting for church youth groups, senior adults retreats

Smoky Mountain Christian Village
Paid advertising

Whether it's a senior-adult group looking for lodging for a weekday retreat, a weekend marriage encounter or accommodations for a week long summer camp for 100 rambunctious youth, Smoky Mountain Christian Village (SMCV) is the ideal solution for any church.

Nestled in a secluded mountain ridge in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, SMCV chalets and lodges are set in the serenity of old growth trees and nature, yet are only a few minutes away from the shopping and excitement of Pigeon Forge and Dollywood/Splash Country. The world famous Smoky Mountain National Park is only 3 miles away.

This beautiful 44-acre property features accommodations that provide a perfect setting for Christian retreats and meetings. Designed with flexibility in mind, it is ideal for almost any type of event — large or small. From a large family reunion or single-family weekend getaway to association retreats or meetings with 200 guests, the facility can handle it all. The campus boasts modern meeting spaces that are flexible for large or small groups. Amenities include a large, year-round, indoor-outdoor heated swimming pool; hot tubs; gas grills; a children's playground;



gazebos; walking trails; pavilion with picnic tables; and a recreational area for pastimes such as horseshoes and sand volleyball.

All accommodations feature fireplaces; many have foosball or pingpong tables.

The chalets and lodges are equipped with fully furnished kitchens where groups can prepare meals together, or SMCV can arrange food service if

you prefer. For guests with physical disabilities, there are limited handicap-accessible rooms and accommodations.

The beautiful outdoor setting provides a nurturing environment where nature can be appreciated and God's presence can be felt. Whether enjoying the colorful fall foliage, watching otters busy at work in the nearby pond or singing songs under the stars while warming up to the glow of the outdoor fire pits, you



will be rejuvenated body and soul at this Christian retreat site. The mission of SMCV is to serve the needs of Christian churches, ministries and families through grace-based hospitality and to enable them to accomplish their

goals by providing a family-friendly atmosphere conducive to ministry.

According to Rev. Ken Pritt, executive director, "Our

desire is to provide Christian groups and ministries with a comfortable Christian environment in which to retreat, train or simply get away from the secular world."



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Gay marriage opponents in New Hampshire hope to reverse course in 2010

By Michael Foust

Concord, N.H.—Now that the state of New Hampshire has legalized same-sex marriage, opponents of the new law are looking ahead to an opportunity to hit the "undo" button and reverse course on the issue in two years.

Flipping the governor's office and the legislature from Democrat to Republican in 2010 is a bold goal that offers no guarantees, but it is the only option social conservatives in New Hampshire say they have now that the state has become the sixth nationwide to legalize gay marriage.

New Hampshire Democratic Gov. John Lynch signed the bill into law last week.

State law dictates course of action

Unlike other states, New Hampshire law does not allow citizens to gather signatures to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot banning gay marriage. Any recourse must start with the legislature, which traditionally had been controlled by Republicans but which has been held by Democrats for two terms.

"I think we have a good chance of that happening, because I think people are so disgusted with what this legislature has done this year," said Kevin Smith, executive director of the conservative New Hampshire-based Cornerstone Policy Research. "The goal after that would be to repeal the law."

Smith is not proposing the law be repealed by a constitutional amendment but by a state statute in the same manner the law came into being. Unlike Massachusetts, Connecticut and Iowa—states that had court rulings legalizing gay marriage—New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine redefined marriage simply by passing a law, which means it presumably can be reversed by passing another law. Of those three latter states, New Hampshire is the most conservative and seems the most likely to change course at the legislative level.

It may not be as much of a long shot as it seems. A Dartmouth College poll from May showed 45 percent of registered voters opposing gay marriage and 41 percent supporting it. Cornerstone Policy Research also released a poll of 50,000 households showing that 64 percent agreed that "marriage between one man and one woman should be the only legal definition of marriage" in the state. (BP)

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Missionary John Ferguson of Louisville. John is the new director of the Jefferson Street Baptist Center, a homeless mission in Louisville's inner-city. The facility serves approximately 55,000 homeless visitors through its day shelter, transitional shelter and a permanent supportive housing program. Pray for the center's staff to put Christ first daily and not miss opportunities to share the gospel and minister to needs. Pray also that the staff will see people and situations through the eyes of Christ and that God will raise up more believers to reach and disciple the homeless in Louisville.

Barkley State Resort Park ministry of Little River Baptist Association in Cadiz. Director of Missions Mike Rust shares that the ministry reaches vacationers at the park during the summer, visiting campers on Saturdays and leading Sunday morning worship services. Pray that park guests would take time out to worship and experience spiritual renewal while on vacation. Pray that God will provide opportunities for volunteers to share the gospel with park guests who visit from all over North America and other parts of the world.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University senior second baseman **Nathan Quisenberry** recently was given the NAIA's Champion of Character award for character and sportsmanship on and off the baseball field.

■ **CHAPLIN**—Chaplin Church recently called **Matt Jones** as pastor.

■ **DIXON**—**Ricky Lutz** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

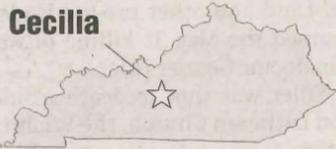
■ **EDDYVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church recently ordained **Josie Slayton** as a deacon. **Robin Redd** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—**Samuel Marney** recently resigned as minister of music at Immanuel Temple.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Louis Sherman**, a deacon at Walnut Street Church, recently was honored by Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan., with the school's first Lifetime Achievement Award. A longtime musician and educator, Sherman has served in a number of music education roles around the country, including director of bands for Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, and professor of music at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. His wife, Mozelle, is senior professor of church music and founding director emeritus of the Church Music Drama Theatre at Southern Seminary. Parkland Church recently hon-

Spotlight on ...

Cecilia



Franklin Crossroads Church will host a golf scramble June 19, noon, at Lincoln Trail Country Club in Vine Grove. All proceeds will help fund an October mission trip to Africa and send students to summer camp. For more information, call (270) 862-4825.

ored Pastor **Tom Curry** on his 25 years of service to the church.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—**Don Piper** recently resigned as pastor of Pond River Church.

■ **PRINCETON**—Calvary Church ordained **Darrick Holloman** to the gospel ministry June 7.

Northside Church recently called **Jeff McCarty** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Fisherville Church.

■ **PROVIDENCE**—First Church recently called **Ron Melton** as pastor.

■ **SEBREE**—First Church recently called **Trent Sligh** as youth minister. **Bob Hardison** is pastor.

Univ. of the Cumberland sports programs offer summer camps

Williamsburg—The University of the Cumberland's athletic department is offering a number of sports camps throughout the summer open to children and teenagers. Athletes are welcome to attend as many of the camps being offered through August.

■ **Men's basketball:** youth day camp, open to boys ages 8-14, June 15-19; big man camp, open to boys ages 13-18, June 28-July 2.

■ **Women's basketball:** youth individual skills camp, open to girls ages 6-14, July 6-10.

■ **Men's soccer:** team camp, open to both teams and individual players, July 10-15.

■ **Women's soccer:** youth camp, open to girls ages 4-13 (athletes will

be grouped by age), June 29-July 2; team camp, open to high school and club soccer teams, July 12-18.

■ **Men's wrestling:** Berry Davis Wrestling Camp, open to boys ages 10-18, July 12-July 16.

■ **Swimming:** lessons available for children of all ages, June 8-July 24.

■ **Football:** youth day camp, open to children in first through eighth grades, June 3-5; team camp, open to varsity high school football teams, August 2-6.

For more information regarding schedules, times, cost and locations, or to receive an application, please call the University of the Cumberland's athletic department at (606) 539-4389.

Campbellsville University hires Wade as nursing school dean

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University has named Bob Wade as the new dean of its School of Nursing.

Wade, who previously served as chair of nursing at St. Catharine College in Central Kentucky, will begin his new tenure July 1.

The appointment recently was announced by Campbellsville President Michael Carter.

"We are delighted to have the caliber of leader as Mr. Wade join our School of Nursing," Carter said. "Our nursing program has grown to an outstanding program, in its second year of existence, and we know Mr. Wade

will move us forward to the next level."

Wade, who has served at St. Catharine since 2006, is a registered nurse through the Kentucky Board of Nursing and is certified through the American Heart Association as a CPR for health care provider. He also is a member of the National League for Nursing.

Wade currently is working on a Ph.D. in leadership in higher education from Capella University. He holds a master's degree in nursing administration from Bellarmine University and a bachelor's in nursing from Spalding University.



Bob Wade



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 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 Crossover Louisville, various locations.
- 19-20 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 21-22 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 21-22 Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville.
- 22-26 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 23-24 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville.
- 24 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Sesquicentennial Celebration, Louisville.
- 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 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon.
- 27-7/4 Kentucky Changers, Frankfort/Lawrenceburg.
- 29-7/1 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

July

- 1-3 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 4-11 Kentucky Changers, Grant County.
- 17-18 World Missions Unlimited, Central Baptist Church, Winchester.
- 23-24 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest, Inez.

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

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

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor in Hyden, Ky. (Leslie County). Church established in 1954, congregation of 60, county population—12,000. Education and experience preferred. For more information, contact Rhonda.Brashear@kctcs.edu.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Beaverdam Association (located in upstate South Carolina). The search committee is seeking a "missional strategist" to lead our 69 churches into cooperative evangelism and mission service to our community and ultimately around the world. The former DOM retired May 31 after 15 years of gracious service. Candidates may submit their resumes via e-mail to bba-domsearch@bellsouth.net; or to Search Committee, Beaverdam Baptist Association, 1659 Sandifer Blvd., Seneca, SC 29678. Resumes will be received through July 17. Prayerfully consider being a part of an association ready to become an Acts 1:8 association, making a difference in our Jerusalem, our Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

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

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 resume to Red House Baptist Church, 2301 Red House Road, Richmond, KY 40475, Attn: Alex Poulter; or e-mail dawn@redhousebc.com.

SEEKING: Part-time children's pastor for Kings Baptist Church. This individual must be called of God to lead families to become all that God intends for them to be. As the ministry grows, this position has the potential of becoming full time. This ministry is now staffed by gifted preschool and children's laity who desire to work with and be led by a leader who wants to evangelize and equip children with the principles of God's Word. If, after prayerful consideration, you feel led to inquire about the position in a growing church, please e-mail our personnel committee chairman, Ken Foster, at kfoster5@windstream.net. A job description will be provided upon inquiry.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and worship to lead a blended, comprehensive worship ministry for all ages at First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. FBC is a family- and community-oriented church that offers great potential for personal and congregational growth. Lawrenceburg is a small, historic city located in southern-middle Tennessee, and conducive to raising families. Submit resume (and video, if available) to wmclain50@yahoo.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 resume 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 resumes to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1553, Monticello, KY 42633; or e-mail resumes to sbcpastorsearch@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Instrumentalist for east end congregation—contemporary and traditional music. Send resume 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.

KBC 2009 All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra

Performances set for Campbellsville, Walton, Erlanger, Richmond & Louisville

Louisville—More than 60 students representing 43 churches across the commonwealth have been selected to perform with the 2009 Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra.

Comprised of students in grades nine through 12, the choir and orchestra will perform at six locations this month:

■ June 17, Campbellsville Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.

■ June 18, First Baptist Church of Walton, 7 p.m.

■ June 19, Baptist Village in Erlanger, 10 a.m.

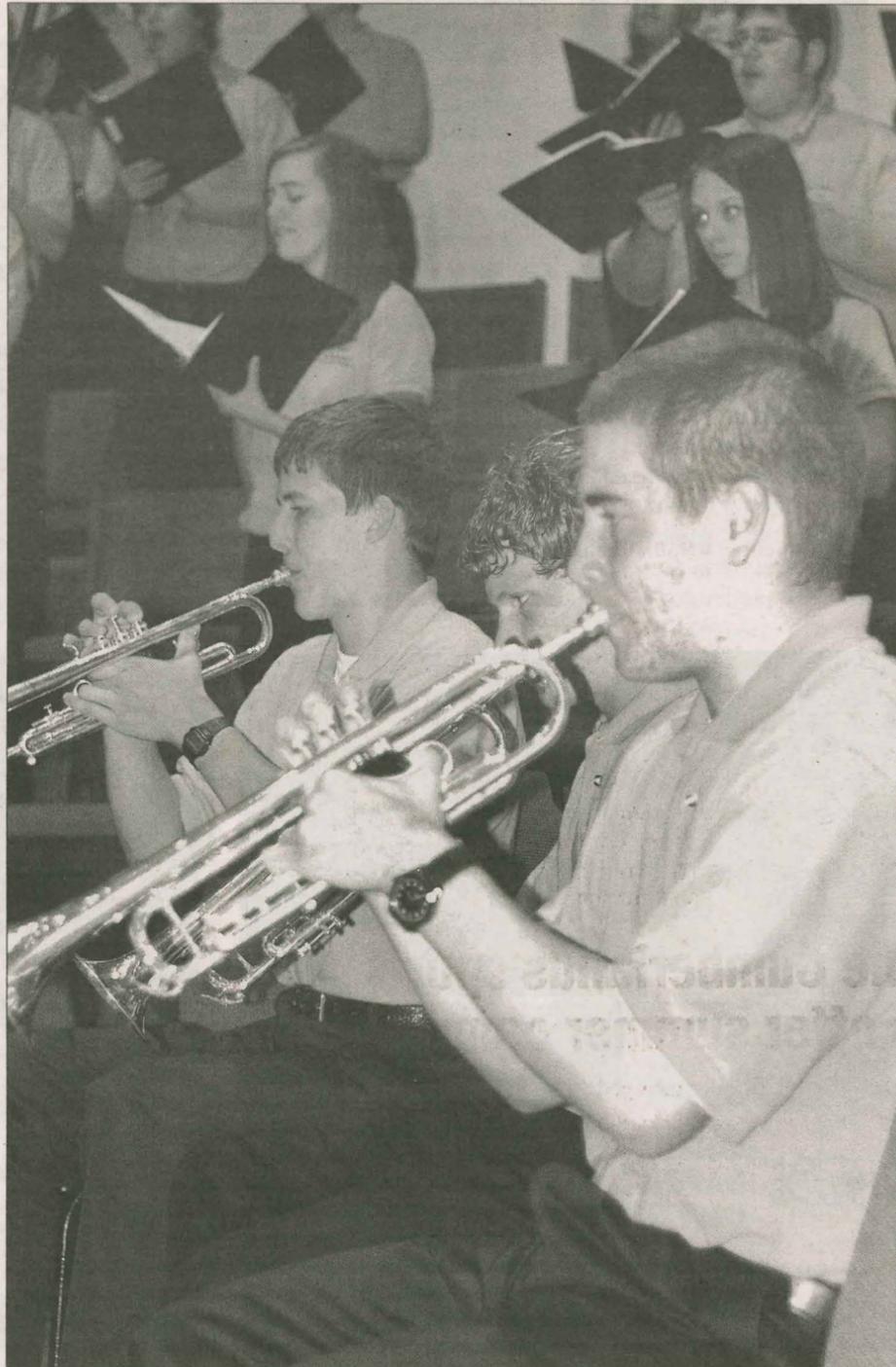
■ June 20, First Baptist Church of Richmond, 7 p.m.

■ June 21, Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, 3 p.m.

Mickey and Sue Ellen Ballard of Richmond will direct the choir, and Nevalyn Moore of Campbellsville will serve as the accompanist. Scott Bersaglia of Campbellsville will conduct the orchestra, and Ruthanne Fulton of Louisville will serve as the accompanist.

All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra:

- Allan Amburn**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Thomas Amburn**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Sarah Baldauff**, Forest Park Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Gabrielle Barker**, Victory Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Sean Bolin**, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Abby Boone**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Julia Brewer**, Robinson Creek Baptist Church in London.
- Phillip Brewer**, Robinson Creek Baptist Church in London.
- Ashley Buchanan**, Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.
- Harrison Cook**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.
- Brandi Cunningham**, Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.
- Christopher Deaton**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Brady Diehl**, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Matthew Fackler**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
- Michael Fredrick**, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- Lynzie Gray**, Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg.



- Randa Hankins**, Calvary Baptist Church in Princeton.
- Emily Hardin-Lynch**, Hope Community Church in Frankfort.
- Erin Harper**, Calvary Baptist Church in Princeton.
- Emily Harris**, Hillsdale Baptist Church in Louisville.

- Sarah Harrison**, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Jenna Haynes**, Raymond Baptist Church in Webster.
- Jordon Herget**, Fisherville Baptist Church.
- Jordan Hines**, Hartford Baptist Church.
- Mary Bess Hodgen**, Springfield Baptist Church.

- Leslie Howard**, Milltown Baptist Chapel in Tompkinsville.
- Christina Johnson**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.
- Alyssa Jones**, Eminence Baptist Church.
- Leah Kahne**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Natalie King**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Christian Kinman**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Kirtley Kinman**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Stacie Lawless**, Central Baptist Church in Corbin.
- Jenay Lowe**, Lynn Camp Baptist Church in Corbin.
- Julia Martin**, Cecilia Baptist Church.
- Shelby Mattingly**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Ryan McBride**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- James McCullough**, Mussel Shoals Baptist Church in Owenton.
- Nicholas Miller**, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.
- John Mitchell**, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.
- Colton New**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.
- McKenzie Noffsinger**, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.
- Rebecca Oliver**, Scottsville Baptist Church.
- Justin Pigram**, DeHaven Baptist Church in LaGrange.
- Georgia Sams**, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Joel Sams**, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Kate Sanders**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Joshua Saylor**, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Erin Shields**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
- Morgan Snyder**, Cadiz Baptist Church.
- Bailey Sommer**, Westport Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Caleb Stacey**, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Somerset.
- Jeff Stelly**, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Emily Stivers**, First Baptist Church of Fairdale.
- Mallory Taylor**, Canton Baptist Church in Cadiz.
- Melina Taylor**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
- Fern Thomas**, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- Hannah Thompson**, Meta Baptist Chapel in Pikeville.
- Emma Kate Turpin**, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Sophie Van Hooser**, First Baptist Church of Princeton.
- Jessica Waters**, Fisherville Baptist Church.

Grammy winner Houghton believes 'Power of One' saved his life

By Leann Callaway

Nashville—Israel Houghton's mother never expected her son would grow up to lead thousands of people in worship or become a Grammy, Stellar and Dove Award-winning recording artist.

In 1971, when his 17-year-old unwed mother found out she was pregnant, her shocked parents advised her to terminate the pregnancy. But a simple act of kindness from a stranger paved a way for Houghton and offered his mother hope and a promise of something greater.

"I could have easily been an abortion statistic," Houghton said. "My mother is white and my biological father is black. She came home and told her parents, 'I'm pregnant, and the father is black.' They had a really difficult time with it.

"The suggestion was: 'Have an abortion. Move on with your life.' She had everything ahead of her, and in a lot of ways had every reason to go, 'Let's just chalk this up

as a mistake and move on.' Instead, she said, 'No, no, I'm going to keep this baby.' She ended up kind of getting shunned for a good chunk of her life after that and didn't have a lot of contact with her parents."

When she was eight months pregnant, Houghton's mother and his biological father split up. She had moved to California and was in danger of losing the baby because she abused drugs.

But a woman who was driving by and saw the obviously pregnant young woman stopped to talk with her. The woman told her: "Jesus loves you. You're not forgotten. You did the right thing. It's going to be all right," Houghton said.

"Those words of life were so powerful to her and so revolutionary to her that she got on her knees on a street corner in San



Israel Houghton

Diego and gave her life to the Lord. I'm here today because of that woman's faithfulness to God to share the gospel with my mother. The lady gave my mother a Bible, and as my mother started reading the Bible, she chose my name as a sign of a new beginning."

Today, as Houghton travels around the country leading worship and performing concerts, he shares his testimony in hopes of leading people to Christ.

"I really enjoy that I'm in the good news business," he said. "If you turn on CNN right now or any news show, you're going to hear what's wrong and hear bad news. I love that I get to give people hope, give them a chance to exhale and just find encouragement.

"At the heart of it, I want people to con-

nect with God. I think out of that connection comes really great things because we really believe that worship, action, justice and social responsibility go hand in hand."

Houghton has written songs for the church worldwide and is considered an architect of cross-cultural worship, as well as being an award-winning producer and arranger. Earlier this year he released "The Power of One."

"On the most recent records, our message has shifted to social and global concerns, focusing on identity and the purpose of God in everyone's life. I strongly believe that those of us who consider ourselves worshippers need to have a heart for social justice. 'Power of One' is the song we wrote specifically around that thought for this album. I really enjoy what I do. It's about getting a bigger picture of what's going on in the world instead of focusing on my life, wants and needs. It's about connecting people around the world." (ABP)

Oneida Baptist Institute

Look at our ministry.

OBI is a Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

Faculty teach within the framework of a Christian world view. Coaches and work supervisors strive to be positive role models. Houseparents and other staff live out the love of God daily, while respecting each young person's background and beliefs.

Our Christ-centered approach gives teenagers an opportunity to encounter Jesus in everyday life.



OBI mascot:
Oneida Mountaineer



Open the door to a new beginning.

The reasons students come to Oneida are as varied as the young people themselves.

Many want an education in a Christian environment. Some like the independence that a boarding school can provide in preparation for college. Often students come to us with academic, family or social difficulties.

OBI is a place where young people can make a fresh start.



Come and see what God is doing in this place.

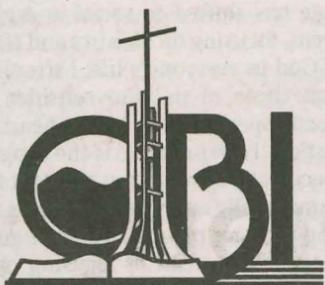
Visit the campus and bring others with you to see our school firsthand. Tell prospective students and their families about OBI.



Work with us.

Come as a volunteer. Bring others from your church on a mission trip to Oneida Baptist Institute. We could not do what we do without the time and talents of countless volunteers each year.

And of course, pray for God's work among our students, faculty and staff.



Education for Time and Eternity

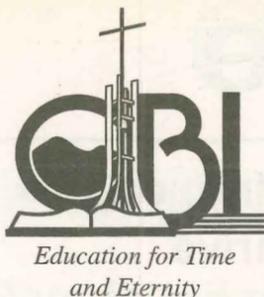
Would you like to learn more about Oneida? Contact us!

Oneida Baptist Institute

PO Box 67 Oneida, Kentucky 40972

Phone: (606) 847-4111 Fax: (606) 847-4496

Web site: www.oneidaschool.org



2009 Father's Day Offering for...

Oneida Baptist Institute

Meet some of the Class of 2009

What is OBI?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

OBI was founded in 1899 by James Anderson Burns and opened its doors on January 1, 1900.

We have been ministering to young people for 109 years.

At Oneida we teach respect for authority, honesty, high moral standards and responsible behavior.

Oneida is a mission field

OBI began as a school for children of the eastern Kentucky mountains. We still welcome day students, many of whom carry on a family tradition by coming to Oneida.

Approximately 50% of our students are from Kentucky. Some 30% are from other states and another 20% are internationals.

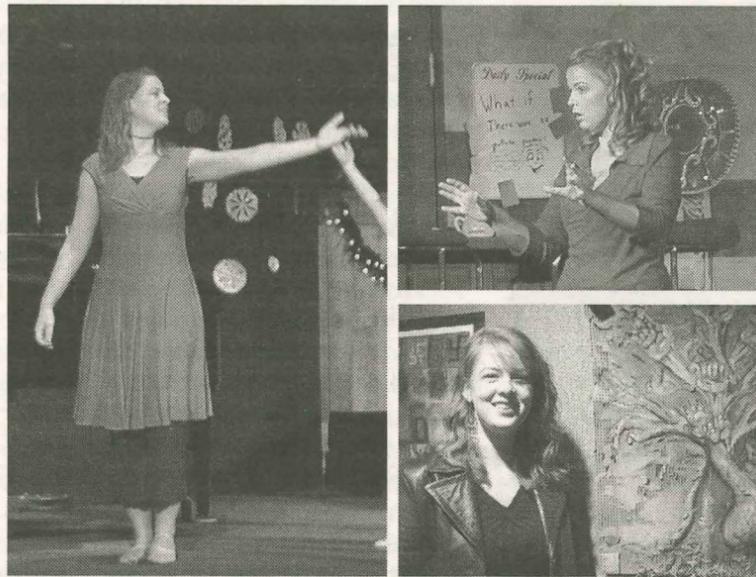
Oneida is a place where local, state, North American and international missions are going on -- all at the same time.

Would you like to contact us? We would love to hear from you.

P.O. Box 67
Oneida, KY 40972
Call: (606) 847-4111
Fax: (606) 847-4496
Web site:
www.oneidaschool.org

Campus tours are available, and we would love for you to come. Please call ext. 248 to schedule a visit.

Hannah used her gifts to share God's love



Hannah clockwise: dance, drama, art

OBI's 2009 valedictorian, Hannah, is the daughter of OBI staff members Jerry and Kathy Worcester. Hannah was halfway through her sophomore year when her family moved to Oneida from Pennsylvania. She recalled, "We were going to take a trip down here just to rule it out... We got here and everyone at OBI was just so kind and friendly. It felt like home even though it wasn't yet."

Her family's decision to move to Oneida was cemented when they put their house up for sale and had two buyers within three days. "We said, 'O.K., that's a sign. Let's go,' and we packed up and moved," Hannah recalled.

As Hannah completed

high school at OBI, she said her advanced placement classes were "my absolute favorite classes." She enjoyed the academic challenge and getting close to her classmates. "I was grouped with the same eight to ten kids all day in our AP classes. They were like family," she said.

Hannah plans to study the arts and psychology in college. "I just want to help people. Maybe I can do art therapy or dance therapy," she said.

Hannah shared her talent in many of the fine arts while at OBI. She placed third at the state art show her junior year. This year, she received honors at the regional art show held at EKU.

Hannah was a member of the choir and had leading roles in four school plays. Her numerous

accolades include the Director's Award in drama, the Most Outstanding junior girl award and the Superior Artist award.

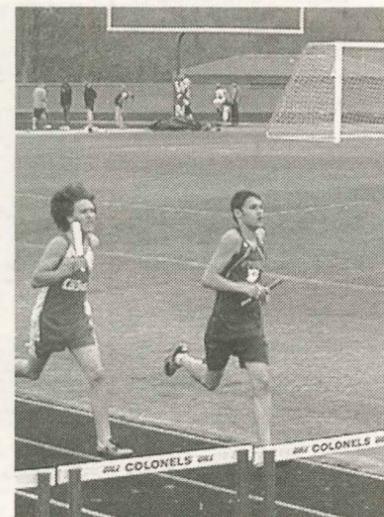
Trained in ballet, Hannah shared her love for the Lord with OBI students through dramatic interpretation of Christian songs in chapel services. She taught a dance class for OBI's younger faculty/staff children. "That was a dream come true. It was a chance to teach kids self-respect, godly values and how to dance," she said.

Hannah appreciates the opportunities she has had at OBI to develop ministry skills. She was the president of the Baptist Campus Ministry and a leader in the girls' devotion group. She was the main speaker at a girls' worship service this spring. Hannah also spent many hours in the girls' dorm just being a friend.

Houseparent and sponsor of the girls' devotion group, Jamie Jory, observed Hannah's faith in action: "Hannah was a huge inspiration in the girls' dorm. A lot of girls looked up to her. She shared the love and the passion she has for Christ...with her sunny smile and caring heart."

"[Being a leader] made me want to be a good example in every way," Hannah said. "I also had to learn how to balance my time...to make sure I was O.K. spiritually. The dorm students taught me that there is a need to pursue people. You have to show people you're there for them. Relationships take a lot of effort." ■

Andrew needed the multi-faceted ministry offered at OBI



Andrew (right) excelled in our sports program

Andrew is a senior from central Kentucky and has attended OBI since the eighth grade. One reason his family considered a boarding school for Andrew was to reduce the stress at home. "My dad and I argued constantly. It was chaos...Over the years, we've gotten closer," he said.

The other reason was to get help with his grades. "Academics are definitely not my strong point. Before I came here, my grades were pretty bad. I got overwhelmed with school work at home. It was a lot easier here...I made B's and C's. There was not as much homework and there was time in class for the teacher to explain it to you," he said.

Andrew made friends easily at OBI. He said, "You make lifelong relationships with people. You get really close [when] you live with them."

Since he had played soccer at home, he was happy to continue his experience at Oneida. He also joined swimming, cross country and track, earning awards like Most Valuable Swimmer and Most Improved in track. OBI track coach Lance Nutter said, "Andrew was a very disciplined athlete. He took his sport seriously and was a joy to coach."

Andrew was a Christian before he came to OBI. "I had gotten away from my faith. I thought about it more here because I was around it all the time. The houseparents would talk to me about [spiritual issues]," he said.

Andrew learned basics in graphic design in OBI's commercial art class. "I loved everything about that class from the computer work to the hands-on sign-making," he said. Andrew plans to apply his design training to his career in auto body repair. ■

Eui Sung improved English, math

From South Korea, Eui Sung (*Yoo-ee Sung*) attended a school in Arkansas for one year before enrolling at OBI as a sophomore. He wanted to complete his education in the United States. "It's better. I can learn English. It's a privilege that will make it easier to get a job in Korea," he said.

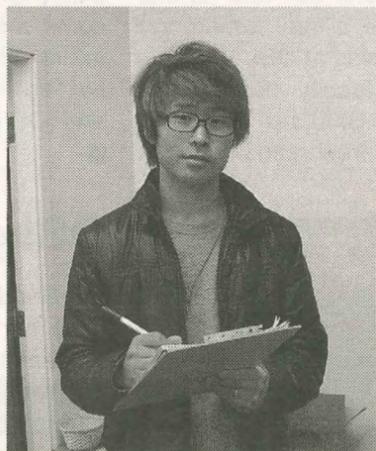
Eui Sung is pleased with the improvement he made in math at OBI. He said, "Before I came here, I knew only pre-algebra. This year, I finished in Calculus II. Mr. Grant made me like math. He challenged me to study more...This school is small, but the teachers are good," he said.

Eui Sung developed leadership skills in OBI's work program. He became a cleaning crew supervisor and a dormi-

tory hall monitor. This year, he was made the "dorm chief," the student supervisor of all the dormitory cleaning crews. He said, "I really appreciate them letting me do that job. It was pretty tough. I had to teach new guys how to do jobs...I learned to be strong at first and later I could talk gently."

Houseparent Gary Garrett said, "He was one of the finest young men that we have had in the dorm. He accepted responsibility. Any time we needed any help, we could call on him, and he did not hesitate to do what we asked him to do."

Eui Sung appreciates the support he received at Oneida. "People at OBI encouraged me. They told me, 'Good job!' Mr. White taught me a lot about how to be a Christian. We shared experiences of God. He's more



Eui Sung became a leader in the work program

than a houseparent to me."

Eui Sung is considering a career as an international accountant, combining his interests in languages, math and travel. He graduated third in the 2009 class. ■

Oneida Baptist Institute

Annual offering

This is the fifteenth year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

Following Christ

"And you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth."
-- Acts 1:8b

Unlike many Christian schools, Oneida welcomes teens who do not know Jesus. At OBI they hear the gospel message daily. If we can reach them for Christ, they will take the good news around the world.

OBI's funding

Approximately 9% of Oneida's funding comes from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

Another 35% comes from student fees.

The remaining 56% comes from income from our modest investments, churches and individuals who choose to invest in the lives of young people.

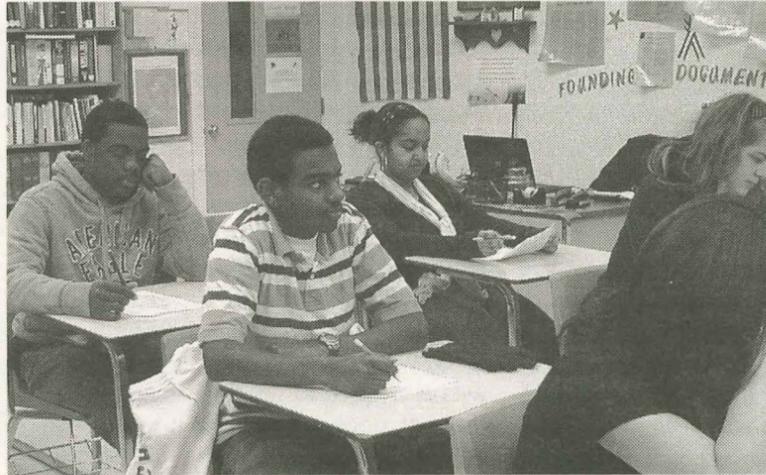
These gifts are the financial backbone of our ministry.

Why do teens choose OBI?

- Some have had academic setbacks.
- Others have been hurt by family situations.
- Many need a change of peers.
- Still others seek a distinctly Christian education.
- Parents and grandparents are looking for a loving, structured environment for their teens.

Meet some of the Class of 2009

"This school had what I needed for my future"



OBI's smaller classes contributed to Met's academic success

"Met," short for Metshafe, has attended OBI since the seventh grade. Originally from Ethiopia, he has lived in Maryland since age seven. He said he was a "very misbehaving and very rebellious" younger boy. His mother wanted him to attend OBI to improve his grades and bad behavior. He added, "The biggest part she liked about OBI was the work program. She wanted me to learn to work."

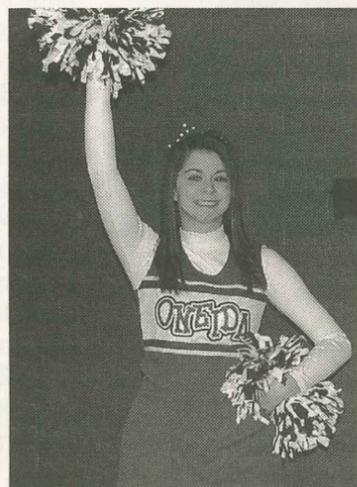
A key to Met's success at Oneida occurred his first year when he accepted Christ. OBI high school teacher Clark Bunch observed the transformation in Met's life since middle school. "Met had a lot of problems when he was new in terms of his behavior and his grades. When he first came to OBI, he would get into trouble every day...he decided to grow up one day and he did. Met made a total turnaround while he was at OBI."

The faculty named Met the Most Studious and Most Improved freshman boy.

Met got extra help in math at the Tutoring Lab in the eighth grade. "My math was very, very bad. I didn't know how to divide or multiply. I didn't know anything about fractions or decimals. The Tutoring Lab helped me to get caught up. This year, I was in calculus," he said.

With plans to study aeronautical science in college, Met would like to become an airline pilot like some of his family members. "There will be a lot of math in my job. This school had what I needed for my future... There were small classes, so the teachers could give individual help. I'm very confident with my education," he said. He graduated tenth in the class.

For four years, Met played soccer and worked as a team manager for baseball and basketball. He was a cleaning crew supervisor this year. He said, "I think having a job helps us become more responsible for our future careers. I have a lazy side, but we have to work to survive and [OBI] helps us to learn how."



Sendra joined cheerleading and became captain

OBI gave Sendra the chance to participate and fit in

Sendra came to OBI from Ohio her junior year. She grew up near the beach in South Carolina with her grandparents. After her grandfather's death, she and her grandmother moved to Ohio to be near family. By this time, Sendra was in high school.

Sendra said she never really fit in at her new school. "People in the city were different...I just didn't make friends. I felt like an outcast," she said. Her grandmother had lived in Clay County and knew about OBI. "I came here in hopes of finding a caring environment and a chance to

Britnee turned setback into opportunity—to learn, lead, thrive

Britnee decided to attend OBI after an academic setback at home her freshman year. "I had to have surgery on my right hand...I was out for three months," she said.

Oneida was not too far from her home in central Kentucky. "I was excited about going to OBI at first, but when the day came for me to leave, I cried and called all my friends.

"When I got here it was even worse. I wanted to go home," she recalled. She decided to make the best of it and focus on making new friends. "Before I came to Oneida, I always kept to myself. I got to know people here and got out of my shell," she said.

Britnee became a Christian at OBI during the summer before her sophomore year. "I put my faith in Somebody who loves me unconditionally. This was the best place for me. The environment really helped me. In the city, I was exposed to a lot of things. It was easier to stay focused on God and to feel comfortable around my friends as a Christian at OBI," she said.

She began to see positive changes in all areas of her life after she became a Christian. "I never in my life thought I would have a 4.0 GPA, and I did this

year," she said.

Britnee appreciates the many opportunities Oneida gives its students to prepare for future jobs. As president of the Student Government Association, she organized many events. She was a leader in the girls' dorm devotion group. She played volleyball and softball and was a manager for cheerleading.

Her senior year, Britnee enrolled in the Field Placement program. She worked as an aid in the assistant principal's office for one class period each day. She said, "I felt like a personal secretary. It gave me experience interacting with adults about work things and not just as a student. Plus, we had to make resumes and write in a journal every day."

Her supervisor, OBI assistant principal Connie Belcher, stated, "Britnee worked as my bookroom assistant and did a fantastic job. I believe...she has built a solid foundation at OBI... and will carry on what God has begun in her life."

Britnee is graduating on time, having made up credits from her freshman year in two sessions of summer school and by fitting requirements into her regular schedule. She plans to attend a culinary arts school to become a chef. ■



Britnee (right) overcame shyness and made many new friends at OBI.

Being a leader in student organizations allowed her to develop communication and organizational skills.

proved. I was captain this year," she said. She also participated in track and worked on the farm.

OBI cheerleading coach Michelle Barnes said, "I got to know Sendra as a cheerleader and as a young lady. She has a gentle, sweet spirit and was respected by the girls. She gave her all to what was asked of her and did not give up."

A member of the OBI choir for two years, Sendra said, "I liked going to the churches and meeting people...and the food was awesome!" She plans to study criminal justice in college. ■

Oneida Baptist Institute

Meet some of the Class of 2009

Pam found stability at OBI

Pam had moved back and forth between California, her mom's house, and Oklahoma, her dad's house, several times since their divorce. Her moves were precipitated by family conflict. Pam blames herself: "I was very disrespectful...Most of elementary school I was by myself, so I was very independent. When Mom got a new job and was home more, I refused to listen to her. When I was with my dad and stepmother...we argued all the time."

Pam enrolled at OBI in January, 2005 as an eighth grader. Within OBI's structured environment, she experienced a different kind of independence. She said, "I had the opportunity to make choices and to consider the consequences. I had my own sense of responsibility."

Her freshman year Pam left OBI in October to live with her father, who was diagnosed with cancer. Family conflict arose

again, and Pam was sent to California. Her grades fell, and Pam asked if she could return to OBI.

She attended the spring 2007 semester as a sophomore at OBI. Her father died that summer, and Pam missed the fall semester of her junior year at OBI. "My mom thought I needed to be around family," Pam recalled. "I felt the opposite. I thought OBI would be the best place for me...a little safe place."

Pam learned that she could not graduate on time at her old school. Her mother allowed her return to OBI in January, 2008.

Pam struggled with her spiritual beliefs after the death of her father. She said, "I felt empty. I realized God was what I was missing." At OBI, she attended the girls' devotion group. On a weekend retreat in November, 2008, Pam said, "I gave my heart to Christ in a walk-in closet...I came 'out of the closet' a new person!" She was baptized at



Pam (center) discovered talent, found confidence in drama

Oneida Baptist Church.

Despite the gaps in her time at OBI, Pam participated in four school plays, which included two leading roles her senior year. She said, "I enjoyed my first play, so I kept coming back. I got over my stage fright. I don't have a problem with talking in front of people anymore."

Houseparent Beth Riches appreciated Pam in the dorm. "She was just a really sweet person. She was extremely hard working and always willing to

lend a hand in dorm work," Riches said.

Pam was glad that OBI was there for her during her teen years. "OBI was the best thing that happened in my childhood...the only place that felt like what a home should feel like," she said.

Pam is returning to Oklahoma to attend college. Her stepmother found her a place to live. Pam said, "After my dad died, we became closer. We're both making an effort." ■

A multi-faceted ministry

An 11:1 student/teacher ratio, a Tutoring Lab with a 2:1 student/teacher ratio and nightly study hall are just a few of the reasons many students find it easier to excel academically at OBI.

A full array of co-curricular activities keeps our students productively busy. Oneida also has a unique student work program. Many students who do not excel at sports find their niche in the work program.

Many OBI students are not Christians when they enroll. We share the gospel through daily chapel, Sunday worship, Bible classes and campus ministry.

Education for Time and Eternity

Every school deals with the mind of man but few, like Oneida, minister to the soul as well. Day after day, our students hear the gospel message. Each year many boys and girls make positive decisions of eternal significance.

More about Oneida

- OBI's average enrollment is 325.
- We have approximately 150 full-time faculty and staff.
- OBI has a 850-acre campus which includes a 200-acre farm. We have a full agriculture program.
- We accept students throughout the year.
- OBI provides Christian education at an affordable rate.

May enjoyed studying in America

Ha Eun is from South Korea. When she was 15, she attended a school in Australia where a teacher gave her the nickname, "May." She kept the name when she enrolled at OBI in 2007 as a sophomore. "My parents were interested in my going to other countries. I thought it would be exciting. My mother told me OBI was good because it was in the country, so it would be safe; and it was a Christian school, so it would be good for me."

May recalled struggling with homesickness at first. She encouraged herself by saying, "I cannot give up when I have come so far to study." Meeting other Korean students at OBI was also a help and a surprise to May. These students helped her learn the rules more quickly. "When I would do something wrong, they would say, 'No, no, no, you're going to get an hour if you do that!' I would say, 'What's an hour?' and they would tell me," May said.

The thing May missed most about studying abroad was her mother's cooking. She and her friends enjoyed sharing a pot of rice and packaged foods like seafood or kimchi they had picked up on a break. May laughed, "The Americans would want to kill us, especially when we ate kimchi. They would walk by and say, 'What are you eating? It smells!' It really does stink, but it's our traditional food so we like it."



May was a key player in the OBI pep band for two years

A gifted pianist, May enjoyed the chance to take an advanced piano class at OBI. "Dr. Davidson was very helpful. He taught me how to have dynamics and the right rhythms...musical things that I needed to learn," she said.

May contributed her musical skill to the OBI pep band for two years playing the bells and the keyboard. Band director Tim Cochran said, "May was a versatile and vital member of the band."

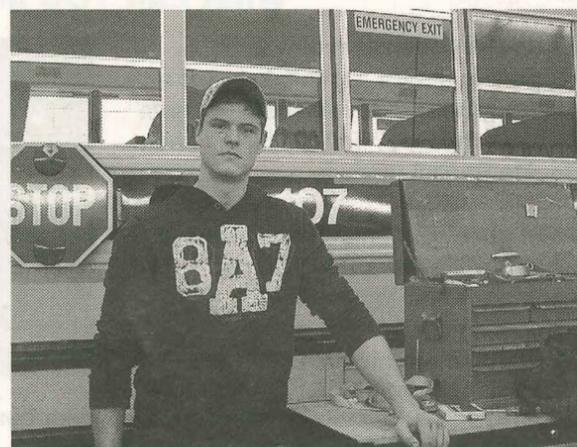
Living at OBI, "taught me to be patient," May said. "It helped me to build a wide range of character. There were a lot of students from all different countries. We had to understand each other and learn to live together."

May plans to study business at an American university. ■

Tom gained skills for Navy

Tom has a younger brother who enrolled at OBI this year. Though it was his senior year, Tom chose to follow. He said, "He was all by himself...and my dad passed away...It's my senior year, and I'm going into the Navy in June. I figured I'd come up here and spend time with him." Tom's family had recently moved to central Kentucky.

Tom was no stranger to work. He was used to helping his dad on their farm. He also participated in school sports and held a part-time job. At OBI, Tom said his schedule seemed a lot easier. He still had school, a job and participated in sports like basketball and baseball at OBI, but he noted, "I made better grades here than I did at home. The stress was less. It's all set up where you can get the right amount of time for what you need to do," he said.



Tom learned more than just oil changes at his Field Placement job in the OBI automotive shop this year.

Tom considered the dormitory to be good experience for his post-high school life. "The dorm teaches you to take care of yourself, do your own laundry and keep your stuff in a small space," he said.

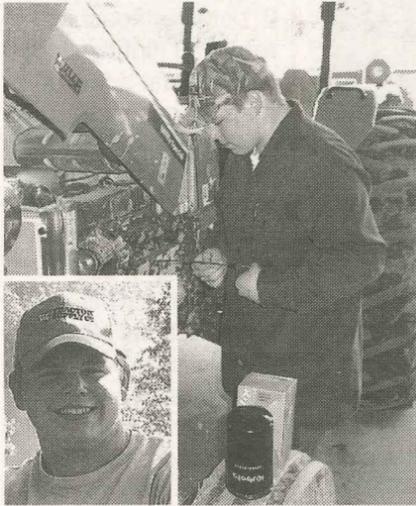
Tom enrolled in OBI's Field Placement program. He worked two hours a day in the auto shop for class credit. He said, "I had never done auto mechanics before, but I was glad to learn. I figured it could help me in the Navy...We did everything from drive chains to belts, brakes and engine work," he said.

OBI mechanic Edward Thompson said, "Tom worked with me all of this school year. He showed a strong willingness to learn auto service and repair, and he was willing to do all the jobs...He was a real help in the shop." ■

Oneida Baptist Institute

Meet some of the Class of 2009

Wesley thrived in a smaller community



Working on the farm influenced Wesley's career choice

Wesley was a fifth grader when his parents joined the OBI faculty and moved from Tennessee. He recalls, "It was different. I had been living in a city. There weren't a lot of places to ride my bike. In Oneida, there was more freedom."

As he grew up, the small-town atmosphere of Oneida benefited him academically. "I knew the teachers, and any time I needed help I could go to them. That helped a lot," he said. His junior year, Wesley arrived at his math class for extra help nearly every morning at 7:30.

Wesley began working at the farm as early as the sixth grade. "I got in trouble, and my parents made me go over there for a week," he recalled. He liked it and volunteered to do odd jobs at the farm.

Wesley acquired more responsibility on the farm each year. He worked with the animals but preferred the "mechanical side of things." At age 16, he learned to drive the tractors. He earned FFA proficiency awards in tractor driving and other areas. In high school, Wesley also participated in sports.

OBI Farm Manager Lynn Cole said, "There has probably never been a student who loved to be at the farm as much as Wes. He became knowledgeable and dependable..."

Wesley had some attitude problems when he was younger. He said, "I think the farm helped me out with a lot of it. I had to work with other people, and now I get along with people a lot better." He was voted the Most Improved and Most Outstanding sophomore boy and the Most Outstanding junior boy. He also received the FFA's highest honor, the DeKaulb Award.

Wesley plans to become a diesel mechanic. ■

"He molded me into His servant"

"You came to OBI, Mrs. Jennifer?!" This is the response I most often get when students learn that I am a graduate of Oneida Baptist Institute, followed by, "But...why?" My story, told many times to struggling and abandoned kids who are at a crossroads in life, grasping at anything that will fill the void they have inside. It wasn't that long ago that this familiar void they talk of was common ground for me.

During my high school years I felt abandoned, worthless, unloved and rejected by my family, a family whose only aspiration in life was to nurture my dreams, love me and encourage me to succeed. Looking back, I was the problem. I was the one who hit my family members because I didn't get my way. I was the one who skipped school and ended up in court. I was the one who did drugs and drank alcohol. I was the one who turned rare happy days into days filled with dread. My goal in life, however, was to blame everyone around me. My parents sent me to OBI in June, 2001. I watched them pull away, thinking, "This is what they've wanted all along--to get rid of the problem." For several months I just kept my head down and did the work.

Summer school ended. The school year began and I was still at OBI, unchanged. In September I got suspended to the farm for two weeks. Now, if you could have known me prior to OBI, one thing that would have stuck out in your memory would have been the fact that I hated to work, most importantly, sweating! Fights broke out at home when I was asked to mow the grass. I would shower prior to mowing and several times during mowing! When I was suspended to the farm for two weeks I started to notice a difference in my overall attitude, and so did the faculty and staff at OBI. God was working in my life and I was addicted to it. Most importantly, I was realizing that God had always been there, waiting for me to let Him in. God has provided for our future. Sometimes He takes us out of situations; other times He takes us through them.

At graduation I received the Most Improved Senior Girl award. I looked at my parents, whose eyes were filled with tears and whose faces were filled with pride. I will never forget that day. They didn't abandon me; they loved me.

I began working at OBI immediately! I had absolutely no doubts when God showed me what I was meant to do with my life. God sent me to OBI as a broken and bitter teen and through that experience He molded me into His servant. Nearly seven years later it is still my purpose in life to share my Oneida story with the kids I work with on a daily basis. My hope is that somewhere along this journey I have encouraged other students to realize God's power in every aspect of their lives--physically, mentally and spiritually. In Revelation chapter 7 we are told that we will be rewarded by serving and loving the Lord. Who will be among the Great Multitude? "...From every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:9)

Jennifer Kermeen Griebenow, OBI Assistant Farm Manager and class of 2002



"Seeing is believing"

I believe Kentucky Baptists are among God's most generous children. Though Kentucky ranks among the poorest states in per capita income, Kentucky Baptists support many worthy ministries and have been a critical part of the Oneida ministry for decades. We are blessed to have you as our friends. Much of what we provide to our students would not be possible if it were not for your support. OBI has always been grateful for funds provided by individual Kentucky Baptists, the Cooperative Program, the Father's Day Offering, Sunday school classes, WMU, vacation Bible schools and churches who have OBI in their budgets. We deeply appreciate the generosity of all Kentucky Baptists.

The focus of this year's Father's Day Offering is an invitation to visit our campus. The old adage "seeing is believing" is true. You will have a much greater appreciation for what we do if you can see for yourself. Many friends visit us regularly. They come as part of a church group or just drop in to say "hello." We are always honored when guests grace our campus. If you can arrive by 10:45 AM Monday-Friday, you can join us in our chapel service and see all of our students. We will be happy to give you a tour and will even treat you to lunch.

Many of our friends come each year as volunteers. Oneida has a deep appreciation for our volunteers. Each year we are blessed to have hundreds of volunteers from across Kentucky and several other states. They bring talents and skills that are a great blessing to us. We are happy to provide their lodging and meals while they work. They bless us with their presence and the gift of their skills. If you would like to volunteer I have one word of caution--please do not wait until the last minute to reserve a date. Many groups make reservations a year in advance. Normally January is about as late as you should reserve a date for a particular year.

Have you ever visited our campus? Oneida is a pleasant drive from most parts of Kentucky. The mountains are always beautiful but a visit in the spring, summer or fall will give you a special treat. You may get lost trying to find us but I don't think anyone has ever gotten lost going somewhere else and ended up here. If you have never been to our campus, you will likely have to carefully follow directions and check your map frequently. If you could let us know you are coming we will be sure to have someone waiting for you. Thanks again for making the Oneida ministry possible and for supporting the Father's Day Offering.

Dr. W. F. Underwood, OBI President and class of 1963

What can YOU do to help with this ministry?

Share the good news of what's happening at OBI. Do you know of a child in grades 6-12 who could benefit from our ministry? Tell the family about Oneida Baptist Institute.

Make sure your church has received our box of Father's Day Offering materials. Offer to take charge of distributing the posters and flyers. Show our informational DVD.

Pray for our faculty and staff as well as for our students. We need prayer support to undergird all that we do.



Visit our campus and bring a group from your church. We love for people to see what we're all about.

Volunteer with us for a short-term missions project.

Give as God leads. Your financial gift is an investment in the lives of young people. Other donations of all sorts help us in a variety of ways.