

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

June 30, 2009  
Vol. 183, No. 26

## 2009 SBC OVERVIEW

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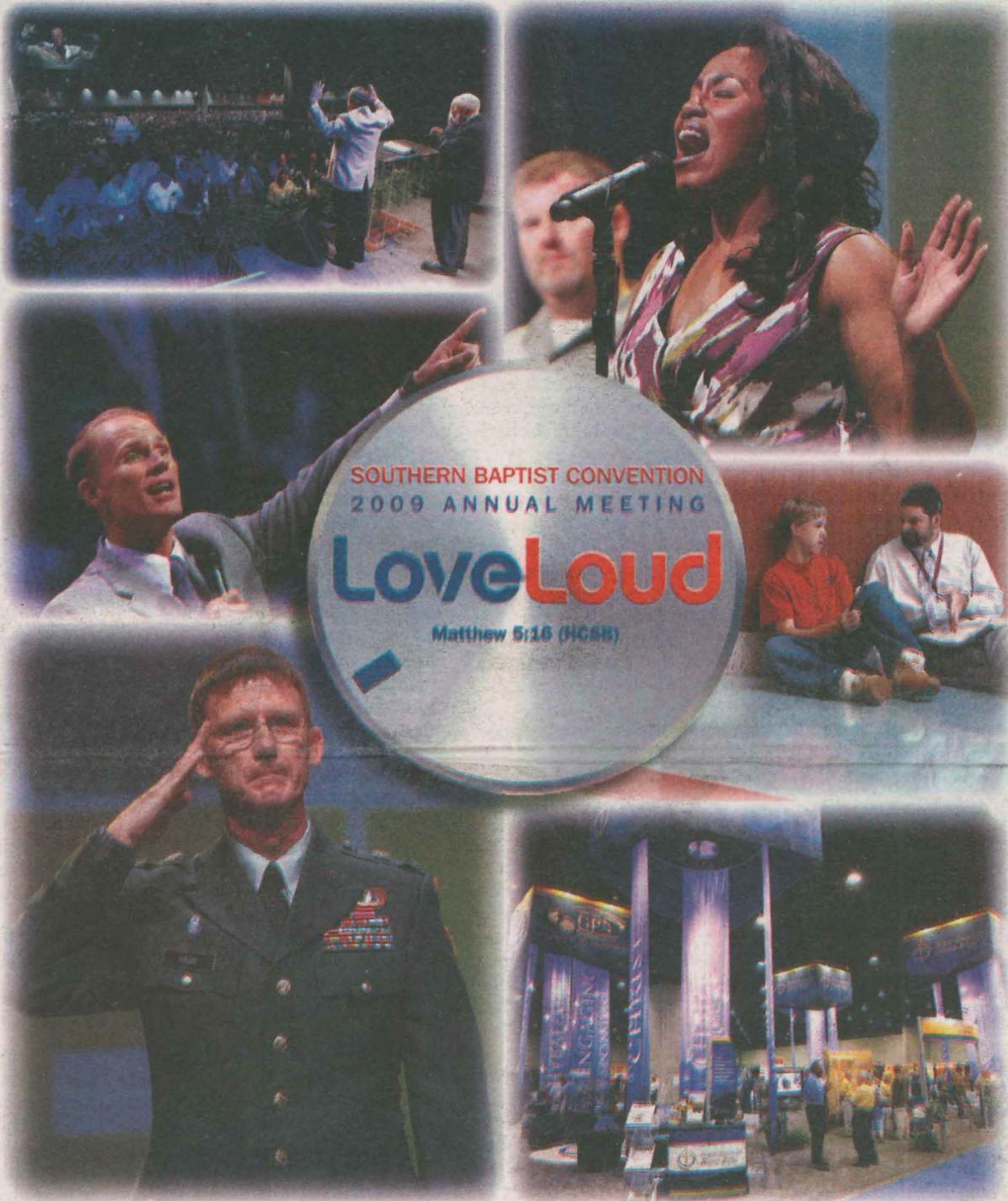
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**SCENES FROM THE SBC** (clockwise from top left) Tom Elliff speaks during the Pastors' Conference; singer Mandisa performs for messengers as part of the NAMB report; Chris Schochler, a student from Heritage Baptist Church in Winchester, talks with evangelist Scott Eadie before making a decision for Christ after the 'One' student rally; the NAMB exhibit; Chaplain (Col.) Pat Hash salutes messengers; music director Scott Allred leads worship.



## 'Resurgence' underway: SBC over, task force begins

### Somerset pastor Toby is elected as first VP

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Louisville—How can Southern Baptists get serious about being more effective in reaching the world for Christ?

That question was the collective heartbeat of nearly 8,800 messengers who gathered for this year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville. Spurred on by a "sense of urgency" conveyed by President Johnny Hunt in his convention address and other keynote speakers, messengers overwhelmingly approved the formation of a Great Commission Task Force.

Messengers also re-elected Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., to a second term as

SBC president. John Mark Toby, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, was elected first vice president. Stephen Rummage, pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., was elected second vice president.

Among the five resolutions adopted, messengers affirmed the election of President Barack Obama as a step toward racial reconciliation, but voiced their opposition to his policies regarding unborn life and homosexuality. They also encouraged more Southern Baptist families to consider adopting foster children.

Convention officials also noted a resurgence in attendance, which exceeded last year's registration in Indianapolis by more than 1,500. As expected, Kentucky had the largest number of messengers with 1,597,

nearly twice as many as the next largest state representation.

Urging Southern Baptists to "rise up and take a challenge," SBC President Hunt said the Great Commission Resurgence "is about all of us—starting with the local church—taking a look to see if we're doing the best we've ever done ... to fulfill the Great Commission."

In presenting the motion to create the GCR Task Force, Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, told messengers, "We sense from our churches an incredible desire to be even more active in the task of getting the gospel to the ends of the earth."

Although prior to the annual meeting some convention leaders had raised concerns related to denominational restructuring, Mohler assured messengers that there was "absolutely no reason to fear" asking

the question. Instead, "we have every reason to feel an excitement and an enthusiasm about asking in every single generation, indeed in every season, is there more we can do and can we do even more if we are more faithful in the task of deploying the conviction and passion of Southern Baptists in service to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ?"

On the last day of the meeting, Hunt named 18 individuals to serve on the GCR Task Force, which included Mohler and Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, whose Great Commission Resurgence declaration in a chapel address helped spark the task force initiative. Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., was appointed chairman. The task force will bring its report during next year's annual meeting June 15-16 in Orlando, Fla.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, July 1

## Slots bill dies in Senate, Ky. Baptists commended

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Frankfort—Members of a Senate committee June 22 voted down a bill that would have brought expanded gambling to the commonwealth.

The Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee voted 10-5 to not allow House Bill 2 to be considered by the full Senate, effectively killing it. The bill would have allowed video lottery terminals to be placed at nearly all of Kentucky's horse-racing tracks.

The defeat came just days after House members voted 52-45 in favor of the bill.

Proponents of the legislation claimed it was needed to save the state's floundering horse industry. They said breeders and owners are taking their horses out of Kentucky to race in states where purses are boosted by slot machines at racetracks.

On the flip side, opponents of the legislation, including the Kentucky Baptist Convention, repeatedly warned against expanded gambling's social consequences and potential harm it could cause families.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey commended lawmakers and their constituents who stood against the slots bill.

"I am so grateful for pastors, (directors of missions) and laypersons who have resisted expanded gambling," Mackey said in an e-mail statement, adding that Senate President David Williams, R-Burkesville, especially deserves credit for the bill's defeat.

"I am grateful that there are public leaders who will take a stand" against expanded gambling, Mackey added.

The slots bill became the focus of a legislative special session that began June 15. Gov. Steve Beshear called the session to address the state's projected \$1 billion budget shortfall for the coming fiscal year.

Beshear's plan called for slot machine-like video lottery terminals to be placed at seven of Kentucky's eight horse-racing tracks. The machines would have been administered by the Kentucky Lottery Corp.

That move had anti-slots groups crying foul. They contended that when the lottery was approved by Kentucky voters in 1988, the legislation included nothing about slot machines. Representatives from the Family Foundation of Kentucky even had promised a lawsuit if Beshear's bill were passed.

Meanwhile, in an effort to sweeten the bill for legislators who may have been on the fence about the issue, House Speaker Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, earmarked revenues that would have gone to school building and repair projects and other educational needs.

Acknowledging the need to help the state's struggling horse industry, Williams proposed his own bill that would tax lottery ticket sales and out-of-state wagers at Kentucky racetracks in order to boost purses at those tracks. The bill was unanimously approved by the Senate, but was never considered by the House.

That meant a stalemate and ultimately, the end of the expanded gambling push—for now.

According to a Louisville Courier-Journal report last weekend, expanded gambling proponents, primarily the horse-racing industry, now will devote their attention—and money—to the 2010 general elections and ousting legislators who oppose expanded gambling.

In addition, Stumbo was quoted by the paper as saying that while he expects another push for VLTs in 2010, such an effort would have to start in the Republican-controlled Senate, where it likely would fail.

Mackey urged Kentucky Baptists to "continue to be vigilant in protecting Kentucky families from expanded gambling and its consequences, and the political corruptions that would follow slot machines."

He said that in all of the discussion about saving horse racing in the state, Kentuckians are being forgotten.

"There has been so much communication and empathy for the horse-racing industry," Mackey noted, "but where is the empathy and compassion for the 160,000 individuals and families that will be destroyed due to gambling."



## Half-century later, Louisville woman returns to the SBC annual meeting

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—In 1959, more than 12,000 messengers packed Louisville's Freedom Hall for the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. Up until last week, it was the last time the SBC had met in the Derby City.

And 15-year-old Carolyn Rhea was right in the middle of it all.

"I can't remember all that much other than I know we came to the convention and I was real excited even then," Rhea said of her first SBC experience. "I didn't understand as much about it (then), but I never dreamed it'd be 50 years before they'd come back again."

As a teenager, Rhea attended the SBC annual meeting with a group from Poplar Level Baptist Church in Louisville, which she described as a "little country church" back then.

She recalled never having seen so many people gathered in one place. She said attending the convention was a "big deal" to her and that she was privileged to do so.

A half-century later, the SBC returned to Louisville to honor Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's 150th anniversary. Rhea, now a member of Louisville's Cedar Creek Baptist Church, said she was determined to be a part of the SBC again—this time, though, as a volunteer.

Last week, amid the sea of blue-clad college student volunteers at the registration area, sat Rhea quietly preparing programs to be handed out to SBC messengers.

For the now 65-year-old Rhea, volunteering is no small task. She suf-



50 YEARS LATER Carolyn Rhea (left), who attended the previous Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting held in Louisville in 1959 as a 15-year-old, returned this year as a volunteer at the registration area. Rhea suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lupus, but said she tries not to let her ailments slow her down. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

fers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, a combination of emphysema and bronchitis that severely limits one's breathing. Rhea is required to wear an oxygen tank at all times.

On top of that, she also has lupus, another chronic disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues and organs.

In addition, Rhea has raised three children, now in their 40s, who have battled serious ailments.

Both of her sons suffer from osteogenesis imperfecta, sometimes known as brittle bone disease. Her daughter developed a serious kidney disorder as a child.

Still, Rhea insisted that she tries

not to let her ailments keep her from doing things she wants to do.

Asked what she enjoyed most about this year's edition of the SBC, Rhea praised her young co-workers whom she spent her days with. Of the speakers she was able to hear, she said she enjoyed SBC President Johnny Hunt and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee best.

Rhea also shared a bit of advice that she has tried to instill in her children: "Don't concentrate on what you can't do, concentrate on what you can do. ... If your mind is good, you can overcome."

"Even though I've had hard hills to climb, God has still been so good to me."

## Kentucky Baptist Convention launches new missions blog

Louisville—Church leaders interested or involved in missions now can benefit from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's latest blog, All the World.

The blog can be accessed at [www.Go2AllTheWorld.com](http://www.Go2AllTheWorld.com) and is authored by Scott Pittman, KBC's partnership missions director.

Pittman said the blog is designed to boost awareness of "the need for all churches, no matter their size, to be directly involved in missions."

All the World provides pastors and missions leaders with access to information about volunteer missions, testimonies of those already involved, and an experienced look into every aspect of a mission project.

"One reason more churches are not involved in international volunteer missions is because they are unaware of the opportunities available to them. Others may be aware, but question their church's ability to take on such a commitment," Pittman said. "Using the resources we offer, any church can increase its level of missions involvement and fulfill their commitments to the Great Commission."

In his role at the KBC, Pittman connects KBC churches with domestic and international Southern Bap-

tist missionaries seeking help from volunteers. He also provides training and resources for churches preparing to lead overseas missions trips, assists pastors and leaders in developing missions strategies, and seeks to raise awareness of missions opportunities.

All the World serves primarily as a resource for churches in Kentucky, but anyone with Internet access around the globe can benefit from the online journal. Readers can share their own insights and stories through the "comments" feature at the bottom of each post.

According to Pittman, a variety of issues that affect volunteer missions are discussed on the blog, including team leader preparation, team orientation, International Mission Board strategy, finances, prayer, missions opportunities, relationships with missionaries, travel and security issues, witnessing in different cultures, and other cross-cultural issues.

All the World is one of 13 KBC blog resources available to Kentucky Baptists at [www.KyBaptist.org/Blogs](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Blogs).

Readers of all KBC blogs may elect to receive e-mail updates when a new post is added to any blog. This feature is available on the home page of all KBC blogs.

## Goodson to leave KBC worship post

Louisville—Tog Goodson, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's worship and music department, is leaving the staff to accept a call as associate pastor of worship and administration at Mandarin Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.



Tog Goodson

Goodson has served at the KBC for more than three years. Leadership Development Team Leader Karl Babb said Goodson is known for "his evangelistic passion and desire to see the church consistently demonstrate the love of God."

During his time with the KBC, Goodson has assisted music ministers across Kentucky and was responsible for musical development programs such as the All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra, the All-State Children's Choir, Men's and Women's Chorales and more.

Goodson also provided guidance to KBC worship and music consultants and restructured their roles in serving KBC churches, Babb noted.

## Ky. volunteers offer medical care to Harlan Co. residents

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Cumberland—Nearly 700 volunteers representing more than 160 churches of various denominations from 10 states, conducted a free medical/dental clinic at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College in Harlan County June 12-13.

The two-day clinic was the brainchild of Linda Otterback, a Mission Service Corps missionary working under the auspices of the International Mission Board, who after reading an article about the prevalence of cervical and lung cancers in the region felt compelled to do something about it.

"I love Eastern Kentucky, and I also love missionaries. I wanted churches and missionaries to work in reaching out to the community," Otterback said. Believing a revival is going to begin in Eastern Kentucky, she insisted, "I know God told me to do a clinic."

Still marveling at the large turnout of volunteers, Otterback said, "That's God, because there's no way we could have done this."

The volunteers, who came from nearly 40 different denominations, helped serve and share the gospel with 700 Eastern Kentucky residents through the medical missions endeavor, according to Kentucky Baptist Convention Partnership Missions Director Scott Pittman. He said that 20 of those individuals made decisions for Jesus Christ as a result of the clinic.

Otterback and her husband, Larry, direct Eastern Kentucky SONrise Ministries, which joined efforts with Touched Twice Ministries of Louisville to coordinate the free medical clinic. It offered a variety of services, including vision screenings, dentistry and cancer screenings. Kentucky Baptist disaster relief feeding teams served lunch, while other volunteers provided hair cuts and manicures, distributed Bibles, led children's activities, and handed out toiletry bags. An evangelistic crusade also was held each evening



**HELPING HAND** Chris Platt (center), missions and ministry pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church, takes a quick break with Crestwood Baptist members Bill White (left) and Harvey Pennington. The three men helped serve more than 700 people at the Eastern Kentucky medical/dental clinic, 20 of whom made decisions for Jesus Christ. (Photos courtesy of Scott Pittman)

on a school football field, led by Dave Hammond, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Myra.

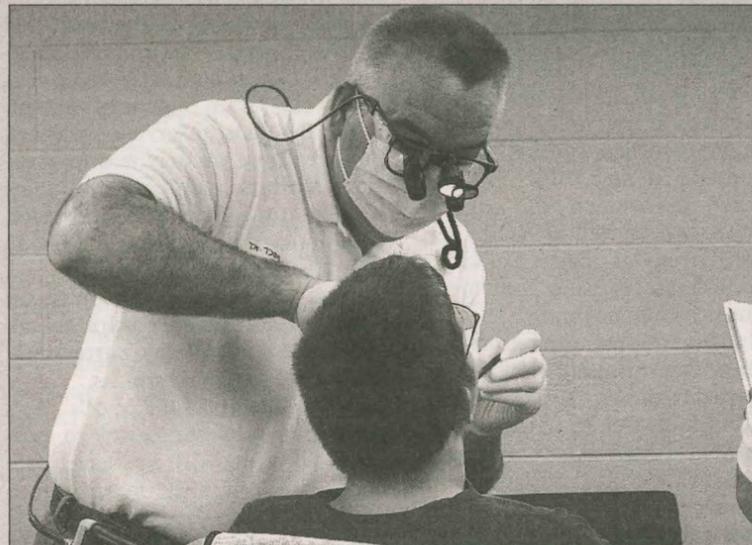
Not only did many of the area residents receive some much-needed health care, but also "all these people are going to go back to their churches in their states and things are going to be changed," Otterback noted. "I'm ecstatic about what God is doing here in Appalachia."

Mike Ware, director of Touched Twice Ministries, who has spent nearly a year getting to know the residents of Harlan County in organizing the clinic, said the ultimate goal was to support existing area ministries and help people "understand we are here to serve and want to lift up Jesus Christ in the process."

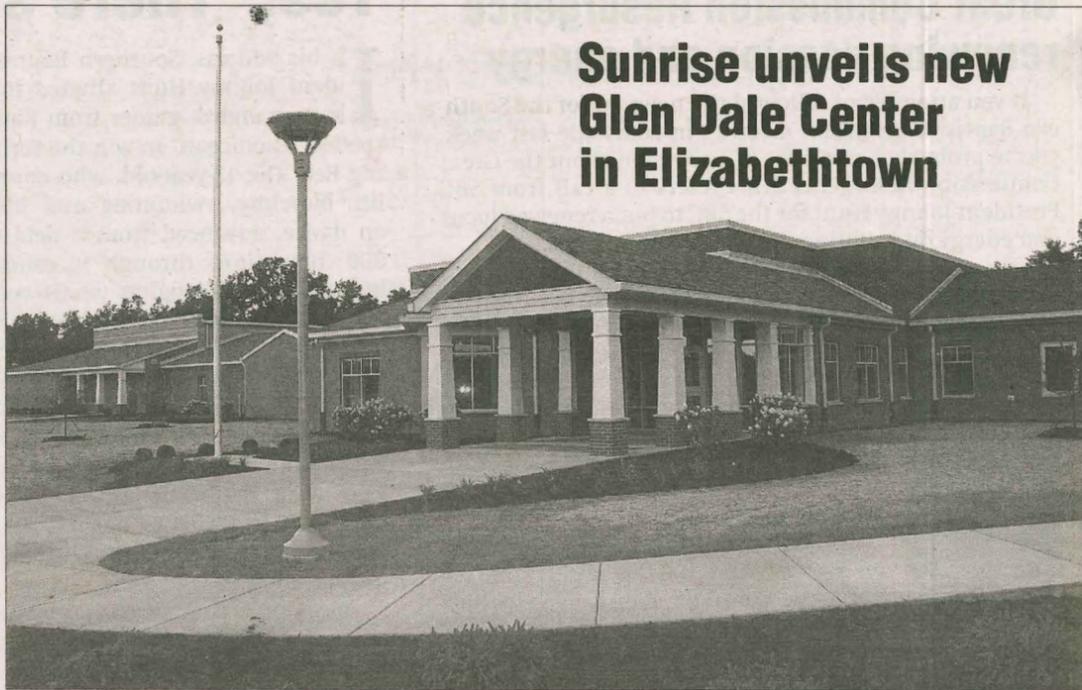
Encouraging others to "do more outside of the church" by becoming involved in missions, Ware urged, "Find someone who you feel God is tugging on your heart to plug into their lives, and let God use you to love them and keep sharing about God with them."

"Any way we can touch people's lives for the Lord by meeting simple needs—that is all it really takes: Having a heart for that person," he said.

KBC Partnership Missions Director Scott Pittman contributed to this story



**DENTAL CARE** A volunteer dentist performs a dental exam on a patient during a two-day medical/dental clinic at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College in Harlan County June 12-13. The missions effort was the idea of Linda Otterback, a Mission Service Corps missionary who serves in Eastern Kentucky.



## Sunrise unveils new Glen Dale Center in Elizabethtown

By John Shindlebower  
Sunrise Children's Services

Elizabethtown—For nearly 100 years, the Glen Dale Center in rural Hardin County has been a refuge for children from across the state. While originally operating as an orphanage for boys and girls and continuing in that mission for decades, most recently the Glen Dale Center has been a facility for teenage girls who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

Last week's opening of the new Glen Dale Center in Elizabethtown reflects the need to better serve the changing needs of today's youth.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house June 26, Sunrise President Bill Smithwick said that the new center completes a vision started more than six years ago when the agency realized some of its facilities had "outlived their usefulness." Because of the changing care methods and needs of today's youth, maintaining the large property at Glen Dale was no longer cost effective. Sunrise had a similar situation with its Spring Meadows property in Louisville.

That realization sparked a process that would eventually include the construction of a new Spring Meadows Center for boys in Mount Washington, as well as a new ministry support center which houses the Sunrise administration offices.

The final piece of that process is the new Glen Dale Center.

The 20,000-square-foot facility sits on 24 acres on Commerce Drive in Elizabethtown, which will allow for easier access to and from the site. The new building also will provide better accommodations for the girls, who will be housed at the center for up to nine months.

The center is designed to allow up to 20 girls to be housed there, a slight increase from the current facility. There are 10 two-person rooms, a lounge, lunch room, space for a media center and library, and three classrooms for an on-site teacher provided by the local school system to help the girls maintain their academics.

The new facility has a large outdoor recreation area, along with an indoor gymnasium and

other amenities that could not be housed at the current location.

However, Smithwick pointed out that while the building is a huge improvement, it is the care and support provided by staff that makes the lasting difference for girls who will live there. He introduced members of the Glen Dale staff during the ceremony, calling them "people who have the skills and the heart" to impact the lives of young people.

Joseph Spinale, program director at the Glen Dale Center, called the ceremony "an awesome day for us," as he looked around the gymnasium.

He said the new center will provide a welcome setting to the young girls who arrive at a time when they need stability and security.

"The kids we serve come from very painful backgrounds," he noted, adding that the Glen Dale Center's program is designed for girls who have gone through serious drama in their lives and who have to learn to trust again. The new center, he said, will provide an environment that should make that process easier.

Kentucky Baptist Convention President Bill Mackey offered a prayer of dedication for the new center, and reflected on the ministry of Sunrise Children's Services and how that work will continue at the Glen Dale Center.

Elizabethtown Mayor David Willmoth also spoke at the dedication ceremony just prior to the official ribbon cutting, and said the community will be enhanced by the facility.

"A lot of young people have no idea how to do things correctly," Willmoth said, "but it's not their fault."

He said youth today face many challenges, and the work of agencies like Sunrise can make a real difference in their lives.

Glen Dale Center residents are scheduled to move into the new building July 9.

The approximately 500-acre site that has been home to the Glen Dale facility since 1915 soon will be vacated, according to Smithwick. The agency will hold it for future sale, he noted.



**GRAND OPENING** ■ Above left: Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise Children's Services (third from left), cuts the ribbon to open the new Glen Dale Center for girls in Elizabethtown June 26. Also pictured are (from left): Sunrise board member Bill Price; Sunrise Vice President Karen Richardson; Elizabethtown Mayor David Willmoth; Sunrise Vice President Beverly Hite; Sunrise Vice President Barry Mitchell and building architect Gary Scott. ■ Above right: At last week's open house, guests were invited to tour the facility, which includes classrooms where the girls will be able to maintain and catch up on their academics while staying at the center. (Photos courtesy of Sunrise Children's Services)



## Great Commission Resurgence renewing passion and energy

If you attended or followed the news out of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Louisville last week, you've probably heard a lot of discussion about the Great Commission Resurgence. This refers to a call from SBC President Johnny Hunt for the SBC to put a renewed focus and energy on fulfilling the Great Commission.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The discussion resulted in a decision by the SBC messengers to ask Hunt to appoint a task force to closely examine the work of all SBC entities to study how Southern Baptists can work "more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission." The task force is to study the issues and bring a report to the 2010 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

In a strict technical sense, the study of SBC entities has no direct impact upon the Kentucky Baptist Convention because churches, associations, state conventions and the SBC all are autonomous bodies.

In a practical sense, however, this conversation will have an important impact on all Southern Baptist work, including the work of the KBC. As cooperating bodies, we want to work in concert with each other in order to bring glory to God, reach people for Christ and be good stewards of our resources.

Even as the Great Commission Task Force examines the work of national entities, we will want to also be looking at our own efforts here in Kentucky to fulfill the Great Commission. This is not new for us as a Convention as we periodically go through the process of evaluating our work, establishing goals and objectives, and adjusting our structures and methodologies.

Exactly what the final outcome in the SBC or in Kentucky will be, no one knows at this point. The new SBC task force will soon be getting organized and beginning its work and the broader Great Commission Resurgence discussion will play out in different ways across the 43 state conventions.

I am supportive of the Great Commission Task Force. Although I initially had some concerns, including the fact that evangelism was not listed explicitly as one of the priorities in the original Great Commission Resurgence document, most were addressed in revisions to the document. Hunt frequently has referred to "intentional evangelism" in his discussions.

Hunt also has expressed that he has no desire to touch the structure of the SBC, and has declared his respect for the responsibility of trustees who are charged with directing the various SBC entities.

We can trust that the Lord is at work through the process. Already, the passion and energy being generated by this discussion has shown that this is an important and historic time in the life of our convention.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Yes, 'There's gold in them there pews'

In his address, Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt alluded to Kavya Shivashankar, an eighth grader from Kansas, who correctly spelled "Laodicean" to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The 13-year-old, who enjoys playing the violin, bicycling, swimming and Indian dance, advanced from a field of 300 competitors through 15 rounds by spelling challenging words such as "hydrargyrum," "baignoire" and "phoresy"—words that the spellchecker on my computer doesn't even recognize. While many Americans probably could not spell Laodicean, Hunt aptly wondered if most Christians were aware that its definition is drawn from the Bible: Revelation 3. "America has not heard of the word Laodicean, but I'm afraid the church has not perceived" its relevance, he quipped.

Speaking to the church at Laodicea, one of seven early churches in Asia Minor, the Risen Lord reprimands its members for exhibiting an air of self-sufficiency and complacency because of their affluence. With nauseating imagery, a severe condemnation for the wayward church is rendered: "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth." The city was renowned for its wealth, fine garments and eye salve; yet, as long as the people remained apathetic in sharing the gospel, they would be spiritually impoverished, blind to divine healing, and not wear the white garments of eternity. The letter to Laodicea concludes with the now-familiar invitation, however: "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." Jesus loves a repentant and zealous heart, and fellowship still can be restored.

Southern Baptists now find themselves at a similar "defining moment," according to Hunt. "There's a vision problem," he declared. Southern Baptists see themselves as rich, large in numbers, and believe we are in need of nothing, he charged. The proper perception—from Jesus' vantage point—is wretched, miserable, poor and blind. "There's no tear in your eye, no fire in your soul, no anticipation after delivery" of the gospel message, Hunt lamented.

Statistically speaking, Hunt may have a point. Though a bit alarmist, Ed Stetzer, a researcher for LifeWay Christian Resources, warns of a steady downward trend in membership during the next 40 years. By 2050, he foresees the dire possibility that SBC member-

ship may decline by half, down to about 8 million people. Southern Baptists even could drop to around 2 percent of the U.S. population, he predicts. But that scenario isn't inevitable: "We can rally Southern Baptists in efforts such as engaging ethnicities in a way that we currently are not," he advises.

Instead of another program to follow, Hunt believes that Southern Baptists are longing for a vision to embrace. Taking a cue from the Pastor's Conference, he challenged Baptists to consider ... what if every individual took a close look to see if we are doing the best we can do with all He has given us to reach the lost? As Hunt

sees it, "If more people were concerned about the spiritually lost condition of the world, Southern Baptists would commit greater amounts to reach the nations for Christ, start new churches in America, and be more intentional in doing evangelism." As a result, "the Cooperative Program will rise in such a way that we will think it was a Cooperative Program resurgence instead of a Great Commission resurgence," he predicted.

Yet, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman rightly cautions: "No committee, no president, no agency, no institution and no executive director can renew our strength. No program can revive our soul." Indeed, any resurgence will have to come from the Lord, stirring the hearts of His people. For a Great Commission resurgence to truly occur, pastors, worship leaders, youth ministers and Sunday school teachers first must realize that "there's gold in them there pews," as Hunt put it. But the gold we speak of is not mere funding for the church's offering plate or for the Cooperative Program, it is the very people of God.

One of the task force's assignments undoubtedly will be to evaluate the convention's structure and examine its ministry effectiveness at associational, state and national levels; individual believers, however, must never lose sight of the deeper, more personal, aspect of the Great Commission Resurgence. They must become "vibrant believers on mission" for God, as Missouri pastor John Marshall aptly stated in the convention sermon. "You are commanded to go. ... Every believer is to go. ... You yourself must go," he exhorted. Individual believers must discover what it means to be a disciple and come to see themselves as being empowered by the Holy Spirit and turned loose on the world to bring others to Jesus. Jesus' call to "come, follow me" led His first disciples not into a church building, but unto all the world.



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

## Pray for our military this summer

By Sara Horn

In 2003, I was given the opportunity to travel to the Middle East twice to report for Baptist Press about the faith of sailors and soldiers with whom I came into contact. It was a life-changing experience, putting me on a new course I could never have designed for myself.

Something I've never forgotten was a conversation I had with Army Chaplain Jim Murphy, who at the time was stationed with the 325th Regiment 82nd Airborne just south of Baghdad. It was November of that year when photographer Jim Vene-man and I sat down with him there, and he told us how his men had seen an incredible difference between the summer and fall of that year in terms of casualties.

"We could tell a difference when the people back home were praying for us and when they weren't," Chaplain Murphy told us. "It was like night and day."

Besides the scorching temperatures, summer also brought many reports of death, when conditions were the worst and morale was the

lowest. But, Chaplain Murphy said, "When people started praying for us again toward the end of August, that's when things started turning around."

### FIRST PERSON

As Christians, we know that prayer is the most powerful weapon we have at our disposal. God listens to His people. Unfortunately, I fear that many have come to look at the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as highly political, paying less and less attention and forgetting that the men and women who are serving overseas, as well as their families, still need our prayers. For safety. For a successful mission. For a happy and healthy homecoming.

That's why I was excited to hear about a new ministry that recently started through Northside Baptist Church in Del Rio, Texas. Operation M'Brace matches prayer warriors with individual service members. You can request a specific name or have a name assigned to you and for \$10, you will receive a bracelet engraved with that name, a reminder to keep that individual lifted up in continuous prayer.

Bruce and Sherry Malloy direct the ministry. Two years ago, Sherry ran across a rubber bracelet with the words "Pray for our troops" and had felt it was too impersonal. "How is it possible for a Christian to pray for the entire military, knowing that prayer must be personal, consistent and effective?" she asked herself.

That is when she believes God gave her the idea for a prayer bracelet, like the original POW/MIA bracelets in the 1970s, matching committed individuals to service members, whether they are deployed or state-side. Military members and their families can register to be prayed for, or submit a name they would like to pray for themselves.

This is a great opportunity for churches and small groups to rally around our military, particularly during the summer months.

Visit Operation M'Brace's Web site at [www.opmbrace.org](http://www.opmbrace.org) to purchase a bracelet with a service member's name on it or to register a name for prayer. Help our troops see and experience the difference and the power of prayer.

Sara Horn is the wife of a Navy reservist and founder of Wives of Faith, a faith-based military wives support organization

WESTERN  
Recorder

Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253  
(USPS 679-380)

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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

Western Recorder is published weekly 50 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. For general information, to give news tips, or to place an advertisement, call (502) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to:  
Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

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## Evangelism tools that go 'vroom'

By Keith Manuel

If a motorcycle rider was 100 percent sold out to Jesus, what would he or she look like? Groups of men and women around our nation are attempting to demonstrate this through motorcycle ministries.

Motorcycle riders once were considered rebellious, less than reputable individuals. However, today, the rider cruising down Main Street just might be your doctor, accountant, schoolteacher or minister. The number of registered motorcycles continues to rise, with more than 4 million motorcycles on the road in the United States.

Here's another interesting statistic: All 4 million riders need Jesus.

Whether someone has tattoos or tab collars, he or she needs a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Some churches are actively seeking to engage this particular culture with the claims of Christ.

The apostle Paul said, "I do all (things) because of the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:23). His goal was to engage a segment of culture without compromising the integrity of Christianity. Instead of a "whatever it takes" mindset, his was a "whatever does not compromise the faith" mindset.

Just as Paul said, "I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some," he also followed with these words, "I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

Motorcycles, like any other hobby or passion, are a tool to share the gospel.

Recently, I was standing in line at a restaurant with a group of motorcycle riders from a local church when a man in line noticed our shirts with the FAITH Riders logo and Web site ([www.FaithRiders.com](http://www.FaithRiders.com)). He said he wanted to ride with some good people.

Then he opened up and shared his story.

### FIRST PERSON

His son died six years ago in a tragic motorcycle accident. They had ridden together often and he had just started riding again. We were able to talk to him about Christ and minister to him because of a common love for motorcycles. He gave his phone number to one of our men and promised to visit their church soon.

Men and women like this one are all around us—hurting folks who need a touch from Jesus. We should be willing to show the gospel to the world by our lifestyle and to share the gospel with a verbal witness. The tools for reaching people will vary, but the message must be consistent.

Evangelism doesn't have to be boring or difficult. It can be as easy as finding your passion and then using it to engage your culture with the claims of Christ. You may not be enthusiastic about motorcycles but you may have an interest in fishing, scrapbooking or motorsports. Invite unchurched neighbors, friends or co-workers to join you in your favorite activity and become sincerely involved in their lives.

Intentionality is the key to sharing your faith. Many people spend their whole weekend with friends doing something about which they are passionate. However, the man or woman who wants their passion to make a difference for eternity intentionally creates the opportunity to share the gospel.

If you were 100 percent sold out to Jesus, what would people observe about you? Obviously, there should be many things different about you, but one element would stand out—you would intentionally find ways to tell others about Jesus.

For additional resources about reaching out to various demographic groups in your area, contact your state convention evangelism office or your local association. They have tools to help you engage others with the message of the gospel. (BP)

Keith Manuel is an evangelism associate with the Louisiana Baptist Convention's evangelism & church growth team

## Long distance marriage

By James Stillwell

**Q:** My wife has a job that means we have more time apart than we do together. What are some ingredients in making a long-distance relationship work?

**A:** In his book, "Long Distance Relationships," Gregory Guldner offers five hints to success:

**Be positive.** How we feel about a situation has much to do with how we choose to look at it. If you see this as an opportunity to find creative ways to enrich the relationship, you will do better than if you just see a disaster or catastrophe sure to doom your marriage.

**Communicate about the little things in your life.** The marriage education course called PAIRS

has as its primary tool the Daily Temperature Reading ([see Smartmarriages.com](http://www.smartmarriages.com)). One aspect of communication that strengthens your relationship is to share new information every day. Knowing the details of another's life makes you feel more a part of it.

**Be solution-oriented in your times of conflict.** A good sign of the strength of your relationship is the positive way in which inevitable conflict is approached. Brainstorm together. Share your feelings by speaking "I" messages that let your spouse know you own your feelings and perspective rather than placing blame.

**Avoid isolation.** Cultivate other people as good friends. Trying to make your spouse your "everything" is idolatry, and in this situation, it becomes obvious very quickly that you need a circle of life-line friends, not just your spouse.

**Deal compassionately with the area of sex.** One partner is inevitably going to be more inclined than the other to want to reconnect physically as soon as possible. Both partners need to be willing to take time to reconnect emotionally first.

**Pray for one another.** An idea from Scripture is to be a good steward of the grace of God in your life by spending time with Him, sharing all your concerns with the One who can make a difference. Prayer is not just a thought, but a real activity that makes a difference "on earth" as it does "in heaven."

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Send questions for Family Forum to [Wesrec@kybaptist.org](mailto:Wesrec@kybaptist.org), Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, or e-mail [wesrec@kybaptist.org](mailto:wesrec@kybaptist.org).



## Choose you this day

It does not matter how much you make. It does not matter whether your idea of a big treat is to buy movie tickets or cruise tickets. No matter how much money you have, no matter how much more you can earn, there always will be unlimited ways to allocate limited resources.

Tough choices have to be made. We have unlimited options at the malls, at Stuff-Mart, or on the Internet to spend money. It is even more difficult to make good choices with persuasive advertising and easily accessible credit.

It is easy to think that the rich are spending all kinds of money. But in the interesting book, "The Millionaire Next Door," professors Thomas Stanley and William Danko point out that self-made millionaires have surprising secrets:

- They live below their means, drive cars older than three years old, wear inexpensive suits and know what they spend on household items.

- More than half of millionaires operate on an annual budget. Most of those who do not budget say that they follow a strict "pay yourself strategy," setting aside at least 15 percent of their income.

- The large majority of millionaires buy inexpensive watches, avoid luxury cars, shun car leases and do not own mansions.

Basically, the millionaires make good choices and spend less than they earn. I have known this for years, but it is affirming to have thousands of millionaires confirm it. Spend less than you earn and you will do well financially over time. The ancient wisdom by Solomon, probably the world's first billionaire, echoed the same idea: "He who gathers money little by little makes it grow" (Proverbs 13:11).

I do not know of anyone who intentionally sets out to spend more than they make every month. Nobody sets a New Year's resolution to spend 15 percent more than they earn. Our yearnings exceed our earnings. Unanticipated expenses come. Things break. Prices rise. Emergencies happen. Life just happens.

Choose to spend less than you earn. It does not matter what you make; it matters if anything is left over.

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

## Can Christian citizenship survive?

By David Gushee

It seems increasingly clear that Christians in America have no viable understanding of what used to be called "Christian citizenship."

Let's use these two working definitions to anchor our discussion:

- Citizenship is the condition of being vested with the rights, privileges and duties associated with being a citizen; that is, a member of a political community who owes some sort of allegiance to that community and is in turn entitled to its protection.

- Christian citizenship refers to the particular rights, privileges, and duties of Christians in relation to the nations in which they are citizens, and the way these rights and responsibilities cohere with their allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord.

A first observation is that most Americans have thought very little about basic questions of citizenship. We may be aware of our rights and privileges in relation to the United States and its various levels of government, but tend to think very little about our correlated duties and responsibilities. Probably most of us can barely name any of those duties, other than paying taxes and obeying the law.

Nor do we operate with a broader sense of kind of allegiance (loyalty, trust and love) our nation ought to receive from us. Americans can be sentimental about our nation. But—scandalously—at no level in our educational enterprise and in no systematic way do we reflect on the meaning of citizenship. That is, unless we come as immigrants—who, ironically, probably know more and think more deeply about the meaning of American citizenship than most of us who are native-born.

Understanding citizenship appears to be difficult in our individualistic age. Perhaps, then, it is predictable that understanding the more complex concept of Christian citizenship is even more difficult.

Christian citizenship is a more difficult concept because it requires reflection on how our allegiance to our nation relates to our allegiance to Jesus Christ. Serious Christians have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. For such Christians, commitment to Jesus Christ is primary and all other loyalties must fall into place around our loyalty to Him. This includes loyalty to nation.

I see two primary approaches to Christian citizenship among serious Christians today. Just to be provoca-

tive, I want to label these as the apostasy option and the abdication option. Neither is adequate.

The apostasy option is my term for Christian citizenship in which loyalty to the nation is primary, but is conflated and confused with loyalty to Christ. This kind of Christian citizen is passionate about America and acts as if everything that advances America's cause advances Christ's as well. Where there might

be points of tension between our Christian and national allegiances, this kind of Christian finds a way to relax the tension so that Jesus the Lord does not in fact challenge any aspect of American national interest. I call this the apostasy option because this kind of idolatrous national henotheism is, indeed, a form of apostasy. I think it is the primary way most well-meaning American Christians do their citizenship.

The abdication option is my term for a surging trend among Christian academics and activists in which loyalty to Jesus Christ as Lord leaves no room for allegiance to nation at all. In works by a number of Christian thinkers such as Stanley Hauerwas, Greg Boyd and Shane Claiborne, the abuses caused by the apostasy option loom so large that no surviving vision of Christian citizenship can be identified. In this view, Christians are loyal to Jesus Christ alone. Our polity is the church. Our king—our president—is Jesus. Our allegiances are entirely transnational. Our nation is irremediably corrupt, filled with violence and injustice. Our role here is as resident aliens. Our social-counterstrategy is the creation of an alternative Christian counterculture.

These thinkers are trying to help Christians fall out of love with America so that they might fall in love once again with Jesus—and His church. But they get there through the abdication of any understanding of allegiance to the nation. Therefore, they reject Christian citizenship as defined above.

I am more attracted to the abdication option than the apostasy option that it utterly rejects. But I think we can do better. I think we must do better. We have historical models—William Wilberforce, Karl Barth and Martin Luther King Jr. come to mind—who exercised critical and creative Christian citizenship that avoided both apostasy and abdication. We need fresh consideration of what such Christian citizenship might look like in our context. (ABP)

David Gushee is distinguished university professor of Christian ethics at Mercer University in Atlanta



# Great Commission Task Force approved by SBC messengers

By Bob Terry  
The Alabama Baptist

Louisville—Overwhelming approval of a Great Commission Task Force climaxed 25 minutes of discussion during the Tuesday evening session of last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Messengers authorized SBC President Johnny Hunt to appoint a task force to determine how "Southern Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission." The task force is to report its findings and recommendations to the 2010 annual meeting of the SBC in Orlando, Fla.

Members of the task force appointed by Hunt are:

- Chairman Ronnie Floyd, pastor, Springdale, Ark.
- Danny Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Tom Biles, director of missions, Tampa Bay Baptist Association, Florida.
- David Dockery, president, Union University, Jackson, Tenn.
- John Drummond, layperson, Panama City, Fla.
- Donna Gaines, layperson, Cordova, Tenn.
- Al Gilbert, pastor, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- J.D. Greear, pastor, Durham, N.C.
- Harry Lewis, senior strategist, North American Mission Board.
- Albert Mohler, president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Mike Orr, pastor, Chipley, Fla.
- Frank Page, pastor, Taylors, S.C.
- Jim Richards, executive director, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.
- Roger Spradlin, pastor, Bakersfield, Calif.
- Ted Traylor, pastor, Pensacola, Fla.
- Simon Tsoi, IMB trustee, Phoenix.
- Bob White, executive director, Georgia Baptist Convention.
- Ken Whitten, pastor, Tampa, Fla.

Mohler offered the motion. He told messengers there was no reason to fear asking if there is a better way for Baptists to work together. He called the present "a turning point in history" and said churches need to



**GCR PUSH** Johnny Hunt speaks during a press conference June 23 shortly after being elected to a second term as SBC president. Later that day SBC messengers overwhelmingly voted to allow Hunt to appoint a Great Commission Task Force. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

be more active in getting the gospel to the ends of the earth.

California messenger Ron Wilson offered a substitute motion calling for the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board each to study how better to reach their respective assignments with the gospel.

The substitute failed after Mohler countered that the thrust of the Great Commission Task Force motion was not to address how the two boards should do their work but how to get the resources needed by the boards.

Jerry Nash of Florida called the motion "a waste of time, funding and other resources." He charged that Southern Baptists no longer are agreed on the "heart of the gospel." He pointed out 30 percent of seminary graduates are Calvinists, and

Calvinists occupy leadership throughout the SBC.

"If we cannot agree that God loves everyone and that Jesus died that everyone may have the opportunity to hear the gospel, how can we expect evangelical churches to support the convention?" he asked.

Former SBC president Page responded that the task force rose above any single contentious issue. He reminded messengers that more than 20 years ago, messengers asked the SBC president to appoint a Peace Committee to examine a difficult issue.

## GCR needed, Hunt says

At a press conference earlier in the day, Hunt said Southern Baptists face a defining moment in history. Anticipating adoption of the Great Commission motion, he told reporters, "Southern Baptists need a Great Commission Resurgence to re-emphasize reaching the lost, to inspire us to do more church plants, to penetrate the darkness of lostness."

While he has led the charge for the Great Commission Resurgence, Hunt said he has never been alone. He noted an influx of e-mails from international missionaries urging him to "stay the course" in its support.

Hunt said he had no desire to touch the structure of the SBC. He declared his respect for the responsibility of trustees who are charged with directing the various SBC ministries, and said he had communicated that position to state executives with whom he had talked.

Hunt said he wanted the Great Commission Task Force to come to its work "at ground zero and begin there." He added he was encouraged that IMB and NAMB already had started to examine their work to see how more funds could be directed to primary responsibilities.

Still, Hunt said he expects to find overlap of programs and services in the denomination. He called some overlap good. Other overlap, he noted, was bad because it takes money that could go to "piercing the darkness of lostness."

Hunt said he expects to find some state

convention models to celebrate. He added that the task force will challenge others to do more.

When asked if a 50-50 division of Cooperative Program funds between state and national conventions was a goal, Hunt replied that was a good place to start.

"When can a state convention or a church say: 'Enough is enough? We are big enough. Now we can give to penetrate the darkness?'"

Hunt said the starting point is with the church. They will be asked to examine their priorities, he said. Associations and state conventions also will be examined as well as the SBC.

In a theme interpretation Tuesday afternoon, Danny Akin, author of the Great Commission Resurgence document, urged approval of the task force motion.

"Southern Baptists are compelled to get the gospel to the places where the gospel is not known," he declared. He added that figures provided by the IMB indicated 1.6 billion people never have heard the name of Jesus.

"That is not acceptable," he said. "We have to loose the passion of Southern Baptists for the lost."

In the Tuesday morning opening session of the annual meeting, Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, raised questions about the Great Commission Resurgence proposal (see full story on page 8).

"Is a Great Commission Resurgence more about the Great Commission than about the Southern Baptist Convention?" he asked.

"Does the Great Commission Resurgence seek to bring together all Southern Baptists—at the national, state and associational level—or does it unnecessarily alienate certain demographics?"

He also questioned whether the proposed task force honored the long-established principles of trustee governance of entities.

Finally, Chapman asked messengers to consider whether the proposal seeks "personal transformation of our hearts or institutional transformation of our structure."

# Hunt re-elected SBC president, Somerset pastor Toby wins first VP post

Louisville—Southern Baptist Convention messengers re-elected Georgia pastor Johnny Hunt as president during the June 23-24 convention meeting in Louisville.

In his nomination speech, Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla., described Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., as "God's sovereign choice for Southern Baptists for such a time as this."

Hunt took center stage at this year's convention with his call for a Great Commission Task Force, which was assigned the task of studying how Southern Baptists can work more effectively and efficiently in missions and evangelism worldwide.

The convention also elected John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, as first vice president. He received 1,039 votes, 64 percent of ballots cast, to win over Ken Render, senior pastor of Lakeside Community Church in St. Clair Shores, Mich., who received 567 votes.

Toby, who was nominated by Kevin Smith, pastor of Louisville's Watson Memorial Baptist Church, currently serves as Kentucky Baptist Convention president and is a Kentucky National Guard chaplain. He is the second Kentuckian in as many years to be elected SBC first vice president. He succeeds Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, who held the post last year.

Stephen Rummage, pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., was the only person nominated for second vice president and was elected to the office by acclamation.



John Mark Toby

## Hunt discusses Driscoll, Calvinism

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

Louisville—SBC President Johnny Hunt met with reporters shortly after messengers to the SBC annual meeting re-elected him without opposition to a second year in the convention's top post.

In addition to answering a number of questions about the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, Hunt addressed other topics. He said:

■ Seattle megachurch pastor and non-Southern Baptist Mark Driscoll "stole the show" on the first day of the SBC meeting.

Driscoll and his Acts 29 church-planting movement have attracted a huge national following, particularly among young pastors. But he has drawn the ire of older generations, particularly for his use of profanity and discussion of vulgar topics, casual dress and acceptance of alcohol use.

Several motions presented

from the floor of the convention opposed Driscoll and chastised Southern Baptists for affiliating with him (see story on page 7).

"I don't know him; I've never met him," Hunt said. "I do know a lot of young men like to follow his blog and his podcasts."

Hunt also said efforts to mandate that Southern Baptists should not work with Driscoll are out of line.

"The entire premise of being a Baptist is thrown under the bus when you start telling someone who they can fellowship with," Hunt noted. "We believe in the priesthood of the believer."

## Calvinism and Obama

■ Calvinism is "part of our history," despite some messengers' condemnation of the theological system named for the 16th century Christian reformer.

"This debate has been alive 400 years," Hunt said, referencing the longstanding strain of Calvinism

in Baptist life. "There are wonderful men and ladies on both sides. The Baptist tent is large enough for both."

■ Inviting President Barack Obama to speak to the SBC meeting would have been "unwise" this year.

Hunt said he was not aware that any invitation had been extended to Obama, even though George W. Bush consistently addressed the convention's annual meetings through live broadcasts.

"We will have a resolution to really honor our president, especially in context of his being the first African-American person to be elected president," Hunt said. "We have much to celebrate, but many conservative believers are troubled by his policies."

The convention likewise did not invite Republican political leaders to address this year's annual meeting "because we want to give our prayer support to our president," Hunt said.

## SBC Motions



**IN SESSION** The more than 8,700 messengers who attended last week's 152nd Southern Baptist convention heard 31 motions that were brought before the convention. (BP photo by Van Payne)

### Task force approved, but multiple motions focus on controversial Seattle pastor's influence

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

Louisville—A proposal that could reshape the Southern Baptist Convention received overwhelming approval during last week's annual meeting.

But relationships with a controversial pastor who is influential among many young SBC pastors drew the attention of multiple motions presented July 23 in Louisville.

Messengers authorized SBC President Johnny Hunt to appoint an 18-member Great Commission Task Force, which he named the following morning. The motion mandated the task force to research "how Southern Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively in serving Christ through the Great Commission."

"We are living in one of these turning times (of) unprecedented opportunity," claimed Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who made the motion to create the Great Commission Task Force.

The convention must respond to churches' desire to spread the gospel around the globe and to set loose the younger generation's passion for missions and ministry, Mohler pleaded.

Also, the time is right for the convention to examine itself in light of its missions mandate, he added. "It is right and fitting for the SBC in every generation to establish a process whereby we ask the hard questions: Is there more we can do? Can we do better?"

Although convention observers questioned whether the Great Commission motion would pass, the vote was so overwhelming, SBC Parliamentarian Barry McCarty said, "Wow!" when messengers raised their ballots in support of the proposal.

#### Driscoll becomes target

The task force proposal was the only one of 31 motions put to a vote. Messengers heard eight motions that directly or indirectly related to a pastor who is not even affiliated with the SBC.

They focused on Mark Driscoll, pastor of 7,000-member Mars Hill Church in Seattle and leader of the Acts 29 church-planting movement.

Less than a week prior to the SBC annual meeting, Driscoll was the subject of an exposé in Baptist Press. The report focused on his preaching on sex, use of profanity and his approval of drinking wine.

Of the eight Driscoll-related motions, three were referred to SBC boards. They in-

cluded calls for:

- All SBC entities to monitor and report their "expenditure of funds for any activities related to and/or cooperative efforts with Mark Driscoll and/or the Acts 29 organization." The motion was referred to all SBC boards.

- All SBC organizations to "refrain from inviting speakers ... who are known for publicly exhibiting unregenerate behavior, including but not limited to speech such as cursing and sexual vulgarity, or who publicly state their support for the consumption or production of alcohol." This motion also was referred to all SBC boards.

- Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources to investigate one of their employees, Ed Stetzer, and trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to investigate their president, Danny Akin, and evangelism professor, Alvin Reid. Stetzer has worked with Driscoll in church planting, and Driscoll has preached at Southeastern Seminary. Messengers referred the motion to the boards of LifeWay and Southeastern.

Five Driscoll-related motions were ruled out of order. They included requests that:

- SBC organizations refrain from inviting speakers who are known to be unregenerate and curse, speak vulgarly and support alcohol.

- LifeWay remove books written by Driscoll from its bookstores.

- The SBC "biblically distinguish between consuming alcohol, which is an issue of individual conscience, and being drunk, which is categorically a sin."

- SBC organizations and affiliated churches "support and partner with other Christian agencies and individuals of like-minded primary theological convictions for the sake of the Great Commission and the glory of God."

- The Executive Committee invite Driscoll "to address the concerns of his accusers and all other interested parties" when the convention meets next summer.

#### Other motions

In addition, the convention referred six other motions to the Executive Committee. They included proposals to:

- Change distribution of SBC world hunger offering receipts to be consistent with Cooperative Program allocations, providing 66 2/3 percent to the International Mission Board and 33 1/3 percent to the North American Mission Board.

- Form a committee to study how to involve more ethnic churches and ethnic church leaders in "serving the needs of the

### SBC resolution commends Obama's election, admonishes his policies

By Norman Jameson  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Louisville—Southern Baptists both commended President Barack Obama and expressed opposition to some of his policies in a resolution passed June 24 at their annual meeting in Louisville.

A resolution commending Obama for his "evident love for his family" and expressing "pride in our continuing progress toward racial reconciliation signaled by the election of Barack Hussein Obama" as approved by messengers.

The resolutions committee, chaired by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Danny Akin, considered 26 resolutions during three days of deliberations prior to the annual meeting.

Other resolutions called on Southern Baptists to consider adoption of the 150 million orphans who "now languish without families" around the world; affirmed biblical positions on marriage and sexual purity; commended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville on its 150th anniversary; and expressed opposition to Southern Baptist seminary personnel and others who worked on all the details to make the annual meeting run smoothly.

While the Obama resolution commended him for retaining "many foreign policies that continue to keep our nation safe" it also said Southern Baptists "deplore" his decision to expand federal funding for "destructive human embryo research"; "decry" increased funding for pro-abortion groups; "oppose" any stripping of conscience protections for health care workers unwilling to participate in abortions; and "protest" any effort to

"eradicate the symbols of our nation's historic Judeo-Christian faith from public or private venues."

In a later press conference, Akin said the Obama resolution "strikes a really good balance" for prayer for the president, affirming him and making plain disagreements with some of his policies.

Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission who served as a staff resource, said, "Race has been the serpent in the garden of America from the very beginning," first with Native Americans, then with African-Americans. But, he added, since the racial reconciliation resolution passed by the SBC in 1995, the number of black members in Southern Baptist churches has increased 117 percent to almost 800,000.

"It would have been irresponsible not to speak to the election of the first African-American president," Akin said. "We could affirm his election without affirming his policies where we have strong, strong disagreement."

Southern Baptists have gone from being virtually an all-white denomination "by choice" in 1970 to about 18 percent minority members now, according to Land.

The sexual purity resolution supports "the biblical definition of marriage as the exclusive union of a man and a woman; rejects any attempt to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act; urges the U.S. Senate not to pass any legislation that would criminalize "deeply held religious beliefs and speech about homosexuality and other unbiblical sexual practices;" and supports the "current military code barring homosexuality in the military."

SBC through cooperative partnership on the national level."

- Consider allowing churches to designate contributions to "particular convention causes" and still consider the money part of the Cooperative Program.

- Revise how funding is allocated to the six SBC seminaries to accommodate enrollment at extension centers away from their main campuses.

- Adopt the U.S. Christian Flag "as a tangible symbol to unify the American believers under one flag to fulfill the Great Commission."

- Amend Article VI of the SBC Constitution to change how trustees of SBC entities are allocated and selected.

LifeWay Christian Resources received three additional referrals, including requests that the publishing house:

- Research "more affordable educational alternatives to traditional Christian schools."

- Mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible in 2011.

- Produce only American-made vacation Bible school resources.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission also received three referrals. They asked the public-policy organization to:

- Join with the American Family Association in "calling on the Pepsi-Cola Company to remain neutral in the culture war in our country by refraining from promoting the gay/lesbian lifestyle and agenda."

- Declare a "Sanctity of Life Year" in the near future.

- Start a petition to "end abortion in America and the funding of Planned Parenthood, along with all other abortion-providing entities."

The SBC seminaries received a motion

calling upon them to publish information regarding the "state conventions or affiliated national conventions from which their ministerial students or master's-level students originate."

All SBC entities received a proposal asking them to "submit any action which acts to interpret the Baptist Faith & Message ... so that the action may be approved by a majority of the messengers" to SBC annual meetings.

The Order of Business Committee received a motion stipulating that the convention post the American flag, accompanied by an honor guard, at the convention's annual meetings.

In addition, seven other motions were declared out of order for various reasons. They focused on:

- Prayer for "the safety and welfare of Iranian citizens."

- Banning "the Holman Christian Standard Bible and any translation that questions the validity of any Scripture passage or verse" from use in convention literature.

- Claims that the world will come to an end May 21, 2011, and the end of the "church age."

- Banning books by pastors T.D. Jakes and John Hagee, Catholic Bibles, and "90 Minutes in Heaven" and "The Shack" from LifeWay Christian Stores.

- Disallowing use of secular music in any promotional materials produced by the convention.

- Imploring Congress and President Obama "to seek biblical direction with respect to blessing, and not cursing, the nation of Israel."

- Condemning President Obama for declaring June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month.

# SBC 'not too big to fail,' Executive Committee president says

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—Advising Southern Baptists to “maintain a careful balance between cultural adaptation and gospel proclamation,” Morris Chapman took aim at a trio of controversial topics, which he implied could ultimately cause denominational division.

In his report to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 23, the SBC Executive Committee president suggested that the convention “is not too big to fail.”

While disagreements over doctrine and identity are nothing new, Chapman said a focus on anything but fulfilling the Great Commission “is a grievous sin against the spirit of God.”

“I believe the time has come to stop talking of what made the SBC great, or what will make the SBC great again,” he noted. “All these questions are in direct competition with the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Chapman again expressed his concern regarding the Great Commission Resurgence declaration drafted by SBC President Johnny Hunt and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Danny Akin.

Chapman said he held a “number of discussions” with Hunt about it. He indicated that the two men still hold differing opinions about the declaration.

In a lengthy op-ed piece published last month on the Baptist Press Web site, Chapman outlined his reasons for not signing the document. He primarily cited Article IX, which calls for a reorganization of the convention.

Chapman took issue with the language in an early version of the document that called denominational structures “bloated and bureaucratic at every level.” Even though the wording later was softened, Chapman still called for the removal of the article.

In Louisville, Chapman expressed further concern about the intent and purpose of the Great Commission Resurgence—a task force for which was adopted overwhelmingly by SBC messengers later that day.

“Does the Great Commission Resurgence seek personal transformation of our hearts, or institutional transformation of our structure?” he asked.

Chapman also voiced his reservations that such a plan would unite all Southern Baptists without alienating “certain demographics,” as well as honoring the “long-established trustee governance of (SBC) entities.”

“No committee, no president, no agency, no institution and no executive director can renew our strength,” Chapman said. “No program and no report can revive our soul.”

The Executive Committee head also commented on the growth of Calvinism as a divisive issue and a potential stumbling block to fulfilling



Morris Chapman

God's call.

“If there is any doctrine of grace that drives men to argue and to debate more than it drives them to pursue lost souls and persuade all men to be reconciled to God,” Chapman said, “then it is not a doctrine that will form a foundation for a fervent fulfillment of the Great Commission.”

A LifeWay Research study released in 2007 showed that nearly 30 percent of Southern Baptist seminary graduates identified themselves as Calvinists. The theology is a controversial one, particularly its teachings on unconditional election and limited atonement.

Chapman suggested, rather, that the “sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man” have “equal value in principle,” and urged Southern Baptists to “come together at the Bible, not at some man's theology ... to believe that God is sovereign.”

“If we could also believe that our witness is important to others to know Jesus Christ, I believe we would fill mission fields and church planting opportunities like never before,” he said.

Also in his report, Chapman—without naming names—condemned the remarks of a Seattle pastor who came under fire recently for preaching sexually suggestive sermons.

Mars Hill Church Pastor Mark Driscoll, who has been criticized in the past for using profanity in his messages, recently was the subject of a Baptist Press article that detailed his sexually explicit interpretation of the Song of Solomon during a 2007 sermon series he preached in Edinburgh, Scotland.

“Some of the church-growth methodologies that masquerade under the guise of Bible exposition are increasingly known for the crude themes and the vulgar language of their strongest advocates,” Chapman said. “The sacred desk is no place for the carnal, the sensual and the sensational.”

## SEBTS president: Chapman's comments 'shameful'

By Norman Jameson  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Louisville—The president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary called comments in a speech by Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Morris Chapman “disingenuous” and “shameful.”

SEBTS President Danny Akin was addressing a panel discussion hosted by B21 at an Acts 29 church start.

“I wish to apologize to my Calvinist brothers and sisters who are here for the horrible misrepresentation of your position this morning,” said Akin, one of six participants in a panel to discuss with young pastors issues surrounding continuing involvement with the SBC.

B21 is a loose network of persons “seeking to be Baptist in the 21st century.” Acts 29 is a network of churches whose foundational documents are clearly Calvinistic. Many member churches are dually aligned with Southern Baptists, as well as supporting Acts 29.

Sojourn Community Church in Louisville hosted the panel discussion, attended by 400 to 500 filling the main meeting space and an overflow room. Most of the participants were the young pastors, leaders and students whose participation in SBC life is coveted by its leadership.

Earlier in the morning, Chapman brought his annual address to SBC messengers. Although he never uttered the word “Calvinism,” he spoke directly both to it and to the “emerging church.”

The B21 meeting was held in Louisville, home of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, whose president Albert Mohler is a Calvinist and has returned Southern to what he believes are its founder's Calvinistic roots.

After Akin's opening apology, frank discussion was more about reasons young pastors should stay within the Southern Baptist framework, and financially support a system they do not ful-

ly agree with. Panelists included Akin; Mohler; LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer; Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington; host pastor Daniel Montgomery; and David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.

Akin, Mohler and Stetzer are trusted figures among young pastors and, with SBC President Johnny Hunt, have done much to invigorate active discussion among them about reasons to stay involved with the SBC.

Talking about the Great Commission Resurgence which dominated conversation during the convention's first day, Akin said: “I don't want Southern Baptists sitting on the sideline watching what God is going to do. I want to be a part of it.”

Mohler told the pastors and students: “Don't look for too much out of the (SBC). Don't find your identity here.” He encouraged them to minister in their churches, find their identity in Christ and plug into the SBC for connections and resources.

Mohler said the SBC has done good things, but growing up in SBC churches, attending SBC schools and seminaries, and moving on to lead SBC churches and entities “produced a tribal identity rather than a gospel-centered identity.”

While Acts 29 is a “fascinating model” Mohler noted, he warned against “developing a tribal identity.”

Mohler said pastors “can find many platforms” and it is “wrong to think of ‘either/or’ when picking a partner. While he said he hoped pastors could identify with the SBC and other ministry partners, “there were hints this morning that's going to be hard.”

His comment likely was in reference to Chapman's remarks, and to the steady stream of messengers moving to limit SBC involvement with Mark Driscoll, a Seattle pastor whom many young pastors admire.

## Kentuckians named to SBC Committee on Nominations

Louisville—Art Beasley, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester, and Kriston Jervis, a member of Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London, were among individuals elected last week to the 2009-10 Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Nominations.

The 70-member committee is responsible for recommending trustees next year to serve on the boards of SBC entities.

Kentucky Baptists who served on this year's SBC Committee on Committees that nominated Beasley and Jervis were Trevor Barton, pastor of Hawk Creek Baptist, and Mike Harris, a member of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

In other business, messengers elected Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., to preach next year's convention sermon.

The 2010 SBC annual meeting will be held June 15-16 in Orlando, Fla.

## SBC severs 125-year affiliation with Texas church

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

Louisville—The Southern Baptist Convention has discontinued its relationship with Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, because of the church's perceived toleration of homosexual members.

Messengers to last week's SBC annual meeting dismissed the Fort Worth church in less than 30 seconds, voting overwhelmingly to approve a recommendation by the convention's Executive Committee.

The recommendation did not specifically mention homosexuality. But that issue has been the backdrop of controversy at the church since late 2007, when a dispute arose regarding whether to include pictures of homosexual couples in the church's membership directory.

Broadway's denominational affiliation came under question at last year's SBC annual meeting. William Sanderson, pastor of Hephzibah Baptist Church in Wendell, N.C., asked the SBC to declare the church “not to be in friendly cooperation” with the convention.

The Executive Committee studied the issue this past year and met with representatives of Broadway Baptist in February. Then, on the eve of the SBC meeting in Louisville, the committee voted to recommend “that the cooperative relationship between the convention and the church cease, and that the church's messengers not be seated, until such time as the church unambiguously demonstrates its friendly cooperation with the convention.”

Kathy Madeja, chair of Broad-

way's board of deacons, expressed regret regarding the convention's action.

“We are disappointed with the decision of the Southern Baptist Convention,” she said. “Broadway Baptist Church has been affiliated with the SBC for over 125 years. Our mission at Broadway is and will continue to be consistent with the SBC's stated enterprise of reaching the world for Christ.”

Broadway still complies with the SBC constitution, Madeja added.

“We do not believe Broadway has taken any action that would justify being deemed not in ‘friendly cooperation’ with the SBC,” she said. “It is unfortunate that the Southern Baptist Convention decided otherwise and has severed its affiliation with Broadway Baptist Church.”

## Missions funding shortfall may reflect a problem of hearts, IMB president says

By Grace Thornton  
The Alabama Baptist

Louisville—The lack of sufficient funding to support missionaries may not be an economic problem but a problem of “hearts that aren’t aligned with the Lord’s passion” for the lost, International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin said.

“We are grateful for the faithful giving of Southern Baptists,” Rankin told messengers during the board’s report in the Tuesday evening session of last week’s Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Still, despite gifts topping last year’s, shortfalls will prevent 400 short-term missionaries who are completing their assignments this year from being replaced, he explained.

Lack of funds also will restrict the placement of other missionaries, with the missionary force ultimately being shrunk by 700.

“This is at a time when thousands of candidates for overseas service are being called out of our church ... a time when global events are creating opportunities,” Rankin said.

The issue is not about the number of missionaries or support for the IMB budget, he explained. It is about the “thousands of unreached people groups that are not hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Because of that, the IMB is going through “the most radical restructuring in its history” in order to better use resources and more effectively reach the lost, Rankin said.

The board made significant changes in 1997, but the world is not the same as it was even then, he noted. “If we are going to be positioned for relevance, ... in the future, we cannot presume past methods will work. ... We must boldly capitalize on the change around us.”

To position itself for global advance, the IMB is replacing its geographic organization with nine affinity groups aimed at reaching



**HEART CHECK** International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin challenges SBC messengers to align their hearts “with the Lord’s passion” to keep funding the work of overseas missionaries. (BP photo)

their people groups no matter where they are located in the world, Rankin said.

The board also is maximizing its partnerships with national Baptists and other organizations instead of retaining “an exclusive strategy of sending missionaries,” he said.

No entity can presume success in the past will translate into success in the future if business is done as usual, Rankin explained. “Our world has changed, never to be the same again. We are trying to evangelize a post-modern society. ... And we live in a world that is increasingly hostile.”

Through the IMB’s work, Southern Baptists are “risking the danger” to engage unreached people groups in closed countries with the gospel, Rankin said.

With the stage darkened, several missionaries from higher-risk areas gave anonymous testimonies about the work God is doing where they are appointed.

One young woman who works in a place 17 hours from the closest American said it is “worth the risk” of disease and worth the agony of walking through a disaster area with dead bodies lying all around to see the gospel furthered.

Another husband and wife worked three years in a Muslim area and only saw one person come to know the Lord. When the wife began praying for 100 to find salvation in Christ, she felt led to pray for 1,000 instead. Before they left in May, the couple had seen 1,600 come to faith in Jesus.

## Slain Illinois pastor receives LifeWay award

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Louisville—Thom Rainer, president of Lifeway Christian Resources, presented the inaugural Holman Christian Standard Bible Award to Frederick Winters, the late pastor of First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill., during the agency’s report to the Southern Baptist Convention June 23.

The new award, which celebrates Lifeway’s most recent translation, recognizes “a man or woman who has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to preaching or teaching the Word of God,” Rainer said. The award also reflects the Southern Baptist agency’s primary core value—the Bible, he noted.

Winters was killed March 8 when a gunman entered his church’s worship center and shot him while he was preaching. Winters, pastor of the Maryville congregation for nearly 22 years, had led the church to “unprecedented growth and biblical faithfulness,” Rainer said. The church grew from a few dozen members to thousands.

Following a video presentation about Winters’ ministry, his widow, Cindy, and two daughters, Alysia and Cassidy, accepted the award on his behalf. Calling the award “a fitting recognition” for her husband, Cindy Winters said the award “in so many ways encapsulates his life and the legacy he leaves behind.”

“I feel that I have been so blessed to be able to see him live out his life so much with passion and intentionality,” she said.

“As odd as it may sound, I feel that my life has been changed for better because of the way he died.” Though still tormented and hurt by the way in which he died, she is “completely convinced that his death was orchestrated by evil and was an attempt to stop the work that God was doing,” she said.

“Because of that, my life has been changed,” she continued. “I am ready to unite (Christians) across this land and to fight the good fight, because we serve a mighty God who has a message of love and salvation that needs to be shared.”

While she wants to honor her husband’s legacy, more importantly, Cindy Winters said she wants to be obedient to God, adding that she is praying intently for revival and spiritual awakening in the nation.

In his remarks that followed the award presentation, Rainer told messengers about his high school football coach in Union Springs, Ala., who some 40 years ago called Rainer into his office one day to share the gospel with him.

“What stuck in my mind—or even more in my heart—was the Scripture he quoted,” Rainer said.

“That is what pierced my heart. It was the Word,” Rainer said, describing the Holman Christian Standard Bible as “an amazingly accurate and powerful translation” that is faithful to the oldest manuscripts as well as clear and readable.

“We are convinced that as the more faithful reader of the Word begins to read this translation and understands how truly faithful it is to the manuscript, the more he or she will love it,” Rainer said.



**CHANGED** North American Mission Board President Geoff Hammond watches as NAMB missionary Ben Barfield hugs Danny and Danielle McDermott. Danny, a professed atheist, challenged God to perform a miracle by allowing him to see the birth of his child, who had been diagnosed with hydrocephalus. The child survived and Danny became a Christian. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

## Hammond: ‘Jesus is Lord’ is greatest change agent for all of North America

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
The Alabama Baptist

Louisville—Winning the world for Christ means Baptists “must double our efforts, our focuses and our finances,” North American Mission Board Chairman Tim Patterson told Southern Baptist Convention messengers.

Patterson, speaking during the NAMB report at last week’s annual meeting, added: “The North American Mission Board must be at the cutting edge of this cause.”

NAMB President Geoff Hammond agreed. “This world is changing. Change has come to America,” he said. “I still believe that the gospel is the most powerful change agent. ... Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and we believe that is the greatest change message we can bring to the United States, Canada and the territories.”

Hammond challenged Southern Baptists to embrace NAMB’s God’s Plan for Sharing emphasis—“every believer sharing, so that every person can hear by the year 2020.”

The program was introduced at last year’s SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. Since then, 42 state conventions, the Canadian Baptist convention and numerous churches and associations have signed up for “the greatest partnership ever seen,” according to Hammond.

During the four GPS pilot projects earlier this year, 8,000 volunteers from 265 churches spent the three weeks leading up to Easter prayerwalking communities, inviting neighbors to church and sharing the gospel. More than 600 people made decisions for Christ.

### Missions giving

Pointing out the fact that more than a quarter of a million volunteers have been involved in North American missions in the last year, Hammond said, “None of this could be done without the generous giving of Southern Baptists.”

Despite the current recession, Hammond reported that the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions in 2008 was more than \$58 million—only 2.3 percent below the largest offering in history.

The report also featured a presentation of the work taking place across North America through NAMB ministries.

Danny and Danielle McDermott’s story brought tears to many eyes in the convention hall. Danny was a self-proclaimed atheist when NAMB missionary Ben Barfield began reaching out to him. He told Barfield, “If your God is real, then show me a miracle.”

A few months later he experienced that miracle when his wife gave birth to their daughter, Bobbi, who was not supposed to live through the pregnancy.

Soon after, Barfield led McDermott to Christ. “Everything that comes with Danny becoming a Christian is wonderful,” said his wife, who already was a Christian and involved in church.

McDermott added, “God has ... touched me in so many ways. The strength and courage He gives to me is overwhelming.”

As the video presentation of their story closed, Hammond announced that Bobbi died just after the video interview of the McDermotts was finished. She was 18 months old. He then brought Danny and Danielle to the stage.

“They came tonight for you to know real people are getting saved, and Jesus Christ is making a difference,” Hammond said. “Think about the Danny McDermotts in your neighborhood that your church can reach. All it takes is a faithful witness.”

## President's address

## Revival in the SBC will bring Great Commission resurgence

By Lonnie Wilkey & Connie Bushey  
Tennessee Baptist and Reflector

Louisville—Revival in the Southern Baptist Convention will lead to a Great Commission resurgence, Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt asserted in his president's address to the convention's annual meeting in Louisville.

Preaching from 2 Chronicles 7:12-16, Hunt noted revival is not only needed in the convention, but also in "the churches and in the hearts of our leaders, including your president."

Hunt shared that he has been fasting and praying with friends for months. "I want to see the Great Commission rise," he said, noting that it is imperative for the SBC's future.

He cited results of a recent study by LifeWay Research that indicates the membership of the SBC will drop from 16 million members to 7 million (actually 8.7 million, according to a LifeWay press release).

Hunt referenced the Great Commission Resurgence document and motion that later was presented to and approved by SBC messengers during the annual meeting. He stressed he has no hidden agenda.

Hunt noted that he went to last year's annual meeting in Indianapolis not needing "to win an election" but to be obedient to God's will.

"When I came here this time, I didn't come to win a vote. I just came to obey. That is victory," he said.

Hunt referred to the promise found in 2 Chronicles that God would heal the land if His people would turn from their wicked ways and repent.

"If God's children will come back to Him with their whole hearts for genuine repentance and faith, we will see our nation impacted for and by the glory of God," Hunt predicted.

That kind of revival, he continued, would

lead to a Great Commission resurgence.

"A Great Commission resurgence is not about structure. It's not about trustees. The last thing I want to do is violate policy," he said.

Rather, he said, the Great Commission Resurgence "is about all of us, starting with the local church, taking a look to see if we're doing the best we've ever done in our lifetime to fulfill the Great Commission."

The resurgence then would continue throughout the denomination, from the local association, through the state convention and on to the SBC and its entities, Hunt noted.

If such a resurgence happened, it would climax in the Kingdom of God, he said.

Hunt challenged SBC messengers to consider what could happen if "every individual took a close look to see if we are doing the best we can do with all

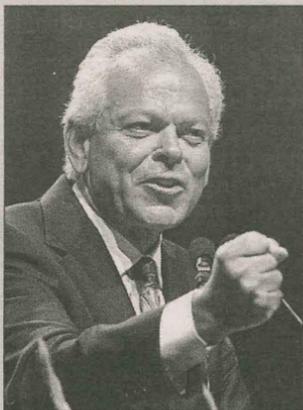
(God) has given us" and if every pastor saw his church as a "missionary-sending unit and a church-planting church."

Hunt observed that if people were more concerned about the spiritually lost condition of the world, money would not be a problem.

"It's not about us. We ought to be concerned about reaching greater amounts of money for missions because of the lostness of the world," not because of the payroll of the institutions, he emphasized. "God help us to get a vision of the lostness of the world and then make decisions."

Hunt insisted Southern Baptists "do not have a money problem. We have a vision problem."

He predicted that if Southern Baptists "commit greater amounts to reaching the nations, church planting in America and intentional evangelism in this nation in which we live, the Cooperative Program will rise in such a way that we will think it was a CP resurgence instead of a Great Commission resurgence."



Johnny Hunt

## Convention sermon

## Marshall: Southern Baptists must be 'vibrant believers on mission'

By Charlie Warren  
Arkansas Baptist News

Louisville—If Southern Baptists are serious about a Great Commission resurgence, they must become "vibrant believers on mission," John Marshall, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., charged as he delivered the convention sermon during last week annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The greatest misconception among Christians is that the Great Commission was given to institutions or even the local church, he said.

"The Great Commission is given to you," Marshall asserted. "You are commanded to go. ... Every believer is to go. ... You yourself must go."

To be like Jesus, he said, Christians have two choices: become career missionaries or go on short-term mission trips. "He spent his whole ministry going on short-term mission trips. That's all he did."

Marshall displayed a fire brigade bucket, noting the bottom is rounded. "When there is a fire going on, you don't put your water bucket down. ... Someone has got to deliver the living water."

He quipped that denominations had begun by the three blind men Jesus healed as they argued over whether to be mudites, spitites or touchites, based on how Jesus had healed each man.

"Petty divisions divided them," Marshall said, but three common traits should have united them because each had a personal encounter with Jesus, heard God's Word and went out on mission.

Those same traits can unite Southern Baptists to reach the world, he insisted.

"Always embrace the admonition that you must be born again," he urged. "The only way sinners can be holy is for Jesus to come into their lives ... and holiness matters most."

Jesus spoke God's Word to the blind men and "God's Word is not debatable. The Bible alone has ultimate authority."

Noting that Southern Baptists hold certain beliefs in common, he added: "Only the Bible is infallible. All we need is the Scripture, because that is authoritative."

Baptists always have believed only Scripture can exercise authority over anyone, which is why annual meeting resolutions are non-binding, he noted.

Marshall warned Baptists to avoid the trap of developing rules and regu-

lations to enforce certain cultural standards.

"The moment we do that we cease being Baptists," he said. "We do not believe one generation should legislate to another."

"We want our children and grandchildren to search Scripture to find their way," Marshall added. "The greatest gift we can give our children is a love for Scripture. Teach them to love the Bible. That's all they need."

He said he always knew that liberalism does not know where to stop or draw the line, but he has been surprised to learn in recent years that legalism does the exact same thing.

"If Southern Baptists follow that trajectory (of legalism), we move away from grace and argue over lesser issues. ... Our man-made legalistic rules do not add a cotton-picking thing to Scripture. The Bible stands on its own. ... Trust it. It is sufficient."

He also urged encouraging young leaders to become more involved in SBC life.

"If the Great Commission Resurgence is to happen, we gray heads are going to have to yield to some younger men. ... We must send a signal to the younger generation that we want them and need them."



John Marshall

## Southern Baptists challenged to 'love loud'

By Grace Thornton & Brittany Howerton  
The Alabama Baptist

Louisville—"I am at a crisis of belief," Pastor David Platt of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"Do I really believe this book is true?" he asked, holding up his Bible. "Do I really believe this book radically changes my life?"

If the Bible is true, Platt said, "then the implications are staggering."

At least 4.5 billion people on the planet today are headed straight for an eternity in hell, he asserted.

And in the time he spent preaching, 16,000 children died because they did not have food, Platt pointed out.

"If that is true, and if the Bible says that all throughout the history of God's people he has chosen to measure the integrity of our faith by our treatment of the poor, we don't have time to play games with our lives, and we don't have time to play games with the church."

Preaching from Acts 3, he challenged believers to pray for a radical concern for the needs of the world.

"I want my life to count and I want the church I pastor to count for the nations," he said. "God raise up a church that is no longer content to wait for a tingling feeling to go down our spine to cause

us to rise up and do what we've already been commanded to do."

Platt's message was one of four that developed the annual meeting's "LoveLoud" theme.

Detailing how to "LoveLoud for the Kingdom," Vance Pitman, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas, told messengers that it is vital that the Kingdom become Christians' No. 1 priority.

"But what does that look like?" he asked.

The Kingdom is "God's sovereign activity in the world resulting in people being in right relationship with himself," Pitman noted. It is characterized by three truths: God's Kingdom is alive with activity, full of opportunity and exclusive in its glory.

Pitman said Southern Baptists must "die to our programs and traditions" and realign our focus to the work of the Father—whether it's Southern Baptist work or not.

Jeff Crook, pastor of Blackshear Place Baptist Church in Flowery Branch, Ga., said that the local church needs to rise up and access the Spirit's power to accomplish the Great Commission.

"Want to know if your church is about evangelism? Stick a thermometer in the pastor's mouth," Crook said. "We must train our people to be soul winners."

Time is running out, he declared—the return of Christ is imminent. "It's inexcusable for us to drop the ball."

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tions recruit needy and deserving students. And third, it helps the individual giver make an investment in the future for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

There are several options available to make such an investment. You can make ongoing scholarship gifts directly to the institutions. You can establish a scholarship endowment with an institution, or with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the perpetual benefit of students at any institution. If you want to invest in students at more than one school, you can establish an endowment with the Foundation and specify what proportion of the earnings you want to benefit students at the various institutions you designate. Or, you could establish an endowment for which scholarships is one of several causes you want to benefit.

Call Laurie Valentine or me toll free for more information on how to invest in the future via a scholarship gift for students at Campbellsville, Cumberlands, Georgetown, Clear Creek, Oneida or Mid-Continent.

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

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 Kitchen measure (abbr.)
- 4 "Let her \_\_\_\_: against the day of my burying hath she kept this" (John 12:7)
- 9 Baden-Baden is one
- 12 Titian's medium
- 14 "I have set before thee an \_\_\_\_ door" (Revelation 3:8)
- 15 Possesses
- 16 Evening wrap
- 18 "The ear trieth words, as the mouth \_\_\_\_ meat" (Job 34:3)
- 20 Strive for dominance
- 21 Rows
- 22 Hardly worth commenting on
- 26 "Leah said a troop cometh: and she called his name \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 30:11)
- 27 Actor Auberjonois
- 28 "They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than \_\_\_\_" (2 Samuel 1:23)

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49				50		51		52		
53				54					55	

- 30 Preposition
- 32 Univ. subj.
- 33 Collect collectibles
- 34 Verses to a Grecian urn
- 35 French conjunction
- 36 Diagram
- 37 Author unknown (abbr.)
- 38 Exclamation of achievement
- 39 "Thou \_\_\_\_ up the sum, full of wisdom" (Ezekiel 28:12)
- 41 Live like a longhorn
- 43 Leave out
- 44 Where ship is secured
- 46 Lake \_\_\_\_ (outdoor playground)
- 49 Hosp. facilities (pl.)
- 50 Affirm or attest to
- 52 Delhi "to go" garb
- 53 Born (Fr.)
- 54 African scavenger
- 55 Author Amy

- 22 "I give to eat of the \_\_\_\_ of life" (Revelation 2:7)
- 23 Torn apart
- 24 Feminine name
- 25 Ananias and Sapphira, to name two
- 29 Bones (comb. form)
- 30 Big deals
- 31 Abraham's abode
- 33 Son of Ahab (1 Kings 22:40)
- 34 "He that ... meddeth with strife ... is like \_\_\_\_ (2 words) taketh a dog by the ears" (Proverbs 26:17)
- 36 Scorch
- 37 Witness Protection Program gift
- 38 Was no longer supine
- 40 Quantity (abbr.)
- 41 Former senator from Tennessee
- 42 Green monster
- 44 Door designation
- 45 Command to a horse
- 47 Mouth (pl.)
- 48 German article
- 51 TLC provider

### Down

- 1 Basketball blunders (abbr.)
- 2 Portraitist's command
- 3 "He was \_\_\_\_ with twelve yoke of oxen" (1 Kings 19:19)
- 5 KJV exclamation
- 6 Elect
- 7 Spiffy
- 8 Certain sailors
- 9 Broken piece of pottery, KJV style
- 10 Touches lightly
- 11 Tree type
- 13 Demetrius, in The Robe
- 17 The family of \_\_\_\_, descendants of Gad (Numbers 26:16)
- 19 Prince of Wales, and others

### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
L	A	M	B	A	B	E	L	T	E	A
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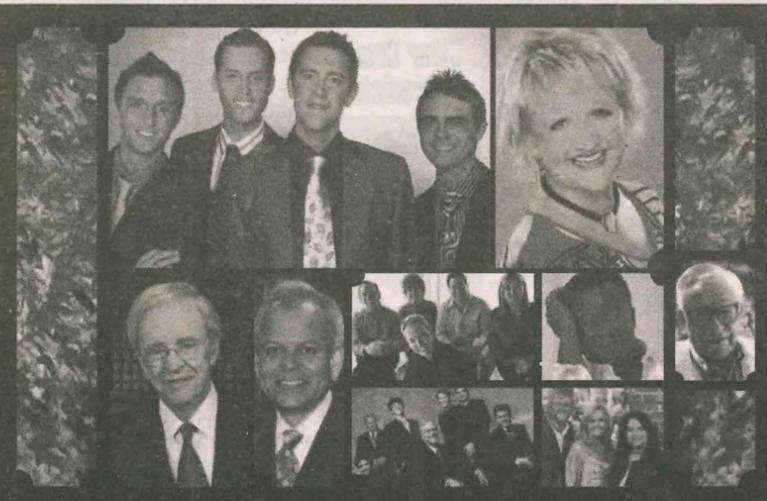
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# Kentucky, world missions front and center at WMU meeting

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists were center stage at the national Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and annual meeting June 21-22 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

A missions fair featuring Kentucky Baptist ministries from Appalachia to the Mississippi was held both days. Kentucky Baptist disaster relief also provided dinner.

At the opening session, Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton noted that the host city played a significant role in WMU's history.

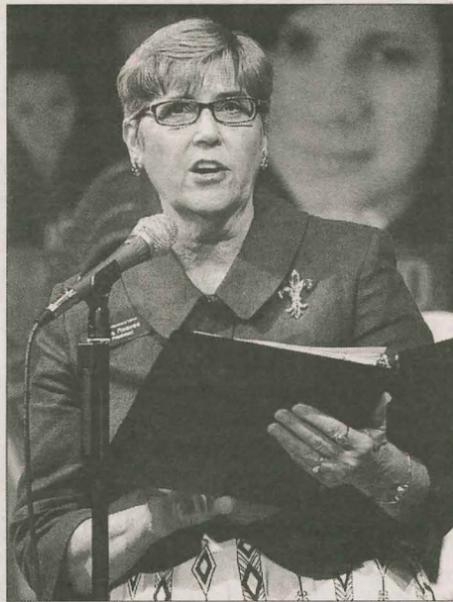
It was in Louisville in 1886 that Baptist women determined to ask the Southern Baptist Convention to formalize the organization as its women's auxiliary the following year. In 1907, the WMU Training School, predecessor to the Carver School of Social Work, was opened in Louisville.

Larry Martin, missions consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, encouraged Southern Baptists to participate in an international ministry effort in Kentucky next year.

The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games will be held Sept. 25-Oct. 10, 2010 in Lexington. Held every four years, it is expected to draw as many as 1 million people from 100 countries, Martin said.

Already 4,000 churches are coordinating efforts through Equestrian Ministries International, [www.InspiredByHorses.com](http://www.InspiredByHorses.com). WMU accepted a special request from FEI to provide gift bags with essentials to the 1,000 grooms caring for 600 horses during the event.

"We could not do what we do without WMU," said Bill Barker, director of Appalachian Regional Ministry. School supplies, coats, gift cards and tens of thousands of volunteers come to the 11-state region annually where poverty and spiritual lostness



**KENTUCKY WOMEN** Patricia Reaves (left), president of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, and Joy Bolton (right), executive director of the organization, speak to fellow WMU members June 21 during the evening session of the WMU Celebration and annual meeting at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. (BP photos)



are common challenges.

Monday afternoon's session focused on changing the world by changing lives outside North America. A choir of Karen refugees, organized by Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, sang several songs. The Karen are a people group from Thailand and Myanmar.

The missions legacy of the Gerald and June McNeely family also was celebrated. The McNeelys, emeritus missionaries to Spain, credited their mothers, both Girls in Action teachers, with inspiring them to share the gospel with others.

The McNeelys' eldest daughter, Linda Hoffman, and her husband, Rusty, are long-time missions educators at St. Matthews Baptist. Their youngest daughter, Marsha

Smith, and her husband, David, are Southern Baptist missionaries to North Africa.

"One leader can change a life," Hoffman said, noting that sometimes a believer's calling requires them to "pack a bag and a passport," as her parents and sister did. Others are tasked to "prepare the hearts of children to hear their own call," as she and her husband do.

In other business:

■ Kaye Miller of Little Rock, Ark., was re-elected president. Rosalie Hunt of Guntersville, Ala., was elected recording secretary.

■ Discussing adults on mission, WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee reported that, with help from WMU, Liberian women are re-opening a children's camp following years of civil war that put some of their

ministries on hold.

Through Pure Water, Pure Love, WMU has provided water purification systems so Liberian WMU once again can provide Christian camp for boys and girls.

■ Six international missionaries expressed their thanks for WMU's support.

John and Sarah are missionaries to South Asia, an area where direct evangelism is not possible.

"One of the hardest people to reach is a Muslim woman," Sarah said. "They are behind the veil. They are behind their husband."

A nurse, Sarah said she is "an incarnational witness because of your giving and your prayers."

John encouraged WMU members and other Southern Baptists to become even more involved in international missions.

"A lie has crept into our churches. ... that support of the IMB is the fulfillment of our 'ends of the earth' responsibilities," he said, referring to Acts 1:8. Many believers "are robbed of the privilege of being directly involved in touching lives" by relying too heavily on career missionaries to share the gospel overseas.

Referring to a map with dots illustrating people groups who have yet to hear the gospel, John said individual congregations can "zero in on one of those dots," through "strategic partnerships."

Short-term mission trips, "adopting" a missionary to a specific people group and intense, intercessory prayer are just a few ways Southern Baptists can do more to share Christ worldwide, he noted.

■ Members approved a resolution of appreciation to the Association of State Baptist Newspapers for ongoing efforts of independent Baptist newspapers to promote missions.

With additional reporting by Charlie Warren of the Arkansas Baptist News

## More accolades for Oneida students

### Students' hard work on proficiencies earn high marks at FFA convention

By Denise Spencer, OBI publications, and Jennifer Griebenow, assistant farm manager

Last week, we shared with you the recent accomplishments of several of our students at the state level in the areas of tennis and art. Now, we have more good news to share, this time about our Future Farmers of America students.

Two Oneida FFA members placed in the state FFA proficiency judging this spring. Kim Withrow and Wesley Sharp took second and third place, respectively. Kim's area was diversified livestock production, while Wes specialized in agricultural mechanics repair and maintenance.

Our students' work on proficiencies began with a Supervised Agricultural Experience comprised of several different programs. FFA members filled out "placement" proficiencies, meaning at this point in their high school education they want to work for someone else when they graduate and enter the work field.

The students then kept track of their work in order to reach one goal. For example, Kim's long-term goal is to become a large animal veterinarian. FFA advisor Jennifer Griebenow (OBI 2002) is working with a local veterinary clinic to get Kim a summer internship. "The basic concept is for FFA members to gain experience and knowledge in an area of agriculture that interests them," Griebenow explained.

So what exactly is an FFA proficiency?

"After keeping track of their hours, jobs, job descriptions and days in their areas, the students had to tally that information," Griebenow

said. "All of this record keeping added up equals the FFA proficiency," which is more than 20 pages long.

FFA members started filling out their proficiencies when they returned from Thanksgiving break in November, and did not finish until early March. They were judged on the regional level and results were handed out at the FFA regional banquet in May. Kim, Wesley and Jessica

Vires all placed first in the Kentucky River region. Emily Mazur and Derick Evans placed second in the region. Jessica's proficiency area was beef production. Emily focused on swine production, and Derick worked in the area of diversified agricultural production.

From there the first-place proficiencies went on to the state FFA review committee to compete against other winners in their proficiency areas from other regions of Kentucky.

The farm provided an incentive program for proficiency competitors "as encouragement to keep pressing on," according to Griebenow. Everyone who entered a proficiency would have the opportunity to show their heifers at the Kentucky Beef Expo in Louisville over their spring break.

The FFA State Convention was June 9-11 in Lexington. Though the students already knew the results of the judging, Griebenow said, "They still wanted to go, to represent the school and for the experience."

Congratulations to our hard-working FFA members.

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

## 'Just enough, just in time,' part 2

### Sulfridge reflects on school's many partners in ministry

"We do not function on our own as a college," said Jay Sulfridge, Clear Creek's dean of institutional advancement. "The Lord keeps this college going. He placed it here and He sustains it.

"But we're also convinced that God has tools that He uses to partner with us to do the ministry He has called us to," Sulfridge noted. "Those tools include individuals, church groups, churches as a whole, and our own Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"A lot of people don't realize one-sixth of our operating budget at Clear Creek comes from Cooperative Program funds given through the KBC," he pointed out. "We are thankful for the way God uses the saints in many different ways as partners in ministry with Clear Creek.

"There are three basic areas that we want to encourage our partners in ministry to continue to stand alongside us in," Sulfridge said.

**Prayer.** "Prayers of the saints make a difference," he noted. "We are convinced of that. We fully believe that the reason we have been able to do what we do is because of the prayers of God's people.

We stand in eternal needs of the prayers of the saints."

**Provision.** "Provision is more than just giving in the present," Sulfridge explained. "I have found that future provision is a big part of sustenance for Clear Creek. Many people don't realize that

they can help in this area. Many estate gifts we receive are from people who had just a little bit left at the end of their life and they want to make sure that even that kept on doing the Lord's work.

"Clear Creek is blessed to have the services of Barry Allen and Lori Valentine at the Kentucky Baptist Foundation who partner with us to help individuals and churches understand

how they can make future provisions for a place like Clear Creek."

**Presence.** "We like to have opportunities to visit face to face in the churches and share with people what Clear Creek is doing and let them know how they can help us fulfill the mission God has given us."

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

## Pastors' Conference

# Speakers urge SBC pastors to focus solely on Christ's love, not building up institutions

Louisville—Southern Baptists need to focus less on themselves and their institutions and more on the love of Christ if they hope to make an impact on the world, speakers told audience members at this year's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"The SBC is far too comfortable in a world that is racing toward hell," said **Alvin Reid**, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Southern Baptists have reached a "tipping point" in their attitudes toward traditional ways of carrying out evangelism and missions. "We have become so institutionalized that we are more focused on maintaining our institutions than on a movement of God," Reid said. If financial appeals were more focused on the gospel, he suggested, "people would give like never before."

Southern Baptists, in the face of massive physical and spiritual needs around the world, have "retreated into our nice buildings, sitting in our comfortable chairs insulated from the inner city and the spiritual lostness of the world, while we design programs for ourselves," Alabama pastor **David Platt** declared.

If Southern Baptists retreat from their mission, God may "leave us to wander in the wilderness until we die. He has done it with thousands of churches in the United States, and we are fools to think he could not do it with any one of us," Platt warned.

"The danger," he added, "is that we have a tendency to craft Jesus in our own image—a nice middle-class American Jesus. And if we do this, then we need to realize that when we gather to worship, we are no longer worshipping Jesus—we are worshipping ourselves."

SBC President **Johnny Hunt** said Christians often say that tragic events—like the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks or the economic recession—are attempts by God to attract America's attention.

"But I've turned a little," he said. "I realized God isn't trying to get America's attention. He's trying to get our attention, the church's attention. ... When we begin to conduct ourselves in such a way that we do everything with tenderness and holiness and compassion and full of the love of God, then God will get the nation's attention. But he's going to get our attention first."

### "They don't like us"

Until Baptists demonstrate love for each other, the gospel of love they preach will not attract others, several speakers told the Pastors' Conference.

**Mac Brunson**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., told the story of a dog food company that had the best marketing and sales staff, but sales were down because dogs did not like the product. He asked fellow pastors why Southern Baptists are not reaching more people.

"They don't like us," Brunson replied. "And if you'll walk out of this room and into the hallway and listen to the conversation, you'll discover we don't like each other very much either."

Christians who do not return evil for evil, nor insult for insult present a positive witness before a watching world, he stressed. Brunson mentioned the book "The Power of Nice: How to Conquer the Business World with Kindness," written by two women who rose to the top of the advertising business by following a simple philosophy: "It pays to be nice." He suggested Baptists try that tactic.

"If they don't like us, they won't listen to us," he said.

**J.D. Greear**, pastor of the Summit Church in Durham, N.C., asked why people are not being won to Christ in large numbers as they once were.

"Over time, religion tends to displace the gospel among God's people," he said. "Like a virus, it grows up out of the sinful hearts of men and chokes out the gospel."

Like the Pharisees of Christ's day, Chris-

## Southern celebration



Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, speaks during the school's sesquicentennial service June 24 in Alumni Memorial Chapel on the school's campus in Louisville. The seminary's seventh president, 95-year-old Duke McCall, spoke after Mohler, asking the seminary's alumni and friends to "rally around her as a present on her 150th birthday." The seminary also dedicated the Duke K. McCall Sesquicentennial Pavilion during the service. The Southern Baptist Convention chose Louisville as its 2009 annual meeting site as a way to honor the seminary's sesquicentennial. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

tians often see negative traits in others but not in ourselves, Greear noted. He listed several ways to know if religion has misplaced the gospel—religious people are obsessed with recognition; they substitute religious ritual for a love for God and over love of others; they elevate secondary traditions above knowing God; they are more aware of others' sins than of their own; and "they think we're always talking about somebody else."

**Ed Stetzer**, president of LifeWay Research, outlined three principles Christians have to live by in order to create "a love-driven unity to unite us in common mission with a common purpose for the glory of God"—walk worthy, display right attitudes and live God's unity.

"The nations need our witness and not our conflict," Stetzer said.

Anyone who will not forgive cannot rightly claim to be a man or woman of faith, added **Tom Elliff**, former SBC president. "Faith is acting on the basis of the revealed will of God," he said. "If you will not forgive, you are denying the truth that God is sufficient for you."

Florida pastor **Mike Landry** said Christians are playing with fire if they try to share the gospel without a heart for people. Christians should value people and not just see them as a means by which the church can grow, he explained.

"We've got to get to the point where we see people as important ... If that happened, if we ramped up our missions efforts by maintaining that same love, we would see far more people come to know Jesus."

A former presidential candidate and a former presidential aide challenged Southern Baptist pastors to confront cultural collapse.

**Mike Huckabee**, former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate, now host of a Fox News network TV program, challenged pastors to refocus on biblical roles of leadership, both in the family and the church.

"How can we expect God to bless a nation if we violate His order that He created male and female and we get confused what marriage means," Huckabee said. "Hear my heart: People have a right to live

any way they want, but no one has a right to change the basic definition of marriage, because it's not changing social instruction. It's changing the entire picture of Christ and His church."

And failure at leading and developing roles in the family—the most basic God-given institution—means there is "something horribly amiss in our culture," Huckabee said.

### Government's moral failure

**Charles Colson**, former Watergate conspirator turned founder of Prison Fellowship, said America's current "economic meltdown" can be traced to moral failure of politicians.

Colson warned that the current perilous times provide "unprecedented opportunities for government to expand," and that limitations on what pastors can say from the pulpit without threat of losing tax exemption or fear of arrest are forthcoming. "Are you ready to say 'no' to Caesar when Caesar says you can't preach what the Bible says we must preach?" he asked.

He referred to "hate speech" legislation that he interprets to mean a preacher could not call homosexual behavior sin, and potential loss of the ability for medical personnel to decline to do abortions.

"As government power expands, inevitably it restricts human freedom," said Colson, who once was part of President Richard Nixon's inner circle.

He found positives in recent reports that say 10 percent fewer Americans self-identify as Christians. The same research found an increase to 34 percent in those who self-identify as born-again evangelicals, he pointed out.

"The most critical thing churches can do is disciple members to know what they believe and why they believe it," Colson said. Referring to the difficult times the United States faces, Colson asked, "What better time to do the best of things, to show people winsomely what we believe?"

Based on reporting by Norman Jameson of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder; Robert Dillard of the Virginia Religious Herald; and Jennifer Davis Rash, Grace Thornton & Brittany Howerton of the Alabama Baptist



David Platt



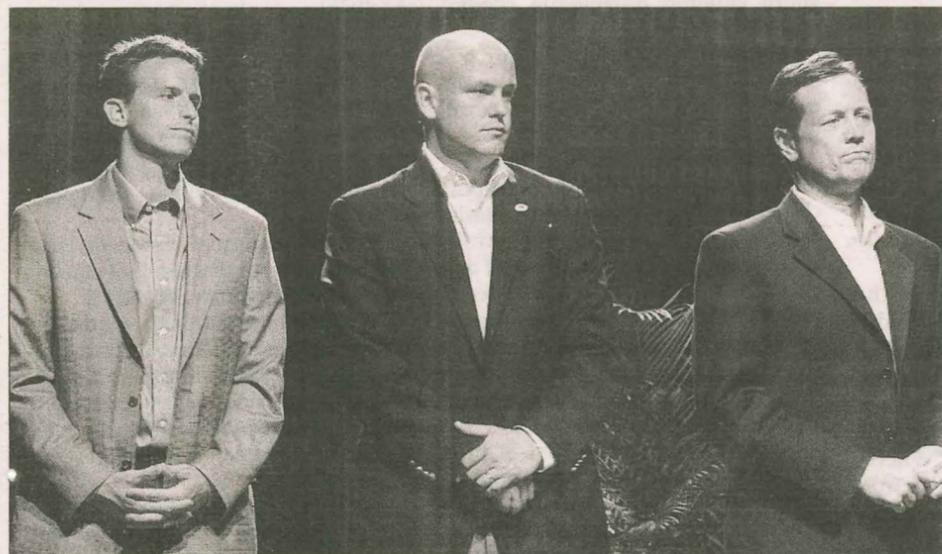
J.D. Greear



Mike Huckabee



Charles Colson



**PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICERS** Newly elected officers for the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference are (left to right) Ben Mandrell, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., secretary/treasurer; Jimmy Scroggins, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., vice president; and Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, president. Elections were held June 22 during the conference's closing session. (BP photo by Cat McDonald)

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following requests associated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions efforts:

■ Pray for the ministries of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, with which the Kentucky Baptist Convention maintains a missions partnership.

■ Pray for the people of Maryland and Delaware, 75 percent of whom are without Christ.

■ Pray for the work of Freedy Parker, BCM/D partnership missions director, and Jim McBride, volunteer missions mobilizer in Delaware.

■ Pray for Angie Cornett, who is serving as a student intern at the Delaware Baptist Association office.

■ Pray for Kentucky Baptist missions volunteers who will be serving in Maryland and Delaware this summer.

■ Pray for Embrace Baltimore, an ongoing evangelism and church planting initiative based in the convention's largest city.

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](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Partnership).

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—New Light Church recently called **Mike McKinney** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Campbellsville University will host a reception in honor of **Ralph and Laura Tesseneer** and the establishment of an endowed scholarship in their names July 19, 2 p.m. at the Betty Dobbins Heilman House on the school's campus.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—First Church of Middletown will host its annual benefit auction July 11, 6 p.m. Proceeds go to support missions and the church's outreach at the Middletown Family Fun Festival. **Jim Cobban** is pastor.

Ormsby Heights Church will host its annual Freedom Celebration July 3, 6 p.m., featuring fireworks, free food, games and more. **Rick Bowden** is pastor.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Campbellsville



Campbellsville University's mass communications department will host a book signing July 4, 1 p.m., with Taylor County World War II veterans featured in the new book "They Were Soldiers," at the school's Carter Hall. A limited number of books will be available for \$10 each.

## WMU world hunger bread loaf bank debuts at SBC

By Julie Walters  
Woman's Missionary Union

**Louisville**—A bread loaf bank for missions made its debut during the Woman's Missionary Union report at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville June 23.

The bank, a new resource for the World Hunger Offering, will replace the plastic, disposable rice bowls previously used by churches to collect funds, national WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee told messengers.

"Southern Baptists have demonstrated concern for the hungry throughout our history, and food banks and hunger projects are vibrant ministries in many of our churches," Lee said.

WMU, an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, introduced the bank as a resource to encourage giving to the World Hunger Fund, established by Southern Baptists in 1974. WMU is working on the project in partnership with the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, LifeWay Christian Resources and Baptist Press.

Kaye Miller, WMU's president, said the banks—manufactured by a Southern Baptist family—are reusable and affordable and "serve as a visual reminder to help those who do not have enough food to eat." They can be ordered directly from WMU, she noted.

With a focus on giving to missions, Lee thanked messengers for their support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Since WMU began the offerings in 1888 and 1907 respectively, WMU leaders and members have helped raise more than \$4.2 billion to sup-

port missionaries and their work.

"This year's giving to these offerings may be more sacrificial for some than ever before, considering the level of unemployment and loss of income experienced by many in our churches," Lee said. "And yet, Christ's command to go into all the world compels us to give, in support of our missionaries during these challenging times."

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

A video report highlighted WMU's Children's Ministry Day, when nearly 16,000 children and 4,600 volunteers put their faith into action this year by ministering to an estimated 74,000 people.



Wanda Lee

Launched in 2008, the ministry day takes place each February as children across the country actively share the love of Christ by meeting needs and ministering in their communities.

Miller challenged churches to join in the third annual Children's Ministry Day, Feb. 20, 2010, as children's groups will be urged to meet housing-related needs in their communities.

Lee asked messengers to visit the WMU's Web site, [WMU.com](http://WMU.com), "to discover a variety of exciting ways all ages in your church can be involved in the Great Commission."

"Your church has an enthusiastic partner in WMU," Lee said. "Whether it's through prayer, giving to missions, learning about missionaries and the people whom they serve, or meeting needs and sharing the love of Christ, it is our privilege to provide opportunities for missions discipleship and involvement so that all the world may know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." (BP)

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.

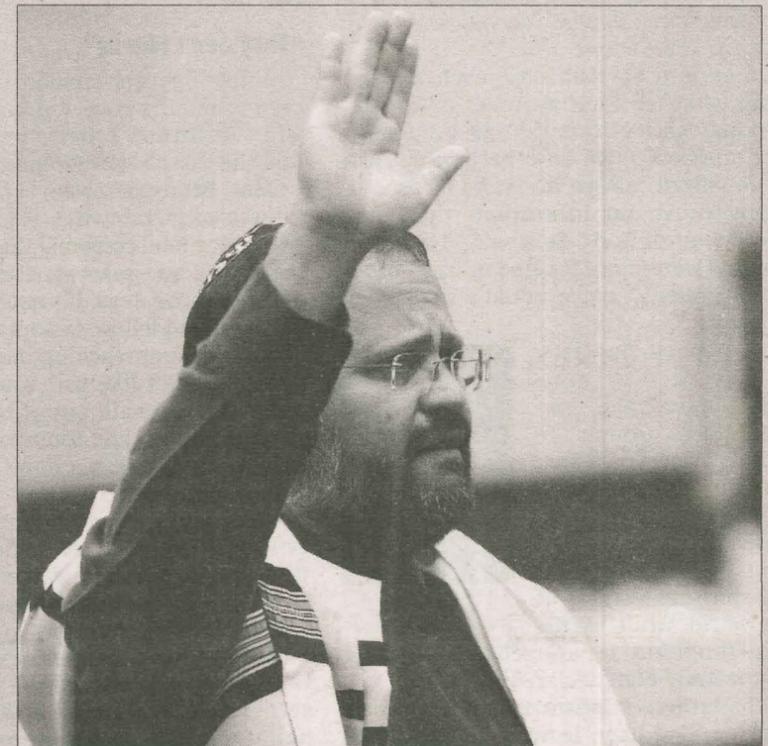
24-25 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

### August

22 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

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

## Messianic worship



Orlando Garcia, pastor of Beth Tefillah Congregation in Cardersville, Ga., worships during the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship Shabbat service June 19 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. The service was held on the first day of a three-day meeting for the fellowship. (BP photo)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**AVAILABLE:** Minister available to fill pulpit, interim, staff positions (music, youth, children, discipleship, combo). Call (606) 316-7856.

**SEEKING:** Calvary Baptist Church is accepting written resumés for pastoral position. Send to 750 Dover Road, Grand Rivers, KY 42045.

**SEEKING:** Administrative assistant for Lexington-based Southern Baptist church. Position will provide administrative and bookkeeping support for senior pastor, senior pastoral staff and church financial secretary. Basic secretarial skills required with bookkeeping experience considered a plus. College degree preferred but not required. Fax resumé to (859) 273-9724, Attn: Personnel.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, a traditional, downtown congregation. Please mail resumés to: Pastor Search Committee, 529 Convention St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802; or e-mail [JRWLSU@bell-south.net](mailto:JRWLSU@bell-south.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of children and youth for Central Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. Responsible for overseeing the planning, coordinating and

implementing of programs for the children and youth (K-12). Prefer bachelor's degree and/or experience working with children and youth; talent in music and sports an asset. Applicants may apply by sending resumé to: [cbc-ministersearch@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbc-ministersearch@bellsouth.net); or, by mail: Minister of Children and Youth Search Committee, c/o Doug Bechanan, chairman, 829 High Street, Paris, KY 40361.

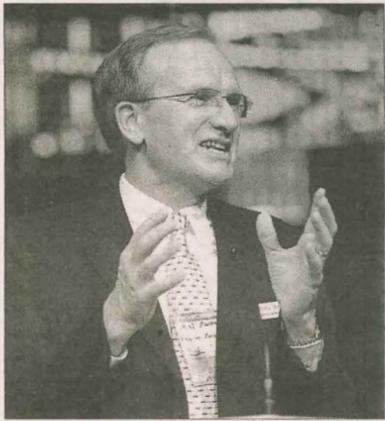
**SEEKING:** Seeking Part-time youth minister for Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Grant County, Ky. Submit resumé to Search Committee, 5320 Sherman-Mt. Zion Road, Dry Ridge, KY 41035; or e-mail: [gbhaley@hotmail.com](mailto:gbhaley@hotmail.com). Contact person: Carolyn Kinman, (859) 428-2060.

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

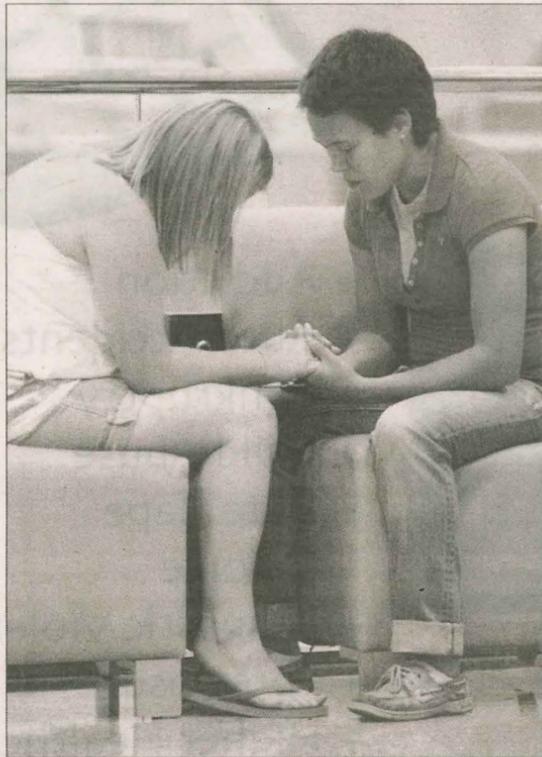
**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor in Hyden, Ky. (Leslie County). Church established in 1954, congregation of 60, county population—12,000. Education and experience preferred. For more information, contact Rhonda Brashear [@kctcs.edu](mailto:@kctcs.edu).

**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.

# Kentucky Baptists at the SBC



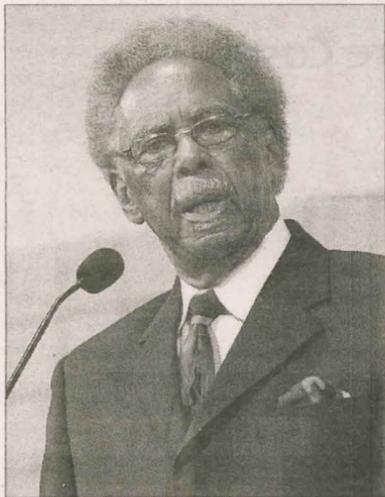
**TALKING MINISTRY** ■Above: Bill Barker, director of Appalachian Regional Ministries and a former Kentucky Baptist Mission Board staff member, talks about changing Appalachia during the WMU annual meeting at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. (BP photo) ■Below: Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, speaks during the National African American Fellowship worship service at First Gethsemane Baptist Church. Bingham was the 2008 recipient of the group's Kennedy-Boyce Award for his work in racial reconciliation for more than 50 years. (Photo by Kent Harville)



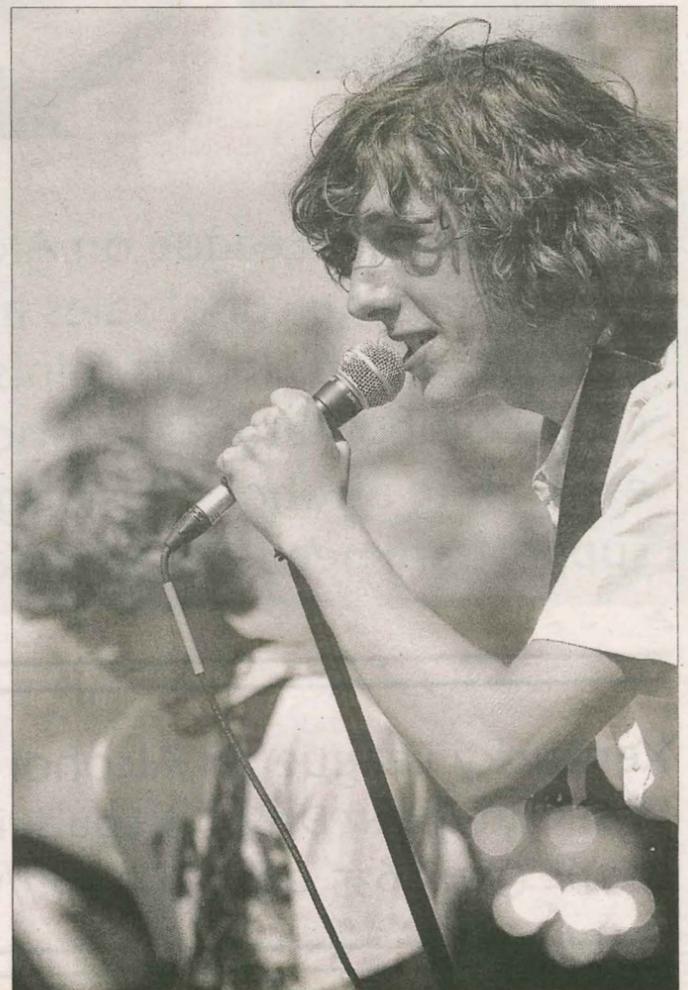
**SALVATION MOMENT** Tiara Bradbury, a youth intern at Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville (right), prays with Kimberly Mingus as she receives Jesus Christ June 21, following the 'One' student rally held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. Mingus was one of 28 students to make a decision for Christ at the rally. Thousands of students attended the event, which featured Christian rock band Building 429 and speakers Ken Freeman and Dean Forrest. (Photo by Jon Blair)



**SERVANTS' HEARTS** ■Above: Members of Korean churches in the Louisville area prepare dinner for those attending the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in America. A preaching and praise service followed the meal. (Photo by Matt Miller) ■Below: Chris Clarke, a chaplain for the North American Missionary Board and founder of Happy Trails equestrian ministry in Livingston County, sings during the WMU annual meeting. Clarke travels the country, distributing Bibles and proclaiming the gospel at cowboy church services. (BP photo)



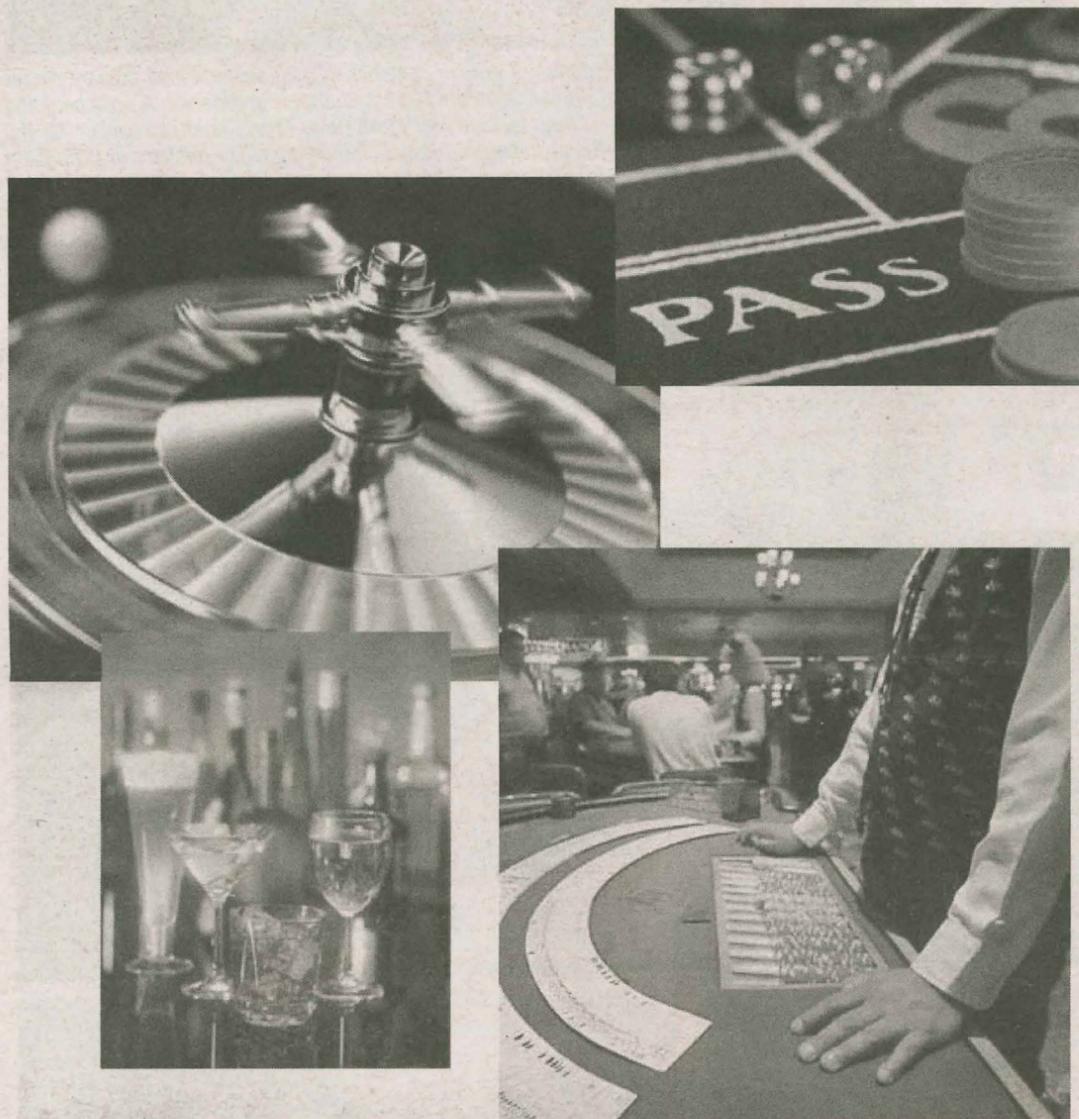
**RAISE YOUR VOICE IN PRAISE** ■Above: G-men, the men's choir of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville, leads worship during the National African American Fellowship, which met June 21 at First Gethsemane. (Photo by Kent Harville) ■Right: A youth band from Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow performs at a block party at Louisville's Veterans Park that was attended by more than 1,000 community members. About 150 people made decisions for Christ during the event, where game booths, food, music and the gospel were shared as part of Crossover 2009, which is held each year prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Organizers said more than 3,000 volunteers from churches all across the convention participated in 95 evangelistic events the weekend before the convention. (Photo by Matt Miller)



# Add it up.



The hidden cost of alcohol and gambling to Kentucky and its citizens is enormous.



- + Addiction
- + Auto Accidents and Fatalities
- + Bankruptcy
- + Child Abuse
- + Date Rape
- + Divorce
- + Domestic Violence
- + Foreclosure
- + Higher Healthcare Costs
- + Homelessness
- + Illness and Injury
- + Increased Crime
- + Low Productivity
- + Poverty
- + Suicide and Homicide
- + Theft and Bad Debts
- + Treatment and Therapy
- + Unemployment
- + Welfare

The Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems works to stop the expansion of alcohol sales and gambling in our state. We invite you to partner with us in this ministry to protect Kentucky's families and children. Call your legislators at 1-800-372-7181 and ask them to vote NO to any bills expanding alcohol sales or gambling. Your continued prayers and financial support are needed and greatly appreciated.

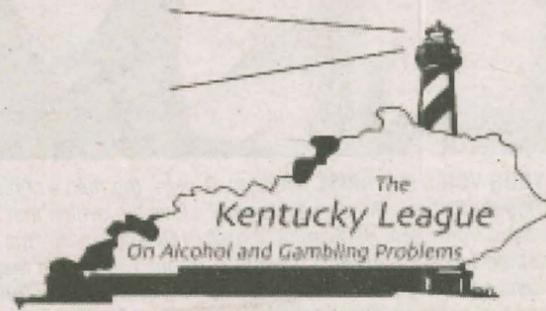
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"Let Your Light Shine Before Men"

MAY 2014