

Shine
like
stars
in the
world
Philippians 2:15

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When pastors become patients

By **Dannah Prather**
Partnerships Editor

Versailles—"I've got cancer."
Shock. Sorrow. Denial. There is
more than one way to respond to
news of a critical illness. For many
people, one of their first calls might
be to their pastor, asking for his
prayer and support.

But what if the person making
the statement is the pastor?

It's a scenario that members of
Versailles Baptist Church need not
imagine. They are living it. Last year,
their pastor of nearly 20 years, John
Brandon, made the announcement
during Sunday services.

"People were shocked and totally
stunned," said Brandon, who has
mantle cell lymphoma. "I looked
perfectly healthy."

Brandon said his instinct upon
hearing the diagnosis was to say
nothing to the church, at least not
right away.

"I don't like to talk about myself,"
he explained. "I don't like to be out
there with those personal kinds of
things."

His oncologist, Lee Hicks, a deacon
at Versailles Baptist, encouraged
Brandon to go public.

"It was just one of those blessed
moments that the Lord kind of or-
dained," Brandon recalled. "It was
the right thing, to share with our
people and let them minister and
care for me."

Brandon's positive experience
may occur less frequently than
Christians might assume accord-
ing to Dr. Wade Rowett, director of
St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling
Center in Louisville. He said pastors
and ministers often are reluctant to
go public with devastating diagno-
ses because they fear they will lose
their jobs.

"I have worked with a number
of pastors who had to resign their
church because of mental illness or
physical illness," Rowett said. "I've
seen them put off surgeries too long,
hide the illness from the congrega-
tion, even move to another ministry
position because they didn't want
to tell."

Observers say some congrega-

tions assume they cannot afford to
maintain salary and benefits for a
pastor who is gravely ill and unable
to serve at his peak.

"Those financial issues are very
real," said Kentucky Baptist Con-
vention Leadership Development Team
Leader Karl Babb. But before taking
drastic steps, church leaders should
"talk through the situation," per-
haps calling upon the KBC for guid-
ance, he said.

The goal is "to get a plan in place"
to meet the needs of the church,
the pastor and his family, he said.
The KBC and local Baptist associa-
tion can help congregations iden-
tify "pulpit supply" speakers or in-
terim pastors. They also can direct
churches and pastors to additional
resources.

Although a challenge for all par-
ties, Rowett, Brandon and other Ken-
tucky Baptists say it is possible for
churches to survive, even thrive,
when pastors become patients.

"It involves a level of trust and
openness that the congregation has
□ See Pastors as patients: ... *Page 3*

PAC urges legislators: oppose slots

By **Todd Deaton**
Editor

Louisville—The Kentucky Bap-
tist Convention's Committee on
Public Affairs sent a letter June
11 to the General Assembly voic-
ing the opposition of more than
2,400 Kentucky Baptist church-
es to expanding gambling in the
state by adding slot machines at
racetracks.

"We realize that the big gam-
bling corporations are once
again spending tremendous
amounts of money to pay lob-
byists and use paid advertising
to try to sway legislators and cit-
izens to give them what they
have sought for many years,"
the committee's letter began.
Gambling opponents, however,
do not have the funds to com-
pete with gambling corpora-
tions. The letter noted.

"It is our hope that com-
mitted legislators will contin-
ue to put the best interests of
Kentucky's citizens in the fore-
front," the letter continued.
"We believe that as you study
this issue, you will agree with
us that adding slot machines
will be detrimental to Ken-
tucky's citizens and economy."

PAC Chairman Paul Strahan
told the Western Recorder, "I be-
lieve it is a moral issue because
the money must come from
somewhere. Unfortunately, we
know that it comes from oth-
er people, primarily those who
cannot afford to gamble."

"This leads to further deci-
mation of Kentucky families,
and when families are impact-
ed in that way it negatively af-
fects our state," said the Owens-
boro pastor.

□ See PAC letter: oppose ... *Page 8*

Retired WMU executive director, Kathryn Akridge, dies

By **Todd Deaton**
Editor

Louisville—Kathryn Jasper Akridge,
86, retired executive director of Ken-
tucky Baptist Woman's Missionary
Union, died June 7 at Baptist Hospi-
tal East in Louisville.

Akridge served as executive direc-
tor of Kentucky WMU from 1970 to
1984. Thought of as an innovative
leader who had a sense of history,
Akridge led the auxiliary's centennial
celebration, which included the
commissioning of the film "Bridge
Builders," produced by the former
Radio and Television Commission of
the Southern Baptist Convention.

During her tenure, the WMU
State Missions Offering was named

the Eliza Broadus Offering in recog-
nition of the WMU leader's 50 years
of work among Kentucky Baptists.

"I personally appreciated Kath-
ryn's encouragement to me," said
Joy Bolton, current Kentucky WMU
executive director. "She was always
interested in what we were doing
and wanted to be a part of things
when she could."

"Kathryn will be missed," Bolton
said. "Though it has been 25 years
since she retired, she is still remem-
bered and appreciated."

Bolton noted that when Akridge
vacated the WMU office, she donat-
ed a painting of the historic WMU
emblem, which had been given to
her by a friend. The painting still

hangs in the WMU offices.

Brenda Price, who joined the Ken-
tucky WMU staff in 1982, worked
with Akridge until she retired in
1984. "Her heart for missions and
missions education brought
strength in her leadership role as
executive director," Price said.

During the years after her retire-
ment, Akridge remained a "dear
friend, an encourager, a support-
er and one of my mentors," Price
added. Recalling her zeal for involv-
ing others in missions, Price not-
ed, "Kathryn will be greatly missed,
but her faithfulness to the Lord and
His mission will have an impact on
the lives of those who come behind
her."

Prior to being named executive
director, she was the first full-time
Baptist Student Union director at
her alma mater, Eastern Kentucky
University. A native of Somerset,
Akridge was a graduate of the Wom-
an's Missionary Union Training
School, formerly on the campus of
Southern Baptist Theological Semi-
nary in Louisville.

A charter member of Hurst-
bourne Baptist Church in Louisville,
she was preceded in death by her
husband, William Henry Akridge.
She is survived by her three stepchil-
dren, seven grandchildren and 11
great-grandchildren. Funeral serv-
ices were held June 11, with burial at
Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 17

Around the world, around the corner

At annual meeting, national WMU puts spotlight on family's missions legacy

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—To say that a family has a "legacy" in missions sounds lofty, but when asked about their gospel-sharing journey, the Gerald and June McNeely family shares stories of humble people and humble places—churches without signs, hymns whispered instead of sung, and Bibles wrapped in newspaper tucked beneath the day's groceries.

The legacy began even before the McNeelys started their 33-year season of service as missionaries to Spain in 1957. Before the couple ever met, they learned about the Great Commission from their mothers who taught missions education in their own churches.

Each generation has answered God's call to share the gospel: Marsha McNeely Smith and her husband, David, are missionaries to North Africa; Linda McNeely Hoffman and her husband, Rusty, are missions educators at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; the Hoffmans' daughter, Lisa Hoffman Clark, was a Journeyman missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board; and with Clark's daughter now in Mission Friends, the cycle doesn't seem to be stopping anytime soon.

"I'm sort of amazed by it," Gerald McNeely said.

Southern Baptists from around the country will have the opportunity to hear some of the McNeelys' story at the national Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting June 21-22 at St. Matthews Baptist Church. The McNeelys and Hoffmans will be among the platform guests discussing the theme, "Change a Life, Change the World."

Franco stifles religious freedom

Like many children of Southern Baptists, Linda and Marsha McNeely learned missions in a Girls in Action group. But when these G.A.s learned Bible stories and verses, they were breaking the law.

Military dictator Francisco Franco was in power the first 17 years of the McNeelys' service. Under Franco, only churches established prior to the Spanish Civil War remained open. Other houses of worship were closed and marked with a government seal. Even legal churches were forced to remove signs from their property, making it difficult for people to identify the buildings.

In 1957 "there were 12 Baptist churches with seals on the door," McNeely recalled.

Rumors spread that Baptists beheaded children and forced people to spit on a statue of the Virgin Mary before they could join the church.

Linda's peers at school, "had to ask permission to play with me."

McNeely and a group of students were arrested for distributing gospel tracts. He was released with a warning that a sec-



REMEMBERING SPAIN Linda Hoffman (left) looks through photos with her parents, June and Gerald McNeely, from the McNeelys' 33 years as missionaries to Spain. Hoffman and her husband, Rusty, are missions educators at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. **Inset:** The McNeelys' youngest daughter, Marsha Smith, and her husband, David, are missionaries to North Africa. The McNeely family will be recognized for their contribution to missions at the upcoming annual meeting of national Woman's Missionary Union June 21-22 in Louisville. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

ond offense would result in deportation.

Amid the persecution, Christianity blossomed quietly. Theirs and other evangelical churches held services in homes, relocating frequently to avoid authorities, Mrs. McNeely said.

"If (neighbors) could hear us singing, we had to close the windows," she said.

Worshippers "whispered the hymns," McNeely added.

In regions far from Madrid, such as where the McNeelys lived, residents resisted Franco. They spoke their dialect, Catalan, instead of using the official language exclusively. Some tolerated Protestantism.

Eventually the McNeelys' congregation returned secretly to a church facility, crowding into the residence upstairs instead of holding services in the sanctuary.

Upon Franco's death in 1975, Prince Juan Carlos became king and head of state, ending many of Franco's repressive practices.

As the church began renovating its facility, workers noticed that several load-bearing beams had been removed to render the building useless for large gatherings. Without realizing it, the flock had been meeting in a death-trap. The McNeelys credit God for holding the building together.

Girls become "Kid Missionaries"

With freedom to worship came freedom for the McNeelys to pursue more openly their primary calling to Spain, the Spanish Baptist Theological Seminary. One of McNeely's students in his New Testament class was Juan Carlos' wife, Queen Sophia.

McNeely was a professor, dean and eventually president of the seminary. Mrs. McNeely was the librarian and led the school's fledg-



PROFESSOR AND LIBRARIAN As Southern Baptist missionaries to Spain, Gerald and June McNeely served at a seminary established in the 1920s by Swedish Baptists. McNeely eventually became the school's president. Mrs. McNeely directed the seminary's first women's department. This is a photo of the couple in 1969.

ling women's department.

"Most women had little prior instruction," she said.

A Spanish-born pastor—one McNeely trained himself—succeeded McNeely as seminary president.

According to their parents, Linda and Marsha were enthusiastic about telling the story of Jesus and the gift of salvation made possible by His death and resurrection. "They felt it," McNeely said. "They acquired a love for it." The girls became "so effective at witnessing they should have been on salary" with the mission board.

"Instead of M.K.s (Missionary Kids), they were Kid Missionaries," Mrs. McNeely added.

Hoffman's role as missions educator began long before she married and began serving at St. Matthews. At 14 she led Sunbeams (the predecessor to Mission Friends) while still a G.A. in Spain.

For nearly 30 years, Rusty and Linda Hoffman have taught missions to boys and girls at St. Matthews. Mrs. Hoffman directs the entire G.A. ministry and teaches a sixth grade group herself. Rusty

Hoffman leads the boys mission group Royal Ambassadors.

G.A.s and R.A.s provide boys and girls the opportunity to put feet to Sunday school lessons, Mrs. Hoffman said. "It finishes out the story. Missions is the story of God's work in the world."

The legacy continues

Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton and Camp Director Stacy Nall said the McNeelys and Hoffmans are special because they are as committed to missions education as they are "missions going."

"They are as proud of their daughter who is a G.A. leader as they are of their daughter who is a missionary," Nall observed.

"We don't recognize enough the valuable work of missions educators," Bolton said. The Hoffmans "are living out that missions calling" as teachers.

The McNeelys are "as close to Baptist saints as I know," Bolton continued, noting that even in retirement, "their desire (to serve) is as bright as it has ever been."

Nall works with the McNeelys as they coordinate ministries to parents of current missionaries with Kentucky ties. As former missionaries and as parents of a current missionary, "they've seen it on both sides," Nall said. Mrs. McNeely writes personal notes to each missionary parent on Christmas and on the birthday of the child who is serving.

The McNeely's legacy that began with their own mothers so many years ago will continue to impact the spread of the gospel, Bolton said.

"We all want our children to value what we value," she said. "What greater tribute (for the McNeelys) than for their children to carry on their missions legacy?"

Cumberlands will host M-Fuge camp in 2010

Williamsburg—LifeWay Christian Resources and University of the Cumberlands are bringing M-Fuge, a hands-on missions camp for students, to the Kentucky Baptist college in 2010.

M-Fuge provides students the opportunity to put their Christian faith into action through projects ranging from home construction and renovation to recreation and children's ministries. Campers will plug into UC's Appalachian Ministry Program that, since 1975, has partnered with area organizations ministries to address the many needs of the people of Appalachia.

"I believe this can become one of the greatest ministry sites that LifeWay Student Ministry has ever participated in," LifeWay's Jeff Pratt said.

Rick Fleenor, UC assistant to the president for church relations, said churches in South Union-Mt. Zion Baptist Association also will benefit from the work of M-Fuge campers.

"Since the association includes a large number of smaller churches, we are hopeful that the students involved in the M-Fuge camps will greatly be able to assist these churches," he said.

Pratt said LifeWay leadership were impressed by Cumberland's "passion for teaching and preaching the truth of God's word while being actively involved in ministry to their community."

Fleenor said he hopes some of the M-Fuge campers will be so impressed by Cumberland's dedication to servant leadership they will consider enrolling as students.

"We are very pleased with the developing partnership," UC President Jim Taylor said. "Young people will be exposed to the tremendous needs of the economically disadvantaged in our region and they will realize the need for ministry is as great and perhaps even greater here than some other regions of the world."

"It also means that there will be fewer people suffering with a leaky roof, or drafty windows," he continued. "The ultimate goal, of course, is that by having their physical needs met there might also be an opportunity to help meet their spiritual needs."

The Corporation for National and Community Service recently placed University of the Cumberlands on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary community service.

The corporation listed 546 schools as honor roll members; 82, including Cumberlands, were named "with distinction." Only three Kentucky schools received that honor this year, U.C. reported.

Baptists offering help to troubled soldiers, families

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Hopkinsville—A recent “stand down” at nearby Fort Campbell that allowed the Army time to address a growing suicide problem didn’t surprise Carolyn Self.

She sees troubled soldiers and their families regularly at Cornerstone Counseling, an outreach of Christian County Baptist Association.

“It’s very difficult,” said Self, a licensed clinical social worker. “There’s so much trauma from deployment. A lot are young and don’t have good coping skills. Then they get into some of the worst situations.”

The Army cancelled operations for three days in late May to focus attention on the situation.

At that point, 14 deaths during 2009 at the base had been ruled suicides or were under investigation as such. That is the highest number in this branch of the military.

“It’s a stressful area of ministry to deal with,” said Bob Melton, associational director of missions and a Vietnam war veteran. “I just talked to a guy who got back from Afghanistan. He said it was one of the most stressful times in his life.”

While the association’s Christian-based counseling is one of the leading ways Kentucky Baptists are helping military personnel, area churches are also reaching out to soldiers and their families.

Todd Gray, pastor of Oak Grove First Baptist Church—where 50 percent of its members are active duty soldiers and another 25 percent are retired military—has observed the difficulties affecting those deployed on multiple occasions.

After the first, they’re glad to be home and in a couple weeks return to their routine, Gray said. But that readjustment period lengthens each time, he said.

“There’s a prevailing hopelessness that seems to get hold of combat veterans,” Gray said. “I think the way post traumatic stress disorder works is being under protracted stress for extended periods of time takes a toll on the mind and body.”

The Oak Grove church addresses one aspect of such challenges by offering its facility for monthly meetings of Honoring Our

Wounded Warriors, a support group for wounded soldiers.

The church also sends care packages to members while they are overseas, prays for them and makes sermons available by CD and via its web site.

They also help families with various chores during deployments.

In addition, First Baptist is searching for a part-time staff member to lead a ministry to couples—which it offered in the past until the directors moved to another state.

Still, the pastor said its leading solution is to focus on spiritual matters.

“Psychological and medical help lack the ability to impart hope,” Gray said. “So to me it’s a spiritual issue and the best way to combat it is the Holy Spirit.”

Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville has a strong military presence in its congregation, although the numbers have decreased lately because of frequent deployments.

Those who are left face difficult challenges, said Pastor Greg Giltner.

“We have men in the church who have served three times in Iraq and sometimes are separated for 15 months from their families,” the pastor said. “If they’ve been (at Fort Campbell) for five years, they’ve been deployed three-fourths of that time.”

For those left behind, the congregation does much of its outreach through Sunday school classes, helping families of deployed soldiers.

In addition to fixing such items as lawn mowers and washing machines, one class put a roof on a soldier’s home, Giltner said.

However, Hillcrest Baptist tries not to single them out.

“Once they get to the church they’re incorporated into the family and we don’t look at them any differently,” Giltner said. “That’s what they want.”

Among the outreaches New Work Fellowship of Hopkinsville offers are support groups and small groups primarily made up of military spouses.

The Kentucky Baptist church, which averages 500 in two Sunday services, has a large banner in its foyer reading, “Welcome Home Our Heroes.”

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Military spouses experiencing deployment stress

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Hopkinsville—Chuck Jones* came home from his second overseas deployment to a gut-wrenching reality: his wife had been involved in multiple affairs and sometimes endangered their children.

“It was stressful enough in Afghanistan and to come home to that...” the Army sergeant said. “I was really depressed and stressed out.”

New Work Fellowship helped relieve that stress during the four months Jones attended the Kentucky Baptist church.

Not only did Pastor Kevin Lee counsel him several times, the pastor put him in touch with a couple who had endured a similar situation.

The husband, who was part of his unit, regularly offered Jones solace and encouragement.

Jones also found support in a church-based, small-group Bible study that met on Friday nights.

And, although he had to move to another state after gaining custody of his children, Jones still receives e-mails from Lee.

“Pastor Kevin helped put things in perspective,” Jones said. “He said what happened was on (my wife), that I had done nothing wrong. He helped me realize the kids needed my attention.”

Jones is just one of numerous soldiers and spouses who have benefited from their participation at New Work, which has a significant number of military members.

Though he didn’t go through the kind of trauma Jones did, Jacob Worley appreciated the church helping his wife, Rachel, and their two children during his 2008 deployment to Afghanistan.

“The biggest thing was to know she was taken care of spiritually and mentally while I was gone,” said Worley, who has a son, 8, and a daughter, 4. “They helped out a lot. Basically (Rachel) was starting new here and they provided friendships

she could turn to when she was feeling stressed out.”

In addition, after he returned last December, New Work helped Worley re-establish a childhood connection with church.

After meeting with the pastor several times to review some questions and doubts, Worley was baptized last February.

Since coming home the soldier has noticed the positive impact the congregation has made on his children, particularly his son.

In addition to being more respectful of his parents, other authority figures and friends, the boy helps out more around the house.

“I feel it’s helped out with my stress level,” Worley said of his renewed faith. “It put me at ease with my future and provided a lot of close friendships for us.”

Military spouses also appreciate the support they have received at New Work, which celebrated its 12th anniversary this year.

April Morgan’s husband, Sgt. Warren Morgan, has been to Iraq and Afghanistan three times and may return in the coming year.

While they didn’t suffer a lot of war-related stresses the first time Warren went to Iraq, the couple faced numerous adjustments, such as his returning home to a child he barely knew.

“He missed seeing the pregnancy and had to adjust to having a baby in the house,” Mrs. Morgan said. “A lot of it is like living your first year of marriage all over again.”

His 10-month deployment to Afghanistan, which ended last November, proved more difficult. Now they had two children and it was as hard on her family-oriented husband to be away as it was for her.

When Warren returned, they sought

□ See Families experiencing stress ... Page 9

Pastors as patients: When congregations become the caregivers

Continued from page 1

to accept part of,” Rowett said.

Now retired, Rodney Travis served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville for nearly eight years. More than five of those years he served after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease.

“My first thought was ‘how am I going to tell my family?’” Travis said. “Then, ‘how am I going to tell the church?’”

Like Brandon, Travis’ instinct was to keep quiet. “We were in a building program (at church),” he said, explaining his concern that the news of his illness might indicate the ministry was not on firm footing. But it was for the sake of the ministry Travis said that he decided to go public.

“I have Parkinson’s disease and I don’t know what it’s going to do to me,” was the statement Travis said he made to the congregation. He asked church leaders to watch carefully as the disease progressed. “If you feel I’m hurting the ministry of the church,” Travis told them, he would step aside.

He selected four trusted members, asking them to “watch my preaching, my mannerisms. If you see something that’s different, that needs to be changed ... you let me know.”

Travis said his openness and sense of

humor about his illness solidified the support of his church. One of his favorite jokes is a response to the question, “How’s your ministry going these days?” His answer: “Shaky.”

First Baptist of Hopkinsville has “been real good to me,” Travis said. “They are generous people.”

With assistance from outside the church and new leadership from within, believers should not be surprised if a ministry thrives, even when the pastor is ill, Brandon said. “Incredibly, during this time, we’ve had an increase in (church) membership,” he said. “It’s been a time of growth and looking forward.”

The building program Travis thought might be negatively affected by his illness was successful. First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville underwent a \$3.6 million remodeling during his tenure.

Pastors need “a church that (will) give them the space to deal with their illness,” Rowett said, while also providing job security. “That’s tough for a church. ... (Some) become frustrated because church work isn’t getting done.”

Deacons and other church leaders at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Wickliffe are helping Carl Cooper make sure the work is getting done, even as Cooper’s tenure as

pastor of that flock draws to a close.

When Cooper became pastor of Bethlehem Baptist last September, he thought his days of ministering while in the throes of serious illness were behind him.

In 2005, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. A post-operative infection nearly took his life. In 2007, while serving as worship leader at Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, his wife, Jean Ann, battled breast cancer.

Cooper’s cancer went into remission. For most of 2008, “I felt better than I’d felt in years,” he said. But after only a couple of months in the pastorate, he was ill again.

A bi-vocational pastor, he quickly realized he would be unable to work full-time and also pastor. The Coopers had talked about such a crossroads before.

“If I have to choose between ministry and public work, I’m going to choose ministry,” Cooper had said. “We had to make that choice.”

He qualified for long-term disability benefits and has tried to do as much as he can for his congregation even as his condition has deteriorated. “The church has been real understanding, very supportive,” he said, adding, “It concerns me that I’m not able to be the pastor I want to be.”

Randall Robinson, a 20-year deacon at

Bethlehem, said he is impressed with how Cooper has continued to serve. Robinson recently had multiple heart surgeries, and Cooper “was there for me the whole time.”

Deacons and other church leaders have “stepped in and did what needed to be done,” when Cooper could not, Robinson said. “Everything’s under control.” Retired pastor Al Cobb has preached several times along with other guest preachers.

According to Robinson, Cooper recently submitted his resignation, anticipating Father’s Day as his last day with the flock. Vacation Bible school will be held earlier in the month, “and he intends to be there,” Robinson added.

A small congregation, Bethlehem cannot provide as much as they would like for the Coopers, but Robinson said his pastor has said repeatedly, “he has what he needs.”

The gift the congregation and other Christians in the area continue to give lavishly, Cooper said, is prayer. “The prayers of people are an amazing thing,” he said. “I’ve been very active in the prayer ministry in this end of the state. It’s amazing to experience it yourself.”

Next week: Can Kentucky Baptists do more to help pastors when they become patients?

Problems with expanded gambling

As I am sure you are aware, the Kentucky General Assembly has been called into special session by the governor this week to deal with a projected revenue shortfall for state government. The legislators will consider a number of issues but none more disturbing to me than the proposed expansion of gambling.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

There are many problems with expanded gambling, but I would like to discuss a few and urge you to call your representatives and senators as soon as possible to make your voice heard. Time is of the essence as this special session is only scheduled for this week and next.

Gambling expansion is very dangerous because families will be targeted. Families will be hit by increased levels of bankruptcy, divorce, spousal abuse, child neglect, crime and suicide.

Everyone talks about the billions of dollars that will be raised through expanded gambling over the years, but who will provide the billions? Gambling does not create any new wealth; it only makes wealth change hands.

The billions of dollars that proponents say will be raised over the years is just a shift of money from families into the hands of the gambling industry. The government gets a share by taxing the exchange of money. The bottom line is that families pick up the whole tab, and tragically, government, which is charged with protecting families, maneuvers to "get in on the action."

Another major concern is that problem gambling and gambling addiction rates will increase dramatically. Most of the profit made by gambling facilities is taken from those who live within 50 miles and have become addicted or problem gamblers.

It is anticipated that about 80,000 families will be devastated due to addiction and problem gambling. The social costs will be enormous in terms of lost productivity, court costs, welfare, rehabilitation, theft, crime, etc.

Slot machines are the most addictive of all gambling devices. They are programmed to let people almost win so they keep returning to lose more. Players do win sometimes, but problem and addicted gamblers usually do not walk away until they have lost more than they can afford.

Gambling interests are engaged in a highly financed media campaign to influence our state legislators to support expanded gambling. Your voice of opposition is all that we have to offer, but it is the most effective means of communicating to government leaders.

I urge you to call your legislators today to let them know your opposition to expanded gambling and to encourage others to do the same. It only takes a few minutes to call the Legislative Message Line at 800-372-7181. If you don't know the names of your legislators, the operators will assist you in reaching the correct individuals with your message.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Are we inviting a 'preying' mantis into our garden?

During the summer months, my children sometimes saw praying mantises in the bushes in our front yard. Occasionally, my son would catch one and play with it. My daughter, on the other hand, was a bit squeamish about bugs. These mantises seem appropriately named because of their prayer-like stance, but through reading an encyclopedia article, one discovers that these insects are anything but saintly.

This week, state legislators are deliberating on whether to allow video lottery terminals, commonly known as slot machines, at the state's eight horseracing tracks. So, what do slot machines and mantises have to do with each other? The term "mantis" is derived from a Greek word for "prophet" or "fortune teller," and comparisons with gambling are readily apparent.

Mantises are masters of camouflage and deception. Most are green or brown and easily blend with foliage, appearing as leaves, twigs, bark or even stones, which enables them to better snare their victims. Gambling, too, is a master of camouflage, taking on the appearance of games, amusement, or sport. It deceives people by feeding them the line that you have to play to win. But the greater reality is that you have to play to lose. The never-ending hook is to keep playing—just one more time.

Many gardeners consider mantises to be desirable insects because they prey upon harmful insects. For example, in my rose bed, mantises kept the aphids, leaf cutters and beetles in check. However, mantises indiscriminately prey on beneficial insects, devouring anything they can capture. Gambling does, too. It thrives on creating a false impression that it is somehow beneficial to a state's economy or to education, but the reality is that it undermines local businesses, taking money out of consumers' pockets. According to the Legislative Research Commission, to achieve the projected \$6.7 million that VLT proponents claim will be generated, more than \$6.6 billion will have to be wagered. That is more than four times the combined amounts wagered in charitable gambling, the lottery and horse racing.

"Praying" is sometimes misspelled as "preying" since mantises are notoriously predatory. The carnivorous insect strikes a deceptively humble posture when hunting. Its front legs have rows of sharp spines to grasp prey, and its reflexes are so quick that they are hard to see with the naked eye. Similarly, slot machines—with their flashy lights and alluring sound effects—are the most addictive form of all gambling. Studies have shown that players become addicted three times faster. Tens of dollars wagered quickly become hundreds; hundreds become thousands—until one's paycheck evaporates entirely.

For the state to reach its annual projected revenue, Martin Cothran of Say No to Casinos estimated that, if only a third of Kentuckians play the slots, we are talking about \$3,281 being lost per person. In a letter to legislators, the KBC's Public Affairs Committee pointed out, "People will use money that they would normally spend to feed their families to feed the slot machines. This is bad for Kentucky families, bad for Kentucky businesses, and bad for Kentucky state government."

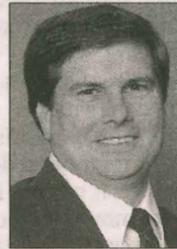
Most mantises engage in cannibalism, biting the neck of a prey to paralyze and then devour the other insect while it is still alive. Gambling carelessly devours its clients, creating problem gamblers who won't stop until automobiles, boats, horses, houses, farms and businesses are all lost. Often, families are fractured in a downward spiral that ends in higher rates of suicide attempts, divorce, and incidents of spousal and child abuse. In fact, a U.S. Department of Justice study found that people with problem gambling were three to five times more likely to be arrested than the general population. This may be attributed to an increase in incidents of theft, assault, bad checks and drug sales to gamble or to pay gambling debts.

Mantises can turn their heads 180 degrees to scan their surroundings with two large compound eyes and three other simple eyes, searching relentlessly for their next unwitting victim. Kentucky already has approximately 35,000 pathological gamblers, who—unable to stop themselves—will wager everything they have and more, according to the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling. Additionally, more than 70,000 problem gamblers habitually lose enough to negatively impact their families and businesses. If the amount of money being risked increases four-fold, as VLT proponents project, then won't the number of pathological and problem gamblers also increase reciprocally—meaning a significantly greater number of families will be ruined?

The lure of easy money for the government's budget and the desire to bolster an ailing horse industry are understandable, but for Christians, the expansion of gambling is a moral issue. One cannot love their neighbors, as Jesus commanded, and at the same time turn a blind eye to policies that will allow others to victimize them through fostering addictions, which undermine the welfare of their homes and businesses. Kentucky Baptists must let our opposing voices be heard loud and clear. Are our legislators selling out the commonwealth of its citizens and bringing about disastrous consequences for so many of its families? Are we knowingly inviting a "preying" mantis into the garden?

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Celebrating Father's Day afresh

By Diana Davis

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.

"Children ... are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!" (Psalm 127:4-5)

A Christian dad impacts his family and the world. A few fresh ideas for dads:

Create father/child traditions. Begin traditions: birthday breakfast with dad, father/daughter date, annual father/son adventure, read Sunday funnies together. Share a hobby (fish, collect rocks, golf, do wood crafts.)

Make lifetime memories with family vacations. Tight budget? Do a backyard campout.

Pray for your child. Kneel by your sleeping child's bed. Pray for your child as you drive to work, or before you get up each day. Remind your child of your prayers.

Pray together at bedtime. Pray aloud with your child as you drive to school. Pray in crisis. Pray about specific needs and blessings (e.g., peers, new puppy.)

Invest time in your child's life.

Child-rearing days encompass only about one quarter of your life. There are no "do-overs," so invest wisely. Secret: Hit the TV remote's off button.

Offer to substitute in your child's Sunday school class. Idea: Spend a minimum of 10 focused minutes with your child daily. Take a walk, shoot baskets, go for a soda, play a board game. Listen. Comfort. Make eye contact. Speak wisdom.

Be your home's spiritual leader. Enthusiastically initiate family commitment to God, His word and His church. Help your child know Jesus as personal Savior.

Get caught studying God's word. Show it is a priority in your life. Occasionally handwrite a Scripture on a note card to give to your child.

Teach your child. When? Deuteronomy 11:18-21 says to teach your child God's ways when you sit, walk, lay or stand. Get busy!

Encourage your child. Show family affection. Hug. Laugh together. Delight in your child. Say, "I love you," with feeling. Speak only positive words about him to others.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

Be the parent. Your child needs a father, not just another "buddy."

Offer sincere compliments often. Discover your child's spiritual gifts and help develop them.

Love your wife. It is one of the best things you can do for your child. Are you teaching how to treat his or her future spouse. Let your child see you show genuine affection to mom, compliment her, pray with her, brag about her and laugh together.

Idea: tell your child today the story of how you met and fell in love with your wife.

Serve God together. Set an example of joyful service to God. Find ways to include your child, i.e. homebound visit, church work day.

Idea: Watch for a new project at church; sign up to do it together.

Be a man of integrity. Memorize this verse: "I will lead a life of integrity in my own home" Psalm 101:2. Guard your reputation vigilantly.

"The glory of children is their fathers" Proverbs 17:6b. Happy Father's Day!

To give this article as a Father's Day bookmark at your church, download at www.keeponshining.com and personalize, print and laminate.

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

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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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Key to winning fight for traditional marriage at ballot box

By Jeffrey MacDonald

The ink had barely dried on Maine Gov. John Baldacci's signature legalizing gay marriage in May when evangelical opponents began circulating a petition for a "people's veto" to override lawmakers with a simple majority at the ballot box.

In Iowa, where the state Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in April, activists are pursuing a constitutional amendment that could get the issue in front of voters as soon as 2012.

And in New Hampshire, where Gov. John Lynch recently signed a bill to make the Granite State the sixth state to allow gay marriage, social conservatives hope to put the issue on ballots across the state next year in a bid to document widespread dissent.

The message coming from gay marriage opponents is clear: pillar institutions of American democracy—first, the courts and, now, lawmakers—are hopelessly compromised and not to be trusted, at least not with one of the biggest social issues of our time.

Stunned by four states legalizing same-sex marriage in just two months, social conservatives are working hard to stop it, often through the avenue where they've had their greatest success: the ballot box.

While some political observers say the tactic might be a risky one, advocates for traditional marriage say they need to pull out all the stops.

"The integrity of our most fundamental institutions is in question and needs to be in question," says Mike Heath, executive director of the Maine Family Policy Council, an evangelical Christian lobbying group.

"I see our institutions as having become openly hostile (to religious views). They're responsive to the elite and moneyed interests that dominate our statehouse. ... The only hope here is the people."

Reason No. 1 for turning to the ballot box? It works.

To date, state constitutional bans on gay marriage have passed in all 30 states where they've appeared on the ballots. "I'm getting (the marriage issue) before the people as often as I can," said Maggie Gallagher, president of the National Organization for Marriage, a pro-traditional marriage group.

Lawmakers in eight more states tried to move similar

measures this year, although none received the legislative green light to advance to the ballot box, according to Christine Nelson, policy analyst for same-sex marriage issues at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Conservatives say they recognize the need to explain not only banning gay marriage but also why they're choosing to push the issue through the ballot. After all, they've agreed to live with legislative and judicial decisions on other hot-button issues, from abortion to religious freedom, even when those decisions haven't gone their way.

Some argue that gay marriage is so unusual that it requires uncommon measures.

"Some cases that the courts decide are not brought to the people because people can actually see a rationale that the courts give to decide a particular case," says Kevin Smith, executive director of Cornerstone Policy Research, a conservative advocacy group with a New Hampshire focus.

"I don't think the pro-marriage folks can see any rationale for saying that same-sex couples have the right to marry. ... The courts haven't touched on the question of: 'Why do we have marriage in society and what's the purpose of it?' We think it's just a really shallow argument from the courts."

The marriage issue is the latest part of a broader critique of particular branches of government. In Maine, Heath challenges the integrity of heavily-lobbied lawmakers, where he says both parties are "are at best uninterested in serious, meaningful, theological and moral discussion ... of issues related to marriage, sexuality and family formation."

In Iowa, charges center on a judiciary that critics say overstepped its authority. By seeking a popular vote for a constitutional amendment, activists hope to set a precedent with implications for how to handle other issues.

"We don't have to follow the model that was set before" when abortion opponents accepted *Roe v. Wade* as law of the land and then "legislated around the edges," says Bryan English, spokesman for the Iowa Family Policy Center, a conservative Christian lobbying group. "The path that they took did not bring an ultimate end to abortion yet. We have a responsibility ... to preserve the liberty that comes from separation of powers and vesting of political power ultimately in the people." (RNS)

COMMENTARY

Heavenly Father heals wounds

By Scott Wigginton

Q: As a single-mother of a teenage son, I worry that he will be permanently wounded by his father's decision to abandon our family when he was just a small boy. While my son has some great role models in teachers and committed men at church, can he ever really truly know what it means to have a dad?



A: Wounds can come from any human father. You are to be commended for making sure your son is connected to godly and committed Christian men. Part of their role is to reflect

a sense of the significance, security, and approval with which his heavenly Father has endowed him.

As your son grows in his faith, it will be important for him to understand the aspects of God which best describe His nature and character. Understanding the names of God may help your son comprehend just how great is the Father's power to heal a deep wound.

■ El Shaddai is the Giver and Sustainer of Life, capable of the most tender care.

■ El Elyon is the All Powerful, Most High, capable of overcoming anything.

■ El Olam is the Everlasting One, steady and capable of absolute faithfulness.

■ El Roi is the One Who Sees, ever watchful and capable of knowing everything.

El Shaddai is more than capable of being a tender "father to the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5), even collecting his "tears in a bottle" (Ps. 58:8). El Elyon is more than capable of providing your son with men of Christian honor. El Olam will never miss an important event, or skip a ballgame. And El Roi will know the deepest concerns of your son's heart.

Be absolutely sure that the One who possessed the power to raise His only Son as a wounded healer from the grave has the power and the love to extend both the love and healing of a Father and a Brother (Christ Jesus) to your son.

Scott Wigginton is associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Is your giving worshipful?

By Doug Strader

The word worship comes from the Anglo-Saxon *weoth* (worthy) and *scipe* (quality or state of), which became worthship and then worship. To worship God then is to ascribe to Him supreme worth.

The Psalmist said, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name" (Psalms 29:2). The Bible writers use such phrases as "to glorify," "to ascribe worth," "to bow down," and "to prostrate oneself" to describe worship. So how do we relate worship and giving? Are we giving in such a way that we ascribe "worthship" to Him? Is there a sense of joy in our giving?

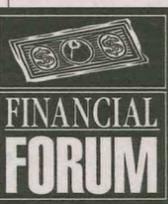
In the Old Testament, God's people were instructed to make offerings to God as a part of their worship. They were to offer the first fruits of their crops and their very best animals to God.

After Jesus' death as the sacrificial Lamb of God, the Christian community no longer practiced grain and animal sacrifices. Jesus was offered as the perfect sacrifice, never to be repeated again. Now the church was to give offerings to God from their material possessions as an act of worship. The Apostle Paul writes that our offerings are to be a sweet smelling aroma to God.

Each time we give our offerings, we need to ask ourselves if our offerings are a pleasing aroma to God. During our worship, the offering is not just a collection made by the ushers, rather it is a time when we are offering our best to God. If we were following the lead of the early church, we all would bring our offering to the altar and present it to God. However we can still worship God with our offerings when we sit in our seat and give when the ushers pass the offering plate.

The next time you give your offerings to God, prepare yourself to make sure that it is a time of worship. "Dear God, here is my offering, I pray that it will be a sweet smelling aroma to you."

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville



Does your perspective on life match your Creator's?

By John Yeats

For every individual on planet earth there is a perspective about what life is all about. There are millions of perspectives about how life is to be meaningful and significant. How people perceive life is the filter—the worldview people use to determine their decision making.

While the Christian community holds that the revelation of God is the authority for a person's worldview, the secular world attempts to propagate the idea that no authority outside the law of the community has the right to determine how life is to be lived. The secularist is at the whim of what everybody else thinks. The follower of Christ holds core values founded on the authority of God's word.

When a person chooses to surrender his/her life to the Lord Jesus, a worldview transformation occurs. Life is no longer about the individual's perspective. The way a person lives and the reason a person lives is to live for Christ, for His purposes. It is as if the Lord's worldview, His perspective, becomes the heartbeat of the child of God.

The Christian perspective does not imply some kind of monolithic lifestyle of uniformity. Although many have tried to demand common dress, common housing and common finances, believers have historically celebrated diversity within the parameters of biblical principles.

The faith perspective (the worldview of the follower of Christ) is consumed with the notion of obedience to God's ways rather than the pursuit of individualistic achievement. California pastor Rick Warren branded the phrase, "It's not about me—it's all about Him" to capture the idea that life's core values are for God's purposes.

Southern Baptist evangelist Manley Beasley was a renowned teacher on the concept of faith and its implications for life even when faced with suffering. Although most of his adult life was impacted by terminal illnesses, he believed that every day he lived was the direct result of God at work in his life and body. He possessed a keen perspective of life that many people, even Christians, overlook.

He often used a lemon to describe how to authenticate a person's worldview. "What do you get when you squeeze a lemon?" When stuff happens in life (the squeeze), he maintained that the reaction is what demonstrates a person's

genuine perspective of life. Then he would teach the Christians in his audience, "The Lord wants to bring us to the point that whenever we are squeezed, what comes out will be the nature and fragrance of Jesus."

There are places in Scripture where God's perspective is very clear. One of those is Psalm 96. In just a few precise words, the psalmist captures God's instructions about how people can fully embrace a biblical perspective on living a purposeful, productive life:

■ Boldly pronounce that God reigns over his creation. This is not a small thing when academia, the high places of government, education and the national media are harmoniously attempting to sing over the voices of God's children. However, even if we are the only voice, let our voices be heard that God, the living God reigns over all His creation. His creation is orderly and He orchestrates history to reveal His purposes.

■ The principles operating the earth are firmly established. Mankind's prideful, hedonistic attempts to modify nature are futile. God is not mocked by a segment of humans who think they know more than He does. The aggressive pursuit of excellence, open inquiry and honesty are characteristics of those people of faith whose mindset is congruent with the Creator.

■ While the naturalist believes there is not an end to earth as we know it, Biblicists unreservedly affirm the reality that in the end there is an ultimate accounting. Because of the teachings of the New Testament, the measurement of judicial equity in the end has to do with one's relationship with the person of the Lord Jesus.

■ Live a life of praise to the One who formed the universe by His breath. A life of praise has little to do with one's expressions at a church service and has everything to do with an attitude of life. Imagine the power of a person's life who is more engaged in loving God and others than consumed with pleasing self. This God-centered attitude impacts a person's ethics, business, education, church, etc.

When a person's life perspective coincides with the Creator's perspective, then one's potential to fulfill a life of significance and purposefulness is actualized.

Yeats is director of communications for the Louisiana Baptist Convention and recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Hunt responds to GCR critics, predicts approval of task force

By Tammi Ledbetter

Woodstock, Ga.—Greater funding of the Cooperative Program will occur when Southern Baptists have greater confidence their gifts support the priorities of North American church planting, global pioneer missions around the globe and theological education, declared Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt in an interview with four state Baptist paper editors.

Hunt responded to critics who he believes have misjudged his motive in calling for a task force to examine the denomination "at every level" via his "Great Commission Resurgence" declaration. Far from having "a hidden agenda," the Georgia pastor said his proposal seeks accountability for the investment of mission dollars.

He predicted his call for a study will be approved overwhelmingly by messengers to the June 23-24 SBC meeting in Louisville, and he endorsed an appeal from editors of the Florida Baptist Witness, Georgia Christian Index, Illinois Baptist and Southern Baptist Texan that meet-ings of the prospective task force would be as open as possible.

Keep the 'teeth'

In spite of having restructured SBC entities a dozen years ago, Hunt said it's not too soon to look at it again. "The question was even asked in an [SBC] Executive Committee report—did we really make a great enough commitment in 1997?" Hunt recalled.

"There's a lot of fear out there because some have chosen to say that they question my intent, my motive," Hunt said.

He expects those who study the Convention will find "real celebration points" along the way. "I think they are going to say, 'Gosh, we're doing even better than we thought,' and at the same time say, 'We could do better.'"

Having made changes that provided a "win-win" result, Hunt said he would reject any appeal for removing Article IX calling for examination of the denominational structure. "That's like saying let's use this language we're all familiar with, but take any teeth out of it that might challenge us. The major change that could happen is in number nine. It gives people greater passion and desire to support the Cooperative Program as long as we continue over the years to hold ourselves to greater accountability."

Disagreement with Chapman

Responding to Executive Committee President Morris Chapman's contention in a May 29 Baptist Press column that "the slippage in Cooperative Program giving is at the local church level" where the percentage given has declined from 8.24 percent to 6.08 percent in the last decade, Hunt said the point is well taken.

He noted his own church's increase of another \$50,000 for the Cooperative Program for the second year in a row at a time when the budget for First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., was lowered. "It has got to begin with me. Are we using our

resources best to be a Great Commission church?" Hunt said he has heard from other local pastors who have made similar commitments to increased CP giving.

Last year the Woodstock church reported nearly \$17.5 million in undesignated receipts with \$432,977 given to the Cooperative Program, amounting to 2.48 percent, according to the Georgia Baptist Convention. In addition to \$57,500 sent to the local association, the congregation contributed \$175,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and reported nearly \$3 million for other mission gifts.

For critics to question Hunt's own commitment to the SBC by focusing on his church's percentage rather than the total dollars given is out of line, Hunt added. "Is there a point where you can't say that about someone who is so Southern Baptist involved?" he asked, emphasizing that 128 families from his church are serving in ministry fields and 78 Southern Baptist church plants have been planted during his tenure.

"It's something that really is not in writing that every church give 10 percent to CP," Hunt said. Designating funds made it possible to underwrite a major outreach effort of the IMB in the Middle East, he said.

Hunt rejected the charge that he desires to redefine Cooperative Program giving to include designated gifts. "I never said that. I don't feel that way and I'm not going to push for that. One day maybe there will be another way to celebrate those who choose to be more personally involved and go where their money goes and be involved in a different way in Southern Baptist life instead of really large CP dollars." Pastors who lead those churches are committed to the SBC, he said, but "placed out there as non-missional."

"Divisive" and "distracting"

In a May 29 BP column Chapman also challenged Hunt for thinking "reorganizing the Convention is the road to revival," characterizing Article IX as "divisive" and "distracting."

"I pray that God sends revival," Hunt responded. "If He were to begin to give Southern Baptists once again a great impetus for incredible growth both financially and numerically, we still need to ask questions. Are we doing as much as we possibly can in making the funds available to areas that have brought us together," he added, referring to missions.

"I think there are some things that if we address them now could move us forward with greater unity into the future," Hunt said.

He clarified his motive for examining the bureaucracy, stating, "If we look back at 1976, it took less than 1 percent of the CP budget to fund the national headquarters and now it's at 2.86 percent of a much larger budget," Hunt said, referring to the Executive Committee. "Is there accountability in place? Is it fair to ask the question, 'Can the bureaucracy quit getting bigger and bigger so that when the money gets bigger we're able to send greater portions?'"

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

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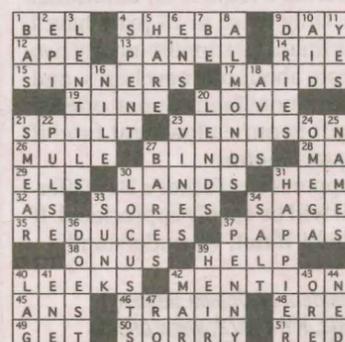
Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "Sing unto him, sing ____ unto him" (1 Chronicles 16:9)
- 7 Father of Abraham (Luke 3:34)
- 12 Hangs one's hat
- 14 Has a fit
- 15 Mount. measure
- 16 "When even was come, he ____ down with the twelve" (Matthew 26:20)
- 17 Nicklaus's needs
- 18 "You've got ____" (computer memo)
- 20 "I have ____ thee with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3)
- 22 Atlantic state (abbr.)
- 23 One who requires taming
- 25 Cast out
- 26 "These ____ times have ye reproached me" (Job 19:3)
- 27 "They call their lands after their own ____" (Psalm 49:11)
- 29 Gossip (colloq.)
- 30 San ____, NM
- 32 "Manasseh ... hath made Judah also to sin with his ____" (2 Kings 21:11)
- 34 "____ tu": how Juan would say, "It's you."
- 35 Loose
- 37 French seasoning
- 38 Before (prefix)
- 39 Tribe of Israel
- 43 Energy unit (abbr.)
- 44 Rector's residence
- 46 Raconteur's revelation
- 47 Dromedary, to Bismarck
- 49 Nicotine's no-good partner
- 51 Chemical suffix

Last week's solution



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55								56				

- 52 Emulate Daniel Webster
- 53 Moved, emotionally
- 55 What Naaman was (2 Kings 5:1)
- 56 "Owls shall dwell there, and ____ shall dance there" (Isaiah 13:21)

Down

- 1 Hyde Park sight (pl.)
- 2 Hebrew term, found in Psalms
- 3 Just waking up
- 4 Chinese measure of distance
- 5 AMA members
- 6 "Shut up the words, and ____ the book" (Daniel 12:4)
- 7 "When he hath ____ me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10)
- 8 "Is any thing too ____ for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)
- 9 Time past
- 10 Gives; pays
- 11 Go along with
- 13 "Laying up in ____ for themselves a good foundation against the time to come" (1 Timothy 6:19)
- 19 Loans

- 21 "O ____ me with thy salvation" (Psalm 106:4)
- 24 ____ and Remembrance (H Wouk novel)
- 26 Up to the time of
- 28 "Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall ____ and weep" (Luke 6:25)
- 29 KJV verb
- 30 "I go to ____ a place for you" (John 14:2)
- 31 Conger
- 33 Through (prefix)
- 34 Israeli statesman Levi
- 36 Aeries
- 38 More wan
- 40 Hirsute
- 41 Church leader
- 42 Bassoon, and others
- 44 "With what measure ye ____, it shall be measured to you" (Matthew 7:2)
- 45 The one who ____ blood shall bear his iniquity (Leviticus 17:14, 16)
- 48 Cartographer's triumph
- 50 ____ Novosti, Russian news agency
- 54 Not left (abbr.)

When he looks to the future... what does he see?

Kentucky children who are victims of neglect and abuse can face a dark future. It is our goal to make it a little brighter through:

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Drugs, alcohol carry hefty social cost, studies show

By Erin Roach

Nashville—The social cost of drug use has been analyzed in two federal studies released recently, including one that says half of the men arrested in 10 major U.S. cities tested positive for at least one illegal drug.

A second study found that substance abuse and addiction cost federal, state and local governments at least \$468 billion in 2005, accounting for more than one-tenth of combined government expenditures for all purposes.

According to the first report, from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, a survey of drug use among booked male arrestees in metropolitan areas across the country found that as many as 87 percent tested positive for an illegal drug.

Drug use among the arrestee population is much higher than in the general population, the study, released May 28, said. The percentage of arrestees testing positive for at least one illicit drug ranged from 49 percent in Washington, D.C., to 87 percent in Chicago.

The most common substances present during tests, in descending order, were marijuana, cocaine, opiates and methamphetamine, the report said. Many men tested positive for more than one illegal drug within 48 hours of their booking.

White House officials said the findings underscore a serious need to expand programs that work to divert nonviolent offenders into drug treatment programs instead of prison, given that more than 80 percent of arrestees in eight of the cities had at least one prior arrest.

"Not only does this new report reaffirm the strong link between drug use and crime, but it also tells us that we must concentrate our resources on programs that have been proven to break the cycle of drugs and crime," Gil Kerlikowske, director

of National Drug Control Policy, said.

"Incarcerating offenders without treating underlying substance abuse problems simply defers the time when they are released back into our communities to start harming themselves and our communities again," Kerlikowske said.

Meanwhile, a report from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that of the \$3.3 trillion in total federal and state government spending, 11 percent was spent on tobacco, alcohol and illegal and prescription drug abuse and addiction and its consequences.

Of the \$374 billion in federal and state spending on those vices, more than 95 percent went to "shovel up the consequences and human wreckage of substance abuse and addiction" while only 1.9 percent was spent on prevention and treatment, the study said.

The report, also released May 28, was based on three years of research and is the first to assess the costs of tobacco, alcohol and illegal and prescription drug abuse to all levels of government.

"Under any circumstances, spending more than 95 percent of taxpayer dollars on the crime, health care costs, child abuse, domestic violence, homelessness and other consequences of tobacco, alcohol and illegal and prescription drug abuse and addiction and only 2 percent to relieve individuals and taxpayers of these burdens is a reckless misallocation of public funds," Joseph Califano Jr., the center's chairman, said.

Most of the spending on the burden of substance abuse and addiction went to health care, with the second largest amount spent on justice systems, including incarceration, probation, parole and criminal, juvenile and family courts.

Califano said any attempt to reform health care in the United States without

providing for prevention and treatment of substance abuse and addiction would be absurd.

The study also said if substance abuse and addiction were its own budget category at the federal level, it would rank sixth behind social security, national defense, income security, Medicare and other health programs including the federal share of Medicaid. And if substance abuse and addiction were its own state budget category, it would rank second behind spending on elementary and secondary education.

For each dollar in alcohol and tobacco taxes and liquor store revenues that federal and state governments collect, the report said they spend \$8.95 dealing with the consequences of substance abuse and addiction.

Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy at the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the studies confirm that the nation is in the midst of a drug abuse crisis in which millions of lives are being destroyed every year.

In the multifaceted war on drugs, the United States must continue to work to stop the flow of illicit drugs into the country, Duke said. Citizens must do all they can to discourage illicit drug use and work harder to help people overcome drug dependency and gain the skills and opportunities they need to break the cycle of drug abuse and crime, he said.

"This effort will require more than government engagement. The church's involvement is crucial," Duke said. "Our ministry of evangelism must be only our beginning point in assisting people struggling with drug dependency and crime. After they have trusted Jesus as their Savior, the church must welcome them into loving environments that can provide them with the spiritual, emotional and other support and training needed to reclaim their lives." (BP)

PAC letter: oppose slots

Continued from page 1

In encouraging Baptists to express opposition, PAC member John Chowning, vice president for church relations at Campbellsville University, said, "The proposal to place video lottery terminals at the race tracks in Kentucky is bad public policy, a highly addictive form of gambling, and a regressive source of revenue for government."

The letter, signed by Strahan and KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, cited four major public policy concerns:

- In order for Kentucky to gain the projected increase of \$796 million in tax revenue, people must gamble more than \$5.3 billion each year.

- Slot machines are the most addictive form of gambling ever devised.

- Slot machines will not help the horse industry, since players will not be in the grandstands.

- Legislation authorizing slot machines likely will be challenged as unconstitutional.

"For the sake of the Commonwealth's future, we ask you to stand with us in opposing expanded gambling," the letter urged. "It will do great harm to our people and our economy."

Bill Henard, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, agreed. "I am concerned about the expansion of gambling in our state because we will be utilizing an activity that can lead to an addictive behavior as a means of helping our state's financial woes," the Lexington pastor said. "Those families who need the most help are the ones who will be most adversely affected by this decision."

OBI Father's Day Offering can really help

Funds supply scholarships for students needing aid

Unless you have been living in another galaxy, you are keenly aware of the financial challenges facing our nation. Books will be written about how our economy got into this sad condition, and later many volumes will be written about what our political leaders should have done, but didn't, and about what they have done but shouldn't have.

I am certain that many Americans are still confused about how our economy got into this condition. Many are concerned about how they are going to make ends meet in the years ahead. Particularly hurting are those who retired just before the market crash last November. Many thought they had done everything correctly in order to enjoy retirement. Now, after they have seen their retirement savings nearly evaporate, they may have to re-enter the work force but will likely earn a lot less money. I recently saw a T-shirt that said, "I feel certain I have enough in my 401k account to take care of my retirement needs...as long as I die tomorrow."

Our KBC leaders have been telling us for months that we will likely have a shortfall in receipts from Cooperative Program giving by the end of the fiscal year. It's a chain reaction; individuals are hurting financially so giving to their church is affected. When tithes and offerings diminish, gifts to the Cooperative Program suffer. When Cooperative Program gifts are down the KBC budget is not met. That means all of those who receive KBC funds, like OBI, also are affected.

The Father's Day Offering will be this Sun-

day. While we do not depend on the offering to meet budget needs, we do depend on it to help supply scholarship funds for students from low-income families. Actually, it is not just students from low-income families who are requesting additional scholarship funds these days; many other students are also in need of additional financial assistance.

As I have written in my "thank-you" letters to our donors, people cannot give what they do not have. All we can do is ask our friends across the state to consider the Father's Day Offering and the students who will be helped by it. I deeply appreciate a note I received a few days ago from one of our faithful friends. It only had three sentences, but it made not just my day, but my whole month. She wrote, "OBI is a good investment of the Lord's money. They never ask for offerings and they even acknowledge the Campbell's labels they receive. God bless them every one."

Since there is the Father's Day Offering, I guess you could argue that we do ask for offerings. But if you have been a supporter of this ministry, you have likely never received a request for additional financial assistance. Only twice in 15 years have I asked our friends for financial support—nearly two years ago when I wrote about our new buses, and 14 years ago when an anonymous donor offered us a very generous gift to our endowment fund if we could raise an equal amount.

If your church supports the Father's Day Offering, just know that it will be deeply appreciated. If you can give it will help. If not, we understand.

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

Missions in a briefcase

Team sees God work through lost luggage

A mission team from Clear Creek recently traveled to North Dakota to help flood victims during the day and hold revivals at night. An exciting thing happened after student Tim Christopher unknowingly left his briefcase on top of the van when they were loading their luggage for the trip.

"When we arrived and were unloading our luggage from the van I looked for my briefcase but could not find it anywhere," Christopher said. "I was pretty upset because it had my Bible and the sermons I was going to be preaching, along with some other items."

"Shortly thereafter I received a call from my mother and she asked me if I was missing anything," Christopher said. "She then began to tell me one of the most amazing stories I have ever heard."

"A man from Louisiana was traveling the interstate when he spotted a briefcase lying right in the middle of the road. He stopped and picked up the briefcase and began rummaging through the contents. He found my Bible, which had four years of notes and quotes written between those pages. He also found my sermon and my notebook that

I write everything down on. And there was one more thing that he found. There, tucked away inside the folds of that case, was a CD with a sermon on the security of the believer. He played the CD and began to listen. As he drove down the interstate he realized something; this man, who grew up in church and felt that God could never forgive him of his sins, pulled his car over to the side of the road and surrendered his life to Jesus Christ."

"This man was so thankful for what took place that day that he somehow found my parents phone number and called to tell them this story of discovery," Christopher said. "He wants to meet me and he said that as soon as he's able, he will mail me my belongings."

"I don't care if I ever get those things back," Christopher said. "My reward has already been given and my God has already blessed me beyond measure. I serve a mighty and wonderful God who knew what it was going to take to get ones man attention and another man's complete devotion in serving Him."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

At Campbellsville University

Blomberg to lead January Bible Study preview

By Joan McKinney

Campbellsville—Craig Blomberg, a distinguished professor of New Testament at the Denver Seminary in Littleton, Colo., will be the speaker at Campbellsville University's January Bible Preview Thursday, Aug. 6, in the banquet hall of the Student Union Building on the main campus.

Blomberg will speak on: "Parables of the Kingdom from the Gospel of Matthew." The event is from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the Campbellsville University School of Theology and the church relations council.

"Craig Blomberg is one of the most recognized evangelical New Testament scholars in the world today," said John Hurtgen, dean of the School of Theology. "Campbellsville University is honored indeed to welcome a scholar of Dr. Blomberg's distinction and prominence to our campus."

Hurtgen said the January Bible Study is an initiative of the Southern Baptist Convention and usually consists of a multi-week study of either an Old Testament or New Testament book of the Bible. The Bible study for 2010, however, is thematically focused on parables of the kingdom in the Gospel of Matthew.

Blomberg earned his doctorate at the Aberdeen University in Scotland, where

he studied the parables of Jesus and the writing of Luke and Acts. He received a master of arts degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a bachelor of arts degree from Augustana College.



Craig Blomberg

Before joining the faculty of Denver Seminary in 1986, he taught at Palm Beach Atlantic College and was a research fellow at Tyndale House, Cambridge, England.

"While most of his research and writing has focused on Jesus and the gospels—with a particular focus on the historical Jesus—as an evangelical scholar he has courageously tackled such issues as women in ministry, socio-economic issues and Christian and Mormon dialogue," Hurtgen said.

Blomberg's introductions to Jesus and the Gospels, the parables of Jesus, and the historical reliability of the Gospels are used as standard texts in many seminaries and universities.

In addition to writing numerous articles in professional journals, multi-author works and dictionaries or encyclopedias, Blomberg has authored or edited 15 books, including "Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey," which Broadman & Holman is releasing in its second edition; "The Historical Reliability of the Gospels, Interpreting the Parables"; Matthew (New American Commentary); 1 Corinthians (NIV Application Commen-

tary); "Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions"; "Making Sense of the New Testament"; "Preaching the Parables; Contagious Holiness: Jesus' Meals with Sinners"; and "From Pentecost to Patmos: An Introduction to Acts through Revelation."

The January Bible Study Preview is open to laypersons as well as pastors and other ministers in the church.

Hurtgen said CU wants to offer pastors, who may lead the study themselves in their churches, the opportunity to have "excellent preparation by a leading biblical scholar." He said the School of Theology also has persons who attend "because they love Bible study."

He said, "The January Bible Study Preview also allows the School of Theology a chance to showcase one of its passions—God's powerful word—to Kentucky churches in our surrounding communities." Hurtgen also noted that Campbellsville has a full academic program called Biblical Studies at the undergraduate level and an 18-hour emphasis in the Master of Theology program at the graduate level.

The January Bible Study Preview consists of four sessions. Registration is from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. with a welcome at 1 p.m., and the first session starting at 1:15 p.m. Dinner is at 6 p.m., and the session closes at 8:30 p.m. The only charge is for the dinner, and reservations are strongly encouraged by calling (270) 789-5077 or emailing jehurtgen@campbellsville.edu.

Ky. minister under fire for guns at church event

Louisville—A Kentucky minister is giving new meaning to the phrase "praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

Pastor Kenneth Pagano of New Bethel Church in Louisville set off a firestorm of criticism after asking parishioners to bring unloaded firearms to church.

Pagano's congregation, which is part of the Assemblies of God denomination, will host the event, dubbed an "Open Carry Celebration," on June 27 to celebrate the Fourth of July and the First and Second Amendments; the latter upholds the right to bear arms.

With handguns secured in holsters, attendees can expect picnic food, patriotic music and a gun safety presentation. "All that is asked is that you bring a sidearm, a friend who has a sidearm and a canned good for the local food bank," reads the church's online flyer.

Pagano, a certified concealed weapons instructor and former Marine, promises tight security to ensure safety. He envisioned the outreach event as a way to "touch our community and attract people who don't normally attend church."

Critics have lifted up Christian messages of peace and non-violence, as well as raising safety concerns.

"To have a pastor encouraging people to bring guns to church really contradicts at least the way I learned the Bible," said Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "Most religions tell us to put down the sword, to put down the gun." (RNS)

Baptists offer help to troubled soldiers

Continued from page 3

In May, Pastor Kevin Lee led a devotional at a surgical hospital on the base. He also fields weekly counseling calls or visits with soldiers who need a listening ear.

Last fall several members worked on a Chamber of Commerce committee to organize a non-denominational worship service during a community military salute.

And, just before the last school year started, New Work organized a drive to provide free school supplies to an elementary school where 80 percent of the students come from military families.

"Operation Backpack" wound up getting enough materials to help children from five schools.

While all that is of help, Lee said the first thing the congregation is trying to do is provide a home where soldiers can let their hair down.

"The main thing is we're trying to provide them a safe place where they can be who they are

and find hope," Lee said. "There is a fear of appearing weak or that (something) will get into their records. That creates a danger of insulation, which becomes isolation."

That isolation can turn into anxiety, depression, insomnia or a short fuse when it comes to family or other stresses, said Self, who joined Cornerstone Counseling a year ago.

She loves being part of a Christian-based service, since she feels much freer to pray with clients than during a 30-year career in general counseling.

"I feel it's important to accept whatever value system they have but I try to introduce Christian values," said Self, a member of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

"I offer to pray with people, and nine out of 10 love that. I feel called into this kind of ministry. I lean heavily on the Holy Spirit. I believe he has directed me and will continue to show me how to help these people."

Families experiencing deployment stress

Continued from page 3

the pastor for counseling; April said they needed a chance to talk to someone without their children present.

"Just being there for us and encouraging us," Mrs. Morgan said of the help they received from their pastor. "He would follow up, too, by calling to ask, 'Are you okay? Do you need anything?'"

She also cited practical help, such as the time in early June that she had a flat tire and Warren was out of state on training maneuvers. A member told her where she could get the flat repaired, while another who is a policeman helped quell some difficulties with a neighbor.

Another member who owns a farm near Hopkinsville offered to her the use of it as a place to relax and read while the children play.

"There have been so many ways they've helped us," Mrs. Morgan said. "What I like about the people is they don't even necessarily try to take credit for what they do. They would come mow my lawn

when I wasn't home. They're really caring."

In Army-oriented support groups that Jennifer Gillette attends, 98 percent of the stresses wives express concern the demands of single parenting.

Although she and her husband don't have any children, they still face regular separations—Sgt. Mike Gillette is currently on his fourth deployment in 12 years.

Though she stays busy with two home-based businesses and volunteers with a ministry to Army women, Mrs. Gillette appreciates the friendships she has formed at New Work.

"I think the relationships I've developed ... have really helped," she said. "There is a group of people who I feel that really are praying for me."

The support includes practical assistance. Recently, when a storm damaged a piece of gutter on her home, she posted a note on Facebook and quickly received a call from a church member who said, "I'll be right over."

* Name changed to protect identity.

check out the

SCENE @ SOUTHERN

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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following requests associated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions efforts. Pray for the following Kentucky Baptist churches and associations that will be taking part in All the World Projects around the globe over the next few weeks:

Allen Baptist Association: Milan, Italy.

Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset: Tanzania.

Christian County Baptist Association: Brazil.

Crestwood Baptist Church: Naples, Italy.

First Baptist Church, Richmond: Portugal.

Pulaski County Baptist Association: Nicaragua.

Three Forks Baptist Association: Mexico.

For more information about partnership missions opportunities, contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529, toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529, or visit www.KyBaptist.org/Partnership.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Mill Creek Church recently called **Steven Graves** as youth pastor. The church also ordained **Kelley Dickerson** and **Dan Meece** as deacons June 7. **Gary Chesser** is pastor.
■ **BENTON**—**Jack Kee** recently resigned as pastor of Bethlehem Church.
■ **BEREA**—Galilee Church recently called **Lee Abney** as pastor.

Gethsemane Church ordained **Mark Gabbard** to the gospel ministry June 7. **Ed Cartez** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church recently called **Greg Cagle** as creative arts worship pastor. He previously served as minister of music at First Church of Pikeville. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

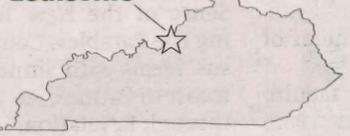
■ **LONDON**—**Ronnie Bruner** recently resigned as pastor of Emmanuel Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host a community celebration June 20, 2 p.m., with free food and live music. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Midlane Park Church will host a cornhole tournament June 27 to

Spotlight on ...

Louisville



Bethany Church will host International Mission Board President **Jerry Rankin** as guest speaker June 21, 10:30 a.m. **Chuck Fuller** is pastor.

benefit Louisville's South East Associated Ministries. Cost for the event is \$30 per team. For more information, call Andy at (502) 500-5881, or visit www.DerbyCityCornhole.com.

■ **NEBO**—Silent Run Church recently called **Wayne Lamb** as pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Woodstock Church recently called **Donavon Burton** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Bradfordsville Church.

Monticello, Salvisa Baptists start building for Jenkins ministry

By Shirley Cox
State Correspondent

Jenkins—Volunteers from First Baptist Church, Monticello and Salvisa Baptist Church near Harrodsburg dug footers and poured concrete June 6 for a 2,880 square-foot building in Jenkins, Ky.

The upper level of the new building for the My Father's House center will house a sanctuary, baptistry and classroom, with a bridge to the upper level of the existing mission house. The lower level will consist of a small waiting area, two dental clinic rooms and a large open area for food, diapers and clothing.

A few months ago, Calvin McFarland, a postal service employee and member of First Baptist Church in Monticello, never dreamed God would lead him to coordinate a

building project. But after a friend gave Lester McPeek's phone number to him, McFarland felt compelled to call. "Lester got all shaky-voiced," McFarland said. "He had just finished praying with a group of men for God to send someone."

In January, Mission Service Corps missionaries Lester and Bessie McPeek's shared about the ministry in McFarland's Sunday School class in Monticello. The next day, McPeek called McFarland and said, "We think you need to be the one that builds our church."

"I'm not a contractor," he replied. "I don't know anything about it."

"We just feel like God is leading us to get you to do it," McPeek said.

For a week, McFarland wrestled with God, knowing the work was way out of his comfort zone. "Final-

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 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.
- 24-25 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Beautiful oak pulpit (like new). In church at 4401 Frankfort Road, Shelbyville, Ky. Call (502) 321-1621 or (502) 633-1710.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Pembroke Baptist Church. Send resumés to PO Box 219, Pembroke, KY 42266.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Ekron Baptist Church, Meade County, Ky. Looking for someone on fire for the Lord, experienced in building projects, experienced in the pulpit, seminary graduate ready for growth opportunities. If qualified, send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Ekron Baptist Church, PO Box 1005, Brandenburg, KY 40108; or e-mail to keithm@bbtel.com.

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 resumé (and video, if available) to wmclain50@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Experienced and versatile musician for Washington Street Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky. Individual should be able to play by ear and have some music reading abilities. Competitive salary, along with opportunity for growth. Resumés may be sent to kharrisadminasst@bellsouth.net; or Washington Street Baptist Church, 721 Washington St., Paducah, KY 42003.

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 resumés via e-mail to bba-domsearch@bellsouth.net; or to Search Committee, Beaverdam Baptist Association, 1659 Sandifer Blvd., Seneca, SC 29678. Resumés 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.

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

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church of Olive Hill, Ky. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 568, Olive Hill, KY 41164, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Steubenville Baptist Church, Monticello, Ky. Send resumés to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1553, Monticello, KY 42633; or e-mail resumés to sbcpastorsearch@hotmail.com.

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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: 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.

WNBA rookie looks to 'be a light' for Christ

By Joshua Cooley

San Antonio—For years, Megan Frazee has known little but the cozy confines of a close-knit, Christian family.

One of three triplets, she has enjoyed a built-in support network for virtually all of her 22 years, a path which has led her to the doorstep of professional basketball fame. The scenery might have changed a lot along the way—her parents' education jobs took the family from Laredo, Texas, to Miller, S.D., and to Xenia, Ohio—but the godly example of her father and mother and the tight bond between her siblings never did.

Bye-bye, comfort zone. Hello, big, new world.

Frazee, a 6-foot-3 guard/forward who earned Associated Press honorable mention All-America honors from Liberty University last season, is suddenly being thrust into an unfamiliar existence halfway across the country from her loved ones. Drafted 14th overall in April by the San Antonio Silver Stars, she began her professional career in earnest on June 6, when the Silver Stars opened their WNBA regular season in Phoenix.

In many ways, she is officially on her own.

"I am thankful for my upbringing," said Frazee, who placed her

faith in Christ at age 5. "Ultimately, my parents raised me the majority of my life. I really feel blessed. I think they did a great job of teaching us about the Lord and teaching us where our priorities need to be—the Lord No. 1, then family, and then basketball."

Evaluating Frazee strictly by her athletic skills, you'd never know basketball was that far down the list. She finished her career as a two-time Big South Conference player of the year who holds Liberty career records in double-doubles (50) and free-throw percentage (.805), is second in points (1,883) and third in rebounds (951). Had she not missed 25 games total during her freshman and senior years, she likely would own several more school records.

Last season, she averaged 19.8 points and 9.9 rebounds per game, earned the Big South tournament MVP award and helped the Lady Flames advance to their 12th NCAA tournament in the last 13 years.

"Not a lot of players get this opportunity," Liberty head coach Carey Green said of Frazee's entrance into the WNBA. "She's a gifted and natural scorer; that is her strength. She's got a great physique to play at the next level. With her development and playing career at Liberty, she had a huge impact on our success—and not only on our team, but I think she impacted the Big South overall."

In San Antonio, Frazee's challenge will be to morph from a four-year small-conference standout to a rookie role player in a premier league. The Silver Stars, who reached last year's WNBA Finals before losing to the Detroit Shock, are loaded with talent, including 2008 All-WNBA stars Becky Hammon and Sophia Young. Indeed, playing time will be a hard-earned commodity.

"Especially in San Antonio, they are a veteran team," Frazee said. "They are experienced girls. I know it's going to be a tran-

sition. I'm going in with an open mind and an open heart."

While San Antonio head coach/general manager Dan Hughes is impressed with Frazee's sturdy frame and her ability to "shoot like a male" from the perimeter, it likely will be her defensive acumen that gets her on the floor this summer. She will probably fill the roles of small and power forward.

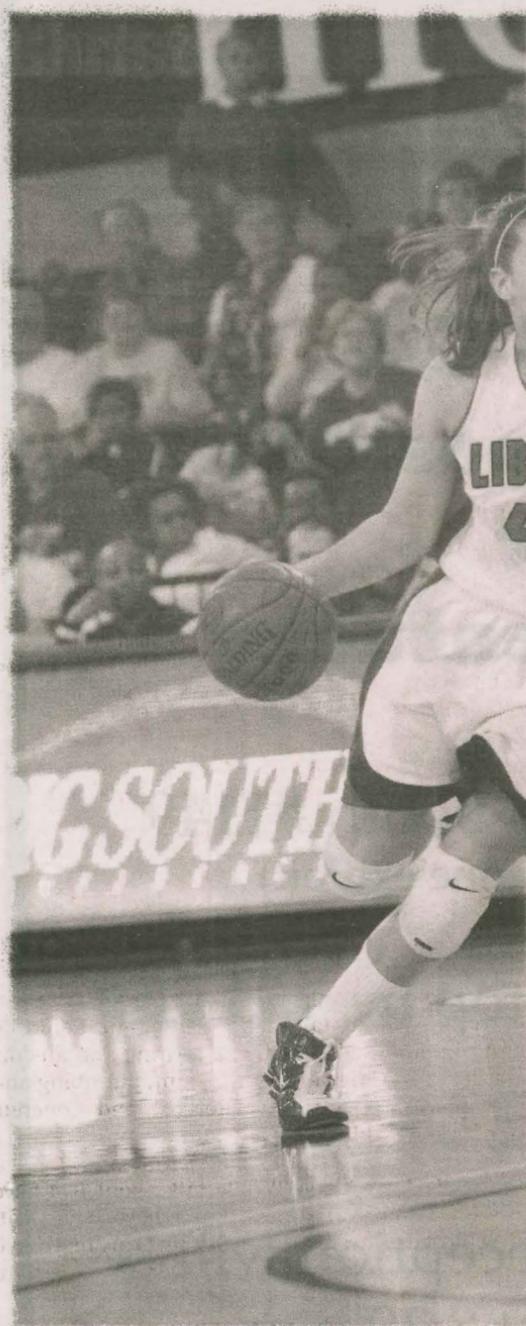
"I would say she'll have an opportunity to play off the bench, and if she defensively can get to a solid level, she'll compete to play some," Hughes said. "It will be a growing process this year and in her career."

Even more important than Frazee's on-court adjustments will be her spiritual maturation. The WNBA, like most other professional sports leagues, is flush with worldly temptations. She likely will face tests that never manifested themselves in her collegiate career.

She was home-schooled in grades 8-11 and has never attended a secular school. When all three triplets started their freshman year at Liberty, their parents and older brother moved to Lynchburg. Megan and her sisters, Molly and Moriah, shared a dorm and a car at an institution—with its mandatory curfew and chapel attendance—that will never be confused for a party school.

Now, her family is roughly 1,400 miles away. But Frazee is confident that her faith will remain strong because of her deep spiritual roots and the unique training she received.

"Basketball has been a big part of my life, but I remember my dad always making sure I knew where my priorities were," she said. "Having two sisters there was like two accountability partners. Being at Liberty solidified everything I learned growing up. I'm really excited to get out there and be a light for Him." (BP)



His vision: Family zone for ballpark

By Susan Mires

St. Louis—Tim Jones walks and prays.

He lets the sandwich board strapped over his body tell the message: No more bars.

My idea is just to walk, pray and praise the Lord every which way I go," Jones said.

He's just one guy with a passion, but people are taking notice and his God-inspired vision may end up shaping the future of St. Louis: Jones is asking the city to not put any bars or taverns in the proposed Ballpark Village next to Busch Stadium in downtown St. Louis.

"I'm saying enough is enough," Jones said. "There are already 34 bars within a three-block radius of the stadium."

Jones became burdened with the idea one evening while watching the local news. The first report told of a highway worker being killed by a drunk driver, the next about plans to develop Ballpark Village as an entertainment district with bars and restaurants.

Jones, a father of five and member of Cross Keys Baptist Church in Florissant, Mo., said he realized there's no place downtown suitable for families to spend the day.

He felt led to prayerwalk around the new Busch Stadium, near the future Ballpark Village development. He started in January and every weekday since then he has walked around the stadium seven times.

One trek around is about a half-mile, so it takes Jones about an hour each day to make seven laps. He's worn out a pair of shoes and worked up blisters on his feet. As he walks, he prays for the area and the people passing by. Occasionally, they ask what

he's doing and he gets a chance to share.

His message is laser-focused on creating one area that is family friendly. He doesn't suggest shutting down any existing businesses, nor does he preach about the dangers of drinking.

"I'm not talking about what has happened in the past. I want to talk about what the future needs to be," he said.

Jones, 44, is familiar with the heartache of alcoholism. He grew up in bars with a mother who was into the party scene. He served 20 years in the U.S. Army and became an alcoholic.

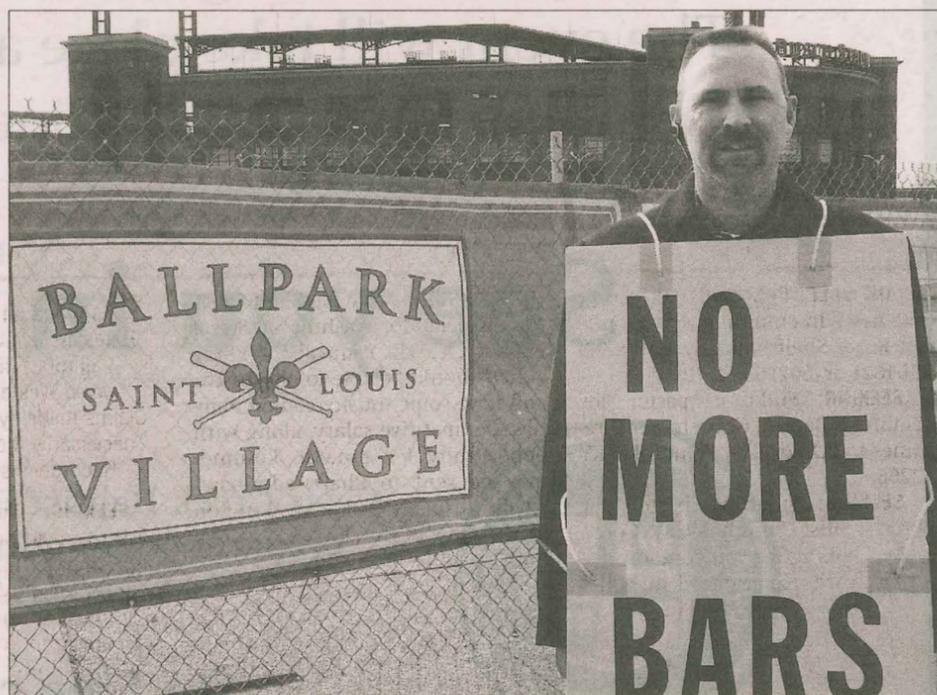
Set free from the addiction by Jesus Christ, Jones feels a burden for his community. Since the prayerwalking started, he organized the campaign under the name "One Voice."

"All it took was one voice," Jones said. "I truly believe prayer is the answer. I also believe it is Christians' responsibility to do something about the moral wrongness of society."

A Christ-like—and legal—approach is essential, Jones said. He doesn't get emotional; he simply shares the facts about his campaign. He must work the No More Bars effort around his job and family life as well as Bible college classes. He and his wife care for foster children and he's an active deacon at Cross Keys.

"His whole approach has been servant-minded from the beginning," said Jeff Wells, Cross Keys' pastor.

The No More Bars campaign started so quietly that few members knew about it at first, Wells said. But Jones' example has been inspiring.



NO BARS Tim Jones, often seen wearing a sandwich board, is waging a campaign for a family friendly zone near Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

"He went about this as a response to what God laid on his heart, without a lot of fanfare and without a lot of planning," Wells said. "He had the nerve to trust God and do all of this."

Creating an alcohol-free area would help achieve the city's goal of bringing more people into downtown, Jones said. His crusade has attracted attention. He's been interviewed on local television and radio stations.

Wells said he has enjoyed watching Jones become excited and grow with the

campaign.

"Tim is just glowing in the things God is doing in him and through him," the pastor said.

Jones said he hopes to bring people together to raise awareness of the issue while honoring God in every aspect.

"We're calling all Christians to make a stand and show the city and the Cardinals organization this is a one-voice thing," Jones said. "I don't know the whole outcome, but I do know God will have His glory." (BP)

See you at the Southern Baptist Convention!



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See you in Louisville!



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