

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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Comeback Camps



On the verge of extinction more than a decade earlier, Kentucky Baptist camps celebrate 10 years of Crossings

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Bagdad—On a late June evening, about 300 people are packed into the Byrdwell Conference Center at Cedarmore Camp in Shelby County.

It's the end of the evening worship time at Crossings Camp and everyone is seated—save for about 15 students who are standing. Their heads turn as John Nix, camp pastor for the week, tells the students to look for their youth leaders.

"Talk about the decision you've just made," Nix tells those standing, instructing them to connect with their leaders during the small group time that will follow.

For those students, it is a moment that many of them probably will remember as the moment they chose eternity with a Heavenly Father.

It was a moment that almost never happened.

These days, to say that Crossings Camps is thriving might be an understatement. With its 2009 summer schedule just wrapped up, the camps are shattering attendance records. More than 8,000 students spent a week this summer at Cedarmore and its Western Kentucky counterpart, Jonathan Creek—the most ever at the properties.

"It's been very much the year that the Lord has grown us in a lot of ways and blessed us and demonstrated His abilities in a way that we've not ever seen," said David Melber, president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies which manages Crossings Ministries.

But around the time many of those students at Byrdwell were born, Kentucky Baptists found themselves at a crossroads about what to do with camp ministry.

In 1994, a Kentucky Baptist Con-

vention Executive (now Mission) Board work group concluded a three-year-long study on the financial viability of Cedarmore. In the years prior, the camp, purchased in 1951, was hemorrhaging guests and money. The work group's report estimated that making the necessary renovations to keep the camp open would cost \$4 million.

There also was the sense that children and youth were no longer interested in camping; that they were choosing to spend their summers anywhere but camp.

The Executive Board approved the work group's recommendation to sell Cedarmore. As for Jonathan Creek, the Marshall County property which had proved to be more successful since its purchase in 1983, the board decided it would remain under KBC control.

The decision set off a firestorm of criticism and an outpouring of support for the old camp. Several associations and the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union passed resolutions denouncing the sale.

At the next year's KBC annual meeting, messengers approved a recommendation to have the two camps become separate entities governed by their own trustee boards. Cedarmore was spared.

In 1996, the KBC announced the formation of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Inc., which would own and operate the two camps.

"That's what the turnaround began, when the body of Kentucky Baptists voted in support of keeping Cedarmore," said Rusty Ellison, who became the first president of the

CAMP SCENES (clockwise from top left) Summer campers ride bikes near the banks of Kentucky Lake at Jonathan Creek Camp in Marshall County; a pair of teens get launched from the water trampoline known as the "blob" at Cedarmore Camp in Shelby County; a group of campers form a human cross; a teenager spends some quiet time in a tree at a Crossings camp. (Photos by Drew Nichter and Crossings staff)

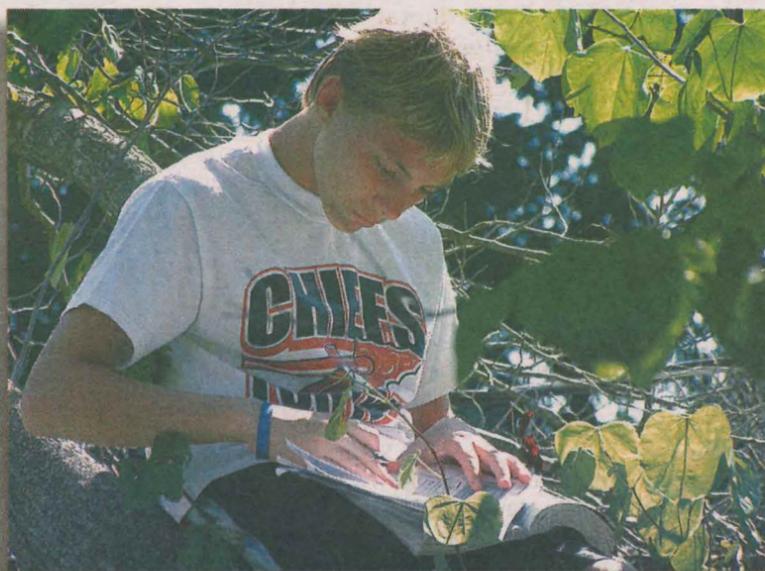
fledgling entity in 1997. "They spoke very loudly that it was a treasured property; that thousands of lives had been changed" at the camp.

Ellison, who was a pastor and member of the Executive Board before joining KBA, actually had voted to sell Cedarmore. He said he wondered at the time, "Why would the Lord lead me to lead something I voted to close?"

Once he took over, Ellison and his family practically lived at the camps. He said he knew only two things early on: "We knew we were starved for Kingdom impact, and we knew we had limited financial resources."

The starting point was Jonathan Creek.

"God began to show me that what could be at Jonathan Creek was like anything else in this part of the United States—a camp that unchurched kids would be drawn to," recalled Ellison. See *Comeback Camps ... Page 8*



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Bulk of Ky. Baptist men's work shifted from New Orleans to Maryland/Delaware efforts

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

New Orleans—While Operation NOAH Rebuild has only made a partial dent in the destruction inflicted by Hurricane Katrina, the project is a modern-day miracle to more than 1,200 people who are back in their homes today.

Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) is a partnership between Southern Baptists in New Orleans, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board and SBC volunteers nationwide.

The rebuilding effort was formed to address housing needs after the 2005 storm, which destroyed 50,000 homes. Originally scheduled to conclude in August of 2008, the project has been extended through the end of this year.

Although volunteers still are needed, the KBC's emphasis on New Orleans has given way to its partnership with the Maryland-Delaware Baptist Convention, according to Lew Cook. Thus far, 1,700 Kentucky Baptists have worked on NOAH rebuilding.

"We will encourage people to go as before, but we're not actually going out and saying, 'We need three electrical teams for a particular project,'" said Cook, Kentucky's area coordinator for Operation NOAH.

Thousands have gone

The winding down of Kentucky's efforts in New Orleans was cause for reflection at last year's annual meeting of Baptist Men on Mission.

Noting that a total of 24,000 Southern Baptists have been to the area to help rebuild houses, Cook said numerous people still have not returned to their homes.

"It's like a Third World country sometimes," Cook noted. "We have 150 (more) homes we're working on that we're committed to finish."

As important as the housing renovations are the eternal results. More than 400 residents accepted Christ as their Savior during the work.

In addition, more than 40 volunteers answered a call to preaching ministry, music ministry or some other form of Christian service.

"There are individual decisions made all the time," Cook said. "It's a great thing



WINDING DOWN Much like this individual, thousands of Kentucky Baptists have worked to help rebuild homes in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. Although the Operation NOAH Rebuild effort, Kentucky Baptist efforts have slowed there, in favor of focusing efforts in Maryland and Delaware, with which the Kentucky Baptist Convention has a missions partnership. (BP photo)

to see people change and get a new focus in life."

With the emphasis now shifted from gutting damaged structures to new construction, specialists are needed. That includes such skilled workers as electricians, plumbers, carpenters and sheet-rock installers.

Volunteers must be at least 16 to work through NOAH, with a minimum of one adult overseer needed for every four teens—although young adults in their early 20s qualify for that role, Cook pointed out.

Nor does a Kentucky Baptist have to be part of an established group to participate.

"If you have a special skill, you can go down as an individual," Cook said. "What we need to be thinking about is souls. The people there are ripe. You can pass out all the Bibles and tracts you want."

Baptist Men on Mission Director Randy Foster noted that a number of Kentucky Baptist associations have made several trips to New Orleans in the last year.

"They're grateful you're there"

No matter how many times they went, though, all Kentucky Baptists made an impact.

"We heard words like, 'If it hadn't been for the volunteers we never would have recovered,'" Foster recalled. "We heard that over and over again. They appreciate people noticing their need and caring."

Hearing such gracious attitudes has been one of the most rewarding aspects of rebuilding homes, added Cook, a member of Central Baptist Church in Mayfield.

"Even when you can't help them all the way, they're grateful you're there," he said. "You go to the restaurant or the store and they'll stop you and thank you."

Harold Shepherd Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville has been to New Orleans twice. The first trip he did drywall finishing and the other time he helped cook meals for volunteers from Kentucky and Alaska.

While helping finish drywall, Smith said he felt exhilarated when he saw the looks on people's faces they were helping.

"Their eyes would brighten up, knowing they would soon get to move back into their home," Smith recalled. "It's hard to explain what that does. You have a good feeling, knowing you are helping and serving others. And that by serving others, you're serving Christ."

Foster said he hopes to see a similar progress through the KBC's partnership with their counterparts in Maryland and Delaware.

The three-year partnership already has made an impact. Kentucky Baptists have worked on church buildings and conducted chaplain training for disaster relief workers there.

In turn, groups of Southern Baptists from the Maryland-Delaware convention have traveled to Kentucky to help with disaster relief clean-up efforts.

For more information about the Maryland/Delaware partnership opportunities, contact the KBC's partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529, or toll free in Kentucky (866) 489-3529.

Super Saturdays events help churches make connections

Lexington—Those who lead church ministries will benefit from a variety of training sessions at six Super Saturday events throughout the state in August and September.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Super Saturdays are comprehensive church ministry training events held each year. Hundreds of participants are expected at each of the six locations.

Events will be held Aug. 22 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Aug. 29 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Sept. 12 at First Baptist Church of Somerset, and First Baptist Church of Paducah; and Sept. 19 at First Baptist Church of Pikeville and Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

New this year, Essential Church courses will be offered to help church leaders and volunteers understand how to connect all generations to the church. Find it Here courses also will be offered to help churches prepare for the statewide evangelistic emphasis that begins in 2010.



"Super Saturdays assist Kentucky Baptists as they strengthen and grow their ministries," said Darryl Wilson, KBC's Sunday school director. "The conferences are designed to help church staff, teachers and volunteers in their efforts to make vital connections and build healthy ministries."

According to Wilson, participants will benefit from new conference topics, expert speakers and networking opportunities at each event.

Training is available for leaders and volunteers in most areas of local church ministry, including assimilation, church architecture, Sunday school, stewardship, discipline, evangelism, Woman's Missionary Union, women's ministry, worship and music, preschool/children, Baptist Men on

Mission, finance, deacon ministry, ministers' wives and secretaries.

Additionally, Hispanic ministry courses will be offered Aug. 29 at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Super Saturday participants can customize their event experience by selecting from a variety of conferences throughout the day. Participants will select one leadership conference to receive in-depth training in their primary ministry area, and two afternoon conferences based on their interests and needs.

Super Saturdays run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration opens at 8 a.m., and lunch is provided.

Registration is required for all Super Saturday events. The cost to attend is \$25 for those who register by the Monday before each event, or \$35 after that date.

To register for Super Saturday or to get more information, visit www.KyBaptist.org/SuperSaturday, call (502) 489-3572, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3572, or by e-mail at SuperSaturday@KyBaptist.org.

Pair of athletes from Kentucky Baptist universities killed

Elizabethtown—Two student-athletes from Kentucky Baptist universities died last week, one the result of a car crash, the other a shooting.

Ben Napier, 19, a member of the Campbellsville University golf team died July 20 in a car accident near Elizabethtown.

Napier, a Lexington native and 2008 graduate of John Hardin High School was preparing to begin his sophomore year at Campbellsville.

Men's golf coach Kenny Lawson, described Napier as a funny guy who "would love to joke and have a good time" and kept the guys on the team laughing.

As a freshman, Napier did not make the cut for any of the team's tournaments, but "he didn't give up and he tried his best at everything he did, on and off the golf course," Lawson noted. "If he lost, he lost, but he'd give 110 percent to do it."

"He was a great kid. I'm going to miss his heart."

In an Elizabethtown News-Enterprise story, Campbellsville University President Michael Carter said the school community was saddened by Napier's tragic death.

"He was a fine young man and leaves a lasting imprint on the Campbellsville University community," Carter said. "Our heartfelt prayers and expression of sympathy are extended to his family and friends."

Lawson said there is a great deal of sadness around the golf team right now, but that he expects the players to use their teammate's memory as a rallying point for the upcoming season.

"It's done nothing but encourage my players to dedicate the season to him," Lawson said, noting that will happen with "a lot of prayer and letting the Lord lead it."

Funeral services for Napier were held July 23 in Lexington.

Cumberlands' Wesley shot

That same day, a University of the Cumberlands football player who was set to return to the team after a two-year break from football, was killed.

Marcus Wesley, 24, was shot to death outside of a Tampa, Fla., night club during the early morning hours of July 20.

According to a report in the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Wesley got into an altercation which led to the shooting. A friend of Wesley's drove him to a nearby home where he was found by police. Efforts to revive Wesley were unsuccessful.

As of late last week, no arrests had been made in the case.

The Times report also cited jail records that showed Wesley had been arrested six times on multiple charges including car theft, robbery, drug possession and aggravated battery.

In 2006, Wesley helped lead the University of the Cumberlands' defensive unit, garnering Mid-South first team all-conference honors.

He was expected to return to the football team this fall after two years away from the school.

No details about funeral arrangements for Wesley were available at press time.

Virginia church's 'Big Serve' gets members out of the pews

By Adam Cole

Norfolk, Va.—For members of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., a recent Sunday service wasn't held in pews but throughout the multi-city area of Hampton Roads.

This event—called the "Big Serve"—was about serving others, as more than 1,000 First Baptist, Norfolk, members teamed with one another to visit the needy, the elderly, the disabled and the average park-goer across Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, offering a token of their hearts—be it a hamburger or bottled water—and a warm smile.

"God has done some amazing things in us today," Eric Thomas, the church's pastor, said at a special evening service following the July 12 outreach. Relating the day's efforts to Jesus sending out His chosen 72, Thomas said to the congregation, akin to Luke 10:20: "We should not boast about what we have done in His name, but simply that He has written our names in heaven."

Thomas and his staff came up with a vision for the Big Serve and saw it to fruition last summer, with Thomas emphasizing a type of "napkin strategy" that church members follow through on with the mission of the church: to love God, love others



OUTSIDE THE WALLS Members of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., fellowship with the homeless during a picnic held as part of a "Big Serve" initiative in which teams from the church went out to serve others throughout the area. (BP photo)

and live the mission.

The napkin strategy is an everyday thing, Thomas said, whereby people love extravagantly in their neighborhoods and in grocery stores where they shop and in everyday life. The strategy encourages

members to take an extra minute—or several—to talk to someone, to intentionally make connections with a co-worker, invite a neighbor over for dinner, and serve the "least of these" through a number of the church's ministries.

Some of the 40 Big Serve projects included delivering cookies to firefighters, a barbecue in the park for the homeless, a special fellowship and car wash with a local Chinese church, and delivery of treats to a nursing home.

"It has been exciting once again to see God move mightily through His body, the church," said Craig Clayton, the church's minister of missions. "Not a building, but a people being propelled into the community to prosper the city. How beautiful is the body of Christ when we love God, love others and live the mission."

Participants shared that feeling as they completed their projects and returned to the church that evening for fellowship.

"Serving like this is important. It's following the example that Jesus Christ left us," said Jay Coulter, 21, a coordinator of the homeless picnic who visits shelters each Sunday as part of First Baptist's Hope for the Hungry ministry.

The picnic "turned out to be a great event. I think people felt like they were doing something that had eternal value," he said. "I think the guests were treated to a time of rest and encouragement and left with Christ deeper in their hearts." (BP)

Extra Lottie gifts yield more missionaries

Richmond, Va.—Gifts from several sources are enabling the International Mission Board to send additional missionaries to the field this year after a shortfall in the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions forced suspension of some programs and restricted new missionary appointments.

IMB President Jerry Rankin expressed appreciation to individuals, churches and Baptist entities for their additional financial support in response to a drop in Lottie Moon receipts.

"I cannot adequately express my heartfelt thanks for these gifts," Rankin said. "This tangible expression of love for Christ, a heart for missions and a desire to reach a lost world will help Southern Baptists be faithful to the Great Commission by sending more missionaries to the field."

The 2008 annual offering totaled \$141 million, \$29 million short of its \$170 million goal. It also was \$9 mil-

lion less than receipts from each of the past two years. As a result, appointments to International Service Corps and Masters programs were suspended and other missionary appointments severely restricted.

Speakers at the annual Southern Baptist Convention and the Pastors' Conference—both meeting in Louisville in June—noted that sending missionaries to fulfill the Great Commission must remain Southern Baptists' top priority.

An offering was taken at the Pastors' Conference and a check presented by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention during the SBC annual meeting.

Ed Litton, Pastors' Conference president, asked those attending for a special offering to help IMB. More than \$43,000 was given by participants at the two-day pre-SBC gathering.

Jim Richards, executive director of the Texas convention, presented a check for \$100,000 during the IMB

annual report at the annual meeting to show support for international missions.

Several churches also have contacted IMB, stating that their churches are taking special offerings.

"The money will be used to send missionaries called and qualified to go who we would not be able to send and support this year without these gifts," Rankin reported.

Rankin emphasized that this is not just about the number of missionaries and meeting the needs of the mission board. "God is moving in amazing ways through global events to reach a lost world," he said. "The opportunities are unprecedented to impact lostness and engage un-reached people groups."

"We are seeing record baptisms and church growth, and God is calling missionaries to join Him in His work around the world. This will help us to more effectively respond in reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ." (BP)

SBC attendance up among 35-39 age group

Nashville—Official registration figures for the 2009 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville were recently released by SBC registration secretary Jim Wells.

A total of 8,795 messengers were sent by 3,642 churches from 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. While attendance was up significantly among the 35-39-year-old demographic, it was down in the 45-49 and 55-59 categories and up among those 60 and older.

Kentucky Baptists had the largest number of messengers, 1,680, at the June 23-24 meeting at the Kentucky Exposition Center, accounting for 23.61 percent of the registration total.

The next four leading states in messenger count were Tennessee, 805 messengers (11.31 percent of the total); Georgia, 730 (10.26 percent);

North Carolina, 537 (7.55 percent); and Alabama, 526 (7.39 percent).

By gender, 61.51 percent of the 8,795 messengers were male, 38.49 percent female.

According to data from 846 messengers who provided additional information during the registration process, messengers ages 18-29 accounted for 5.56 percent of the total; ages 30-34, 5.20 percent; ages 35-39, 8.16 percent; ages 40-44, 6.15 percent; ages 45-49, 8.39 percent; ages 50-54, 15.25 percent; ages 55-59, 16.78 percent; ages 60 and older, 34.52 percent.

The age categories that showed the most dramatic changes over the 2008 meeting were 35-39, up from 5.51 percent; 45-49, down from 13.10 percent; 55-59, down from 18.90 percent; and 60 and older, up from 31.25 percent.

By vocation, according to the

data obtained from the 846 messengers, 44.80 percent were senior pastors; 10.87 percent were home makers; 10.99 percent were other church staff; 4.14 percent worked in associational missions; 3.55 percent were state convention, entity or institution staff members; 1.77 percent were other denominational employees; 1.54 percent worked in evangelism; 1.89 percent were seminary students; 2.72 percent were involved in North American or international missions; and 17.73 percent listed "other."

For 165 of the 846 messengers, the convention in Louisville was their first SBC annual meeting, or 19.50 percent of the total; 214 had attended an SBC meeting five times or less, or 25.30 percent; 166 had attended six to 10 times, 19.62 percent; and 301 had attended 11 or more times, 35.58 percent. (BP)

BAPTIST DIGEST

Youth minister hurt in bus wreck released from hospital—

A youth minister is recovering at home from injuries he received July 12 when the bus carrying his youth group to a Georgia camp rolled over on a Mississippi interstate highway, injuring 23 passengers—one fatally. Jason Matlack, minister of youth at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., was released July 18 from Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian, Miss. Matlack fractured his C7 vertebra and had artery injuries that caused serious loss of blood. Maggie Lee Henson, daughter of a member of the church's ministerial staff, remains in critical condition, suffering from severe head injuries.

Retired Tennessee executive dies—

Tom Madden, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention from 1979-89, died July 19 in Shelbyville, Tenn. He was 90. Madden joined the convention staff in 1976 as director of convention ministries. As a Tennessee pastor, Madden was president of the state convention in 1969 and served on the state convention's executive board from 1958-64 and 1970-76. At the SBC level, Madden served on the Executive Committee from 1966-74 and was a director of the former Education Commission.

Baptist paper apologizes for misusing governor's signature—

A Baptist newspaper in Oklahoma has apologized for publishing a graphic illustration digitally edited to make it appear a controversial proclamation declaring America a Christian nation was endorsed by the state's Baptist governor. The Baptist Messenger, news journal for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, covered a July 2 rally at the State Capitol promoting the "Oklahoma Citizen's Proclamation for Morality." The newspaper published the report in its July 16 issue, alongside artwork carrying the text of the proclamation appearing on official state letterhead and signed by Gov. Brad Henry and Secretary of State Susan Savage. Problem is, Henry—an ordained deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church of Shawnee, Okla.—did not endorse the proclamation, which has been at the center of a controversy about separation of church and state.

GuideStone ranked among Top 10—

PlanSponsor magazine, in its 11th annual Defined Contribution Recordkeeping Survey, ranked GuideStone Financial Resources as the No. 10 recordkeeper in total assets among 403(b) plans. GuideStone is the only denominational pension board to break into this Top-10 list. "This acknowledgment from PlanSponsor confirms what we already knew, and that is GuideStone is large enough to be ranked with the largest financial institutions in our land," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins. "What we also know to be true is that our assets are made up of the individual accounts of men and women who entrust their retirement security to GuideStone." The survey can be viewed online at www.PlanSponsor.com.

Across Kentucky

I recently had the privilege of speaking in several churches across Kentucky and seeing firsthand how God is at work through these congregations.

Good Hope Baptist Church in Campbellsville is a congregation with an average attendance of 90 and an incredible record of generosity. On the day I visited, the church burned the five-year mortgage note on their family life center. Over that same five-year period, they gave \$50,000 to Campbellsville University's capital campaign and 26 percent of undesignated gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program, for a total of \$26,797 in 2008.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Al Hardy has been the pastor there for 19 years, and his wife, Peggy, has served as pianist during the same time. Hardy also has served at Campbellsville University for 41 years as a vice president and more recently as dean of academic support.

Oak Grove 1 of the Pulaski Association is a church of about 30 people who are reaching out to their community and have doubled their support of missions through the Cooperative Program. When I met Pastor Robert Collins and his wife during the KBC's "Welcome to Kentucky" event for new pastors, he requested that I speak to his church about CP missions. It was a privilege to share with them the outstanding missions work they are a part of through CP. Collins has a wonderful spirit and positive attitude, as well as great compassion for people.

Maple Grove Baptist Church in Louisville has been led by Pastor Ray Hayes for the past 10 years. During Cross-over Louisville, Maple Grove conducted door-to-door surveys and a block party in a subdivision near the church. They have an active youth ministry and are consistent in their support of missions.

I also was not surprised to discover that they have wonderful worship music, as Christian artist Larnelle Harris and his wife are active members there. This was a special day with the two grandchildren I had with me, Will, 6, and Lilly, 8.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of the South Union/Mount Zion Association, is in the western part of Whitley County. Retired DOM Janus Jones now serves as pastor there, his home church. Jones served as South Union/Mount Zion DOM for more than 30 years, and his uncle served as DOM for about 30 years prior to Jones. When his uncle retired, Jones also served as pastor of Pleasant Hill. The church averages about 30 in worship and has reached out to children and youth in its community.

It is a privilege to present the mission work of the Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist conventions before God's people across the state. Please join with my wife, Kay, and me as we pray for God's anointing upon all Kentucky Baptists as we worship and serve our Lord.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

'Small step, giant leap' still inspires hearts to boldly go

Forty years ago, three astronauts set off on "the most hazardous and dangerous and greatest adventure on which man has ever embarked," as President John F. Kennedy had described it. When their lunar module, the Eagle, touched down on the Sea of Tranquility on Sunday, July 20, 1969, most of the world gasped in awe at their bravery and the height of man's technological achievements.

Neil Armstrong immortalized the moment in which man reached the moon with a quote that since has become ingrained in every schoolboy's psyche: "One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."

A very young boy at the dawn of the space age, I was profoundly impressed by the courage of Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins. In the decade that followed, I eagerly watched five more moon landings and, before the Apollo era was over, saw a dozen astronauts take a walk on the moon.

Earlier generations played cowboys and Indians, but not mine. We are the children of the space age. The heroic feats of astronauts were the stuff our dreams were made of. Television programs, such as "Star Trek," "Buck Rogers" and "Lost in Space," called to us to set our sights on distant stars. We grew up longing to explore strange new worlds, to boldly go where none had gone before.

Armstrong, who turns 78 on Aug. 5, said in a 2001 interview: "Looking back, we were really very privileged to live in that thin slice of history where we changed how man looks at himself and what he might become and where he might go."

As Americans observe the 40th anniversary of that historic flight, perhaps it is advisable that Kentucky Baptists reflect, too, on an excerpt from an essay, "Two Journeys," written by renowned editor Chauncey Daley shortly after the Apollo 11 moon landing:

"The amazing trip of man to the moon calls to mind another historic trip which was even more amazing and unbelievable. This was not man's journey from earth to the heavens but God's journey from heaven to earth.

"Man's trip to the moon was measured in miles; God's journey to earth could be measured only in love and suffering. ...

"Man's trip was made in a mechanical capsule; God's journey was made in human flesh. ...

"Man's trip to the moon cost millions of dollars; God's journey cost Him His only Son.

"Man had hope for escape from the moon and return to earth; there was no hope for God's Son to es-

cape earth and return to heaven apart from dying on the cross.

"Man's trip to the moon was only one of many space trips; God's journey to the earth in Jesus Christ was a once-for-all journey.

"The moon trip freed man from earth; God's journey freed men from sin."

For Daley, the moon landing and other space trips would never compare with the journey of God and the divine miracle of the incarnation.

Some may recall the television broadcast in which Astronaut Aldrin recited Psalm 8:3-4. Few, however, may be aware of a lesser-known event that also occurred on that famed space voyage. Moments after

the moon landing, as a way to honor God's presence during the Apollo 11 mission, Aldrin asked Houston Control for a few moments of silence to give thanks. During that time, Aldrin, a Presbyterian, participated in the Lord's Supper, using communion bread and a small chalice that he had stowed in his personal kit. From a handwritten note, he silently read John 15:5.

Aldrin later reflected in a Guideposts Magazine article: "I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

Now, after years of Space Shuttle flights and constructing an International Space Station, children of the space age are thrilled to hear astronauts contemplate anew the future of space exploration and NASA's chief, Charles Bolden Jr., talk of venturing to Mars or somewhere beyond. But as we "shoot for the stars," we always must be humbly thankful to our Divine Creator, who made all things possible, and continually marvel at the mystery of the incarnation.

In a second editorial, Daley poignantly asked, "What would have happened if we had been as determined to send the gospel to every man on earth as we were to send man to the moon? Where would we be if we had spent as much money to rid humanity of disease and to feed the hungry of the world as we have spent to reach the moon?"

Forty years further into the space age, thoughtful Christians still are seeking answers to such perplexing social and moral questions. What Daley concluded then is no less true today: "In space exploration and spiritual conquest we have further to go than we have come." We must boldly go—carrying the message of our Creator's great love for us.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Judgmental spirit

The recent reports from the convention demonstrate that the Southern Baptist Convention, after almost 30 years of internal upheaval, is decaying. While some will deny it, the crux of this problem, while faceted, lies at the feet of those who prefer to judge the actions of others and insist upon verbiage that is contained in the Baptist Faith and Message.

For as long as narrow judgmentalism remains in place, the decline will be unstoppable. The mindset has been demonstrative of stubborn insistence upon dogmatic doctrine at the expense of Christian grace.

For a church to be expelled from the convention, for internal problems that affect only that congregation, contradicts the lofty and presumptuous notion that each church is autonomous. This is a myth and should be exposed as such by the recent action of the messengers.

When one of our Kentucky colleges reneges on an invitation extended to young people who are

members of the church, and who probably had nothing to do with the problem or outcome, it is time to see that the convention and the college is lost in the sea of their own doctrinal religiosity. If this Pharisaical behavior is that which continues to identify Southern Baptists, it may be time for its demise.

Edward Clark
Danville

Caring for neighbors

Isn't the current health care debate really a moral-spiritual-justice issue? For Christians who take the Lord's Prayer seriously: Is the status quo, for-profit, American health care system an example of God's will being done on earth as it is done in heaven? Could it be a health care system that covers all is more in line with God's will than what we currently have?

Is it really possible to love God and not love our neighbor as we love ourselves? Can we truly love our neighbor and be opposed to universal health care for all? Do the in-

surance companies, pharmaceutical firms and politicians who want to maintain the status quo in health care show love of neighbor? Can public health care need be adequately met by private health care greed?

Working to get a health care system that covers everyone is pro-life at its best and offers Americans the opportunity to do just what God requires of all of us: to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our Creator. If we truly love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we should be willing to pay for health care for all, even if it means raising our taxes. After all, health care is for people, not profit.

Paul Whiteley Sr.
Louisville

Forum Disclaimer: Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints on a variety of subjects. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

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

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Secrets of world's healthiest humans

By Scott Wigginton

Q: The love of my life is my husband of more than 20 years. This godly Christian man has been a great influence in my life and in the lives of our two teenage boys. My concern has to do

with his physical health. Coming from a family with a very unhealthy genetic legacy, he seems resigned to dying early and consequently does not pay much attention to diet or exercise. How can I help keep this great guy around?

A: Speaking to the Corinthian church concerning the importance of fleeing from sexual immorality, Paul wrote, "Do you not know that your

body is a temple of the Holy Spirit ... you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 19-20). While Christian men are called to purity, stewardship would suggest that disciples also pay attention to taking care of that with which the Father has entrusted us. While you cannot take responsibility for your husband's poor health habits or lack of discipline, you can encourage him.

In "The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest," Dan Buettner writes about his partnership with scientists to examine anomalous pockets where the number of centenarians vastly exceeds the statistical average. In the "blue zones," which include places such as Okinawa, Sardinia, the Costa Rica and Loma Linda, Calif., Buettner postulates select secrets of long life from the world's healthiest humans. These secrets include:

- Move—Find ways to stay active.
- Plan de Vida—Discover your purpose in life.
- Downshift—Take a break.
- 80 Percent Rule—Don't overeat.
- Plant Power—Choose greens.
- Belong—Stay social.
- Beliefs—Get ritualistic.
- Your Tribe—Family matters.

While the book and research is not written explicitly from a Christian faith perspective, you will note some obvious parallels to biblical truth in at least six of these areas. As you adopt a healthy Christian lifestyle, you will model for your husband and others a life that may be lived to the fullest.

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

At 106, her commitment is 'a testimony to others'

Ella Saigeon attends worship and her adult women's Sunday school class at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green every Sunday. That may not seem that remarkable—until you consider that she is 106 years old.

Just as remarkable, however, is that Saigeon was baptized at age 100.

Saigeon began attending Living Hope when she moved from Decker, Mich., in 1996 to stay with her daughter, Geraldine Poppy, and her husband, Robert, who live in Park City. Though she had attended church as a child, Saigeon had never made a profession of faith and had drifted away from church. But soon after moving to Kentucky, she was led to the Lord by Living Hope's senior adult minister Linda Trent—at age 99.

In the service in which Saigeon was baptized on Dec. 30, 2001, her adopted great-granddaughter, Casey Jo, also was baptized.

Both baptisms were done by her son-in-law, Robert, and her grandson, Norman. Saigeon has been a faithful church attendee ever since, only missing a few Sundays when ill or prevented by inclement weather.

Saigeon isn't sure why she didn't start sooner, but she now believes God wants her to be there, and she wants to go as long as she still is able. "I like for Sunday to come because I feel closer to God at church," she said.

"All of our reasons not to attend pale in comparison to her desire to attend," said Scott Kilgore, executive pastor at Living Hope. "Even

with her loss of hearing, it is a blessing to her just to be with her brothers and sisters in Christ.

"She has such a determination to be in the house of the Lord, and it is a blessing for others to see her taking her place in worship," Kilgore added. In recognition of her passing the century milestone—one that so few ever reach—the congregation celebrates her birthdays by presenting her with roses and singing to her, he noted.

Her Sunday school teacher, Brenda Martin, agreed: "Her presence here is her testimony. Other members are awed by the fact that even though she doesn't see or hear very well, she still comes every Sunday. They respect and admire her because of her commitment to the class.

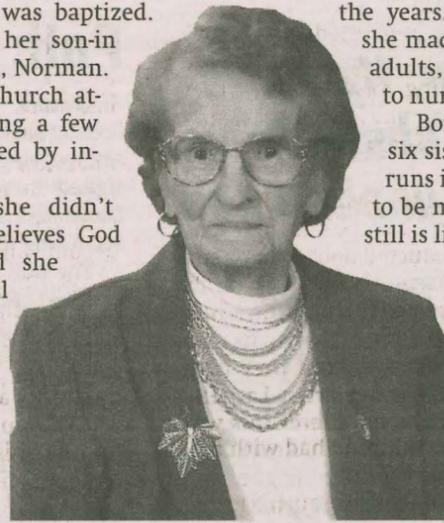
"She also counts noses in Sunday school to see how many folks are there," Martin chuckled. "She wants everybody to be there."

Saigeon is a prayer warrior, too. "She prays for me and every member of the class regularly during her family devotions," Martin said.

Saigeon, who loved to crochet, made Afghans until she was 104. She gave many of them to her children, grandchildren and friends through the years. After she joined Living Hope, she made about 50 lap throws for senior adults, and church members took them to nursing homes to give to them.

Born 03-30-03 into a large family of six sisters and four brothers, longevity runs in her veins. All of her sisters lived to be more than 90, and one, who is 96, still is living.

And Saigeon doesn't mind at all that everyone at her church knows her age; it is something she is rather happy about. "She loves it when they sing to her at church. She tells everybody, 'I had 1,000 people sing to me,'" Poppy said. "It makes her feel good," as she inspires others ... *along the Way.*



By Todd Deaton

Humbly, yet courageously, making history

By Justin Waincott

Living in an age of arrogance and egotism, it is not uncommon for us to hear people make the bold assertion, "Let's make history." They seem to relish in the self-centered thought that their actions will be remembered as some great historical feat. There is a conscious awareness that what they are about to do is so significant that it will be recorded and preserved for later generations. It is the height of hubris, but such is the world in which we live.

Interestingly enough, this is not the way history usually is made—at least, not important history. Truth be known, it is just the opposite. History normally is made very humbly, unassumingly even. It is unplanned, unscheduled, and those involved are often unaware of the lasting significance of their actions.

While we know that God governs all things by his wise providence (including human history), it appears to us mere mortals that history just happens—many times when and how we least expect it.

If you do not read about or study the past, you may be surprised to learn that the people who made history rarely thought about "making history." Few, if any, of those great figures were conscious of the fact that their actions would define and shape those who would come after them. They simply did what they thought was right and best—many times not even knowing what the outcome would be.

Consider just a few examples. When Martin Luther tacked his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517, he wasn't thinking to himself, "I'm about to start the Protestant Reformation. I'm about to change the entire landscape of Christianity." No, he simply sought to be faithful to what he read in the pages of Scripture, and he desired to bring the church back in line with what the Bible

taught. Little did he know (or could he have known) that his bold stand for truth would change the world.

Rosa Parks did not wake up on Dec. 1, 1955, and say to herself, "I'm going to make history today. I'm going to become a pioneer of civil rights." She simply did what she thought was right, very much unaware of what would ensue because of her courage and conviction.

And since July 2009 has historical significance to us as Baptists, I will offer one more example. In July 1609, 400 years ago this month, an ordained Anglican priest named John Smyth became convinced, along with the small exiled congregation with him, that baptism should be administered to believers only. This conviction led to a radical act which would sever ties with the state church—that act being believer's baptism.

But when John Smyth baptized himself and the small congregation that was with him in 1609, neither he nor they had any idea that their actions would reverberate around the world and lead to a rich legacy that has lasted now for 400 years. These men and women were not trying to create a new denomination or make history; they were only seeking to be faithful to their convictions.

More times than not, this is how history is made. It comes about, at least to us, as happenstance. Those who make it are not conscious of it, and they do not set out to make it. It just happens. As men and women fearlessly stand on their convictions, oblivious to the results of their actions, history is humbly yet courageously made.

And isn't that the beauty of it? You never know when it might be made, and you never know who might make it.

Justin Waincott is pastor for teaching ministries at First Baptist Church of Paducah

GUEST VIEWPOINT

History is normally made very humbly, unassumingly even. It is unplanned, unscheduled, and those involved are often unaware of the lasting significance of their actions.

Heart marks spot where treasure lies

By Doug Strader

Someone said that all of us can determine our true priorities by looking at our calendars and our checkbooks. If we look at how we spend our time and money we will know our priorities. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." I think the reverse also is true: Where your heart is there will your treasure be also.

There are some basic biblical principles that when properly understood and practiced in everyday life can help Christians to become good financial stewards of their possessions, and at the same time demonstrate that one's heart and treasure is in the right place.

■ Everything belongs to God. That includes our time, talents, possessions, money, family, spiritual gifts and anything else we have or possess. When Christians understand that everything we have is a gift from God and we are responsible to God for the way we use these gifts, we will be more likely to demonstrate good stewardship.

■ God has entrusted us with His possessions, and we are to be good stewards. The Apostle Paul said that as stewards of God's gifts, we are to be found faithful. That includes every gift. It also includes being good stewards of all we receive, not just giving a tithe.

■ God will hold us accountable for how we use what He has given us. 1 Peter 4:10 states: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

■ Faithfulness is the measure of our stewardship. Stewardship is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, 365-day-a-year responsibility.

■ Faithful stewards will find life is fulfilling now and in eternity. In Galatians 6:9 Paul said, "And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Being good stewards of our time, talents, money and spiritual giftedness is of utmost importance; because today is the only time we are assured to have in which to be faithful stewards. Good intentions go down the drain unless we act.

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



Pro-lifers claim health care reform a threat to unborn

By Tom Strode

Washington—Pro-life advocates in both political parties, as well as leading anti-abortion organizations, are calling for abortion coverage to be explicitly excluded from health care reform legislation, with some warning the current proposals present the greatest threat to unborn children since *Roe v. Wade*.

President Obama has been pushing Congress to approve a massive overhaul of the country's health care system before its month-long recess, which is scheduled to begin in early August. While critics have expressed opposition on a number of fronts to the measures introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives, protests about the potential for government-subsidized abortions under the plans recently have mounted.

Several Republican House members spoke out against the abortion implications at a July 14 news conference on Capitol Hill, with some charging that abortion

would be mandated not only in the government-run health care option but also the private insurance plans with which it would compete. Last month, 19 pro-life Democrats wrote Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to say they would not support health care reform "unless it explicitly excludes abortion" from any government-subsidized plan.

The versions of health care reform approved by both Senate and House committees "would result in the greatest expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*," Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, said in a July 18 e-mail. "These bills, which President Obama is pushing hard, would result in federally mandated coverage of abortion by nearly all health plans, federally mandated recruitment of abortionists by local health networks and nullification of many state abortion laws. They would also result in federal funding of abortion on a massive scale."

The Southern Baptist Convention's public policy entity also has warned of the Senate bill's failure to protect unborn children or pro-life convictions.

The public plan in the Senate version "has no conscience protections for pro-life medical practitioners who cannot in good conscience perform or facilitate abortions," Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said in a letter to a Senate workgroup. "There isn't even any language in the bill to prevent abortion under practically any circumstance. The bill's failure to explicitly protect these pro-life values would become a twisted mandate to ignore them."

Pro-life foes of the reform proposals say abortion would be required in the public plan, as well as private ones.

So far, Congress has rejected efforts to make exclusion of abortion from health reform explicit. A Senate committee and two House panels rejected efforts July 15 and 17, respectively, to adopt pro-life amendments.

"The issue here is clear—if abortion is not explicitly excluded, it is implicitly included," Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., said in the July 14 news conference of GOP House members. "The stakes are high and the implications incredibly far-reaching."

"This will affect Americans across the country throughout all walks of life," Pitts said, according to a statement released from his office. "It will affect the insurance companies that are forced to cover abortion. It will affect the employers, who will be forced to purchase plans that cover abortion. It will affect the individuals, who are forced to pay for coverage of abortion."

The 19 Democrats who wrote Pelosi said any plan "to mandate coverage for abortion, either directly or indirectly, is unacceptable."

"The health care reform package produced by Congress will be landmark, and with legislation as important as this, abortion must be addressed clearly in the bill text," they wrote. (BP)

LifeWay's Rainer: Hypocrisy not the biggest obstacle to evangelizing unchurched

By Bob Allen

Nashville—People who do not attend church are not too bothered by what they view as hypocrisy in the church, but there are some things they don't like about Christians, said the head of the Southern Baptist Convention's publishing arm.



Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, has been researching the "formerly unchurched"—men and women who have been Christians for less than a year—for nearly a decade. He said the results are surprising.

Contrary to popular belief, Rainer indicated, non-Christians by and large are not turned off by the church, preaching or Sunday school and are quite responsive to direct one-on-one evangelism.

But there are some things non-churchgoers do not like about Christians, Rainer wrote in a recent blog post:

■ **Christians who treat other Christians poorly.** "The unchurched don't expect us Christians to be perfect, but they can't understand why we treat each other without dignity and respect."

■ **Holier-than-thou attitudes.** "The unchurched know that Christians will make mistakes, and they often have a forgiving attitude when we mess up. But they are repulsed when Christians act in superior ways to them."

■ **Christians who talk more than they listen.** "Many of the unchurched, at some point, have a perception that a Christian is a person who can offer a sympathetic and compassionate ear. Unfortunately, many of the unchurched thought Christians were too busy talking to listen to them."

■ **Christians who don't go to church.** "The unchurched saw the disconnect between belief and practice in the lives of Christians who did not or who rarely attended church."

Rainer's original research was published in a 2008 book titled "Surprising Insights from the Unchurched," but he has continued to follow those groups since.

Rainer said that contrary to the stereotype that hypocrisy is the main obstacle to evangelism, non-churchgoers really are not too bothered by some hypocrisy with Christians.

"They are well aware that any human will stumble at times," he noted. "But these lost men and women want to know that Christians will treat each other well. They want to see humility in our lives. They want to know that we will take the time to listen, and even take more time to really be involved in their lives. And they want to know that we love our churches." (ABP)

Poll: N.H. voters oppose same-sex marriage law

Concord, N.H.—New Hampshire's legislature may have passed a same-sex marriage bill that the governor signed into law, but that has not translated into statewide support, according to a new poll.

The poll shows that by a margin of 49-41 percent, New Hampshire voters disapprove of the law which made the state the sixth nationwide to legalize marriage for homosexual couples.

It is the second survey this month to show citizens in a state that acknowledges same-sex marriage opposition. In Iowa, a survey of registered voters showed that 67 percent favored placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would prohibit the practice.

The New Hampshire survey was released as the state's conservatives begin plans to try and flip the legislature and governorship from Democratic to Republican in next year's

election, with the goal of reversing the same-sex marriage law. Conservatives there indicate it is their only hope. Unlike states such as California, New Hampshire law does not provide a way for citizens to gather signatures to enact law change. All changes must begin at the state capitol.

"The numbers are on our side," said Kevin Smith, executive director of the New Hampshire-based Cornerstone Policy Research, which opposes the law. "Certainly in the legislative races, we're going to make it an issue that this is not something the people of New Hampshire supported. ... In the governor's race, it's not only that (Gov. John Lynch) signed and supported gay marriage, it's he broke his word on it. He simply misled the voters and broke his word on it."

A Democrat in his third term, Lynch signed the bill in early June,

two months after he said he believed "marriage is reserved for a marriage between a man and a woman."

Smith said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the poll's numbers, given it was conducted for a liberal organization. But he also said he believes opposition is "even higher." He theorized that some individuals are hesitant to tell a pollster they oppose same-sex marriage.

"Typically the support for traditional marriage always comes about five or six points higher than what the polling said because many people just don't want to reveal their opinion on it," he noted.

In the poll, 18- to 29-year-olds supported the law by a margin of 53-39 percent, while 30- to 44-year-olds opposed it, 53-38 percent. That latter demographic, in fact, had the highest opposition—higher even than the 60-plus category (50 percent opposed, 40 percent supportive). (BP)

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Arizona governor signs pro-life acts

Phoenix—Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer is charting a different course from her predecessor by signing into law several measures that should reduce the number of abortions in the state.

According to The Arizona Republic, the enacted legislative initiatives that:

- Mandate a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion.

- Require parental consent prior to an underage girl undergoing an abortion.

- Prohibit partial-birth abortions, which are performed on nearly totally delivered babies normally in at least the fifth month of pregnancy.

- Protect pro-life health-care workers from being forced to participate in abortions or to prescribe Plan B, a "morning-after" pill that has abortifacient qualities.

"Governor Brewer today has shown Arizonans that she cares about the values that matter most to them: protecting life and protecting families," said Cathi Herrod, president of the Center for Arizona Policy, according to The Republic. "These bills protect the civil rights of health-care workers." (BP)

Senate expands hate crimes protections

By Tom Strode

Washington—The U.S. Senate passed legislation July 16 to expand hate crimes protections to include homosexuals and transgendered individuals.

The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act gained approval as an amendment to a Department of Defense authorization bill, which was expected to be voted on last week. The amendment would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the current categories—such as religion and national origin—protected from hate crimes. "Sexual orientation" includes homosexuality and bisexuality, while "gender identity," or transgendered status, takes in transsexuals and cross-dressers.

The Senate voted 63-28 to invoke cloture, or stop debate, in order to bring the hate crimes amendment up for passage. A cloture effort requires 60 votes to be successful. The amendment then was agreed to by unanimous consent.

The House of Representatives passed the same measure—the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act—with a 249-175 vote in late April.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and others oppose such efforts to expand hate crimes protection based not only on their inclusion of categories defined by sexual behavior or identity, but also concerns about the potential impact on religious freedom.

They fear the measure, combined with existing law, could expose to prosecution Christians and others who proclaim the Bible's teaching that homosexual behavior and other sexual relations outside marriage

are sinful. For example, if a person commits a violent act based on a victim's "sexual orientation" after hearing biblical teaching on the sinfulness of homosexual behavior, the preacher or teacher could be open to a charge of inducing the person to commit the crime, some say.

Amendment provides protections

The Senate did approve an amendment by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., intended to protect the free exercise of religion and other First Amendment rights. Brownback's amendment says such freedoms are not to be infringed on under the hate crimes measure as long as their use is not intended to plan, prepare for or incite physical violence.

"The Brownback amendment offers some needed protections for people of faith who express their faith convictions about homosexuality and certain other aberrant sexual behaviors," said Barrett Duke, the ERLC's vice president for public policy and research. "The amendment protects the pastor as long as his speech or other action was not 'intended' to lead to an act of violence. However, it does not protect a pastor from government scrutiny if a member of his congregation engages in an act of violence against someone in one of these protected groups after he has heard a negative statement from the pastor about the group. So, anyone who speaks against homosexuality or other aberrant sexual behaviors may be presumed guilty of inciting violence and be forced to prove his innocence.

"In addition, the Brownback amendment doesn't resolve other inherent problems in the bill," Duke added. "The bill still elevates

homosexuality and other aberrant sexual activity to a specially protected class, and it still creates an opportunity for the prosecution of thought. Consequently, while we appreciate the protection that Senator Brownback gained for people of faith, the bill and its amendments are inappropriate legislation and should be still in legislative limbo."

Peter Sprigg, the Family Research Council's vice president for policy, welcomed the Brownback amendment but told Baptist Press that "the real threat to religious liberty may not come so much from the specific application of this bill but what may follow it. This may start us on a slippery slope to more restrictions. My concern is that just like domestic partnerships have paved the way for same-sex marriage, a law against hate crimes as acts of violence may pave the way for laws against hate speech.

"You still have a problem of a lack of equal protection," Sprigg said of the bill even with the Brownback amendment. "Some victims of violent crime are being granted more rights than other victims of violent crime. Even if in the end no one is prosecuted simply for speaking against homosexual conduct, everyone who disapproves of homosexuality is stigmatized as being guilty of hatred."

The amendment also is unclear in defining who would fit the categories of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," ERLC President Richard Land noted July 16. "While the American Psychiatric Association lists roughly 30 sexual orientations, including pedophilia, the term 'sexual orientation' is specified in the bill, and 'gender identity' is only loosely defined." (BP)



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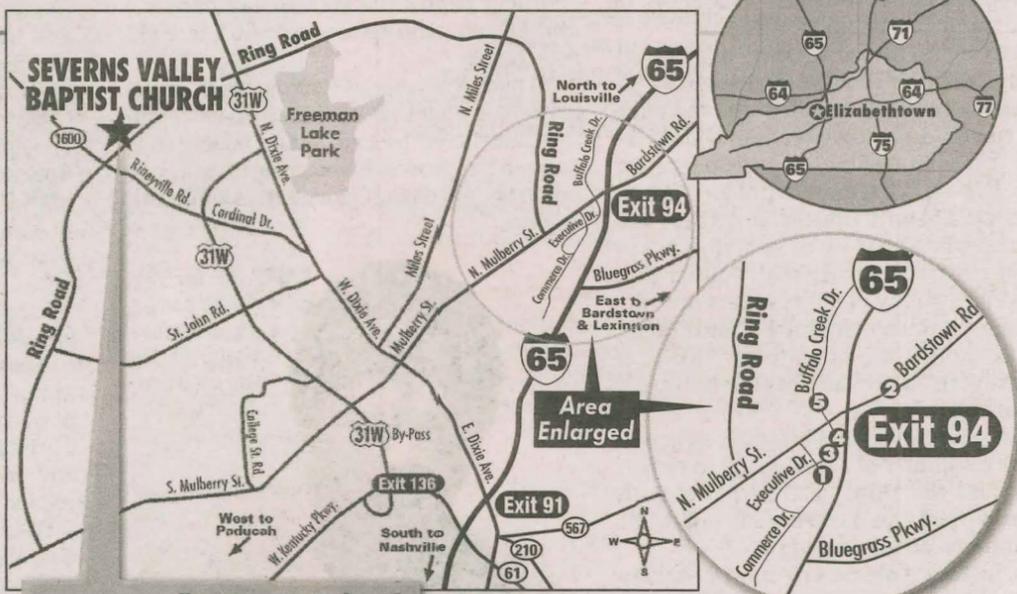
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Comeback Camps: 10 years of Crossings

Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek focus on fun, faith and seeing students cross from death to life

Continued from page 1

lison, who now is pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Over the next few years, renovations and program offerings were replaced and new ones built, including a worship center, dining hall and new housing.

Most importantly, according to Ellison, was the development of the Kentucky Lake waterfront. The nearly mile-long shoreline had never been used due to liability concerns.

In 2000, Crossings at the Creek was born. The new camping program, which Ellison predicted would make Jonathan Creek a "premier camping facility," did not sit well with many Kentucky Baptists who had a vested interest in the camp.

To make Crossings happen, the camps led by the KBC's college Son Teams were ended, as well as those led by WMU and the KBC's Brotherhood department (now Baptist Men on Mission).

"That came with a high price. I was probably the most unpopular Kentucky Baptist for a couple of years," Ellison said. "But I believed strongly that if we did this Crossings would thrive."

And thrive it did. More than 1,500 students attended Crossings that first summer. By 2003, that number exceeded 3,300.

Meanwhile, Cedarmore maintained its status quo with repairs and renovations taking place here and there. The Son Team-led Youth Week camps continued—so, too, did the camp's financial struggles.

Meanwhile, the momentum that had built with Ellison slowed somewhat when he left in 2003 to return to the pulpit. Waiting in the wings, however, was Melber, who had directed Jonathan Creek since 2001.

Melber hit the ground running, continuing to renovate and build at both campgrounds. He also expanded the Crossings ministry to include overseas missions partnerships to raise students' awareness of world missions (see story on page 9).

In 2006, he gained his own share of notoriety when he brought Crossings to Cedarmore. The move ended the decades-long run of Son Team-led camps, which had been suffering declines in attendance for years, leaving Cedarmore near bankruptcy.

"It was a painful time because there was the perception that we were trying to kill the Son Teams," Melber said, adding that he received plenty of angry letters over the decision. "It wasn't anything against them; we just wanted the camp to be filled. ... If camp isn't filled, we can't pay our bills (and) we can't exist."

This year, Melber and his staff celebrated the 10th summer of Crossings at Jonathan Creek and the third at Cedarmore. Both camps topped the 4,000-camper mark for the summer, an all-time high.

So, just what attracts so many people to Crossings?

"Lives are changed here," said Bill Clark, youth pastor at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence, who has taken a group to Jonathan Creek each year of Crossings. "Every year, they nail it. They hire and assemble strong, Christ-following, teenage-loving staff."

There are more than 40 college-aged summer staff members at each camp. In an era where the trend in camping, according

to Melber, is to have larger, platform-driven camps with few staff and big-name speakers and worship leaders, "we think just the opposite," he said.

"As we've talked to kids who are coming to camp, the relational need is the biggest void in their lives. They feel alone," Melber suggested. "They're starved for relationships."

With record numbers attending the two camps, Crossings has hired more and more summer staff, most of them from Kentucky colleges. More staffers means a lower student-to-staff ratio, Melber said. These college students spend the majority of each camp day getting to know the campers, establishing a connection with them that may ultimately lead to a decision for Christ.

However, Crossings' relational goal is becoming increasingly harder to achieve as the number of campers reaches record highs each summer.

While expanding facilities would seem the logical option for growing the Crossings ministry to accommodate the influx, that may not be the future direction, Melber suggested.

By expanding, "we would have to get away from a relational-based camp," he said. "We wouldn't be able to have the intimate, small-group settings. We just very much feel convicted that that's what students need today."

As building renovations continue at both camps—Cedarmore still needs a lot of work, Melber pointed out, while most of the buildings at Jonathan Creek now have been built since 2001—Melber said he has begun to look outside the state for Crossings' potential next step.

Regardless of how Crossings may look in the future, "the camps are without question one of the bright and shining spots in Kentucky Baptist life over the last decade," said Ellison, who returned to KBA in 2008 as a trustee.

"There is a sense of excitement in anticipation of what God's going to do in the future out there," he said. "And I believe that we're in the process of restoring (the camps) not to the old days of glory, but to a new era of glory."



CAMP IS MESSY
A Crossings camper enjoys playing in the mud pit, a popular recreation activity.



TUBULAR Water tubing on Kentucky Lake is a popular attraction at Jonathan Creek. (Crossings photo)



SPLASHDOWN Two girls try out the water zipline at Cedarmore's recreation lake which also includes the "Blob" water trampoline. The lake was opened in 2006, replacing the popular Dragon Lake which was drained 20 years earlier. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Crossings challenges students to go 'beyond'

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—"The mobilization of people moving beyond themselves to serve and have an eternal effect in the lives of the least of these."

That is the mission statement of Crossings Ministries' newest venture, The Beyond Effect. It is the first thing visitors see when visiting the accompanying Web site, TheBeyondEffect.org.

The Beyond Effect is the "result of nine years worth of trying to spur our kids ... to be involved and be missions-minded," noted Crossings President David Melber.

Since Crossings camps started at Jonathan Creek in 2000, world missions has played a huge role with offerings to help Christian camps in Trinidad and Tobago and Moldova, and to support orphans year-round in Zambia.

While campers were becoming acquainted with missions abroad through the partnerships, Crossings staff said they felt students were losing focus on where they could most effect change for Christ—their own backyards.

"We didn't want to run the risk of getting students thinking, 'I give \$20 and my missions deed is done,'" explained Bert Lacey, camp director at Cedarmore.

The Beyond Effect attempts "to challenge every student that God wants to do something with you," Lacey said. "It's not

just your \$20 He wants to do something with—it's you. ... He's got a plan for you. It could be in Africa, it could be in Moldova, but more than likely it's right in your backyard."

"We just didn't want missions to be an offering in two different countries," Melber added. "We want The Beyond Effect to be a lifestyle change."

The Beyond Effect Web site offers a forum where students and youth leaders can exchange ideas and suggestions for doing missions in their own communities.

Recent posts in the "I Am Going Beyond By..." forum include one from a student who wants to become a psychologist in order to help rape and abuse victims; a young girl who intends to use her dancing talent to raise money for families in need in Harlan County; and another teen who explained how his church went "beyond" by helping flood victims clean up after recent storms.

Melber suggested that future missions offerings at Crossings may become "seed money" for a student who proposed his or her idea on the Beyond Effect forum.

"Whether it's starting a clothes closet in their town—whatever it is, there's no limit," he said. "We just want (students) to see that The Beyond Effect (is) using their gifts and talents to see others connect to Christ."

Through worldwide partnerships, camps raise students' awareness of missions

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—David Melber had never even heard of Moldova.

When exploring the possibility of developing a missions partnership for his camps, someone suggested the Crossings president travel to Eastern Europe and an country.

The former Soviet republic commonly is noted as Europe's poorest country. Nearly half of all Moldovans live below the national poverty line; more than a quarter of them live on just \$2 a day.

Such a missions endeavor was nothing new for Crossings. Under previous president Rusty Ellison, the camp ministry established a three-year partnership with a Christian camp in Trinidad and Tobago, and an offering taken during each week of camp. The money primarily was used to make general repairs and buy needed supplies for the camp.

With that collaboration ending, Melber traveled to Moldova to explore a partnership. What he discovered was a country with long history of camping.

When Moldova was a Soviet republic, many large camps were established there and used as Communist indoctrination camps. After considering purchasing one of the properties, Melber said Crossings opted for a sponsorship program to help needy children attend camp.

Crossings partnered with the International Mission Board and EurAsian Baptist Mission, an organization which operates two camps in Moldova. After doing the math, it was determined that it would cost \$15 a week to send a Moldovan child to camp. That meant \$54,000 was needed from Jonathan Creek campers. Previous summer missions offerings had only netted \$20,000 at the most.

"At the time, it seemed like the biggest step of faith for a ministry to say, 'We believe the Lord's going to provide enough money to be able to sponsor these kids,'" Melber noted. That summer, students exceeded expectations, giving \$63,000. Eventually, "we were raising more money than we needed," he said.

Last year, Crossings moved the Moldovan offering to Cedarmore, and established a new offering at Jonathan Creek: raising money for orphans in Kitwe, Zambia.

The African nation is in the grips of an HIV/AIDS epidemic. Nearly one in five Zambians are infected with the disease. As a result, there are approximately 1 million orphaned children.

The Zambia mission center where children "are provided food, clothing, water, education, medicine and gospel teaching on a daily basis," Melber said.



FACE TIME Kentucky Baptist Assemblies President David Melber visits with a group of students during recreation time at Cedarmore. He said the missions offerings and partnerships with Moldova and Zambia have increased awareness of world missions among teenagers. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Last year, Crossings campers gave a total of \$105,600 to the two missions efforts. Melber pointed out that in the six years of the Moldova partnership, Crossings has sponsored about 25,000 students to attend camp there; nearly 10,000 of those kids made salvation decisions.

Not only has Crossings Ministries sent money to Moldova, it now is sponsoring a missionary couple that will begin a two-year term in the country in September.

Josh and Stacy Hutchens were praying for place

to serve when they learned about a Bible institute being formed at one of the EurAsian Baptist Mission camps.

Stacy, a former Crossings summer and office staff member, said her husband felt a calling to train indigenous missionaries abroad. Josh, with the backing of Crossings Ministries and a number of Kentucky Baptist churches, will teach New Testament classes to the institute's first crop of students this fall.

Unfortunately, recent political tensions in Moldova have placed the camps in the crosshairs of a Communist-led government, which recently won a highly disputed election. Stacy said there have been attempts to shut down the camps which also may affect the institute.

Despite the political unrest in the country, Stacy insisted she and Josh, who have a 5-month-old son, Jude, are not worried.

"I don't think it will be an unsafe situation," she noted. "We just hope the situation stays as such that we can still do ministry there."

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CrossingsTIMELINE

1951 One year after establishing a summer assembly program, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board (now Mission Board) purchases Cedarmore Baptist Assembly from Long Run Baptist Association. The convention moves its summer program there from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

1983 KBC's Executive Board purchases Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly from a group of 11 associations in Western Kentucky.

1994 After a lengthy study to determine Cedarmore's long-term financial viability, the Executive Board votes to terminate the convention's ownership and operation of Cedarmore while maintaining Jonathan Creek and developing new models of camping programs.

1995 With a committee in place to determine what to do with Cedarmore, messengers to the KBC annual meeting approve a proposal to have both properties become separate entities with their own trustee boards and charges the Executive Board with finding a way of implementing the new directive.

1996 The Executive Board proposes the formation of a new entity known as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Inc. to own and manage both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. Messengers to that year's annual meeting approve the new corporation and its board of directors.

1997 Rusty Ellison, pastor of Clear Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, is named the first president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. The next year, the new entity begins making improvements to the two properties, focusing primarily on Jonathan Creek.

1998 Jonathan Creek opens up recreation on Kentucky Lake for the first time in the camp's history. Both properties report increased attendance and decisions for Christ during the summer camps.

2000 Crossings at the Creek kicks off with 1,500 campers in attendance during the summer. It marks the end of the Son Team-led camps at Jonathan Creek. The Son Teams continue to lead camp weeks at Cedarmore, where renovations begin on several buildings.

2003 A new worship center and housing at Jonathan Creek are opened to use. Meanwhile, Ellison resigns to become pastor at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. David Melber, director of Jonathan Creek, is elected as the new Kentucky Baptist Assemblies' president.

2004 Overcrowded worship times at Jonathan Creek prompts KBA to expand seating at the property's new worship center. The camps also begin a missions partnership to help send students in the Eastern European country of Moldova to Christian camps there.

2005 Assemblies sells 800 acres of undeveloped land at Cedarmore for \$1.3 million. Meanwhile, work begins on a new lake at Cedarmore to replace the former Dragon Lake, which was drained in 1986.

2006 Crossings begins at Cedarmore. The move ends the long run of Son Team-led weeks at the camp. Kentucky Baptist Assemblies moves into its new central office in Louisville, while Jonathan Creek opens its new dining hall and swimming pool.

2007 Jonathan Creek hosts the KBC's May Mission Board meeting as a way to show off changes made at the property during the previous decade. Meanwhile, renovations continue at Cedarmore, including a new fishing lake, recreation fields and conference center.

2008 With the Moldovan missions offering exceeding financial needs, Crossings begins a second missions partnership helping orphans in Kitwe, Zambia. More than 6,000 total campers attend Crossings at both Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore.

2009 Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Crossings camps, both Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore report record numbers of students, more than 4,000 at each camp.

Kenya



THANKFULNESS Joy and gratitude radiate in the smiles of Maasai women who know their families will have something to eat for the next month thanks to Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund.

Hunger fund provides food for Kenyans amid drought

By Sydney James
Baptist Global Response

Ilmamen, Kenya—The rains come too late for the crops. Cows, selling for about \$5, have no meat on their bones. The drought's damage will be fatal for many.

From the Maasai Mara wildlife reserve in Kenya to Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania—about 11,700 square miles—everyone is hungry.

"The problem is that there is no grass," Bob Calvert explained. "There is not enough water, not enough rain. For the past month, as I was waiting on relief supplies to come, I have been cutting grass around Nairobi to take to pastors for their animals to eat."

Calvert, an International Mission Board missionary, lives outside Kenya's capital, Nairobi. He partnered with Baptist Global Response to deliver nearly \$500,000 worth of flour and cooking fat to women between May and July.

The money, provided by Southern Baptists through the World Hunger Fund, was enough to feed 180,000 people for one month—at a cost of \$2.70 each.

"Pastors started coming to me in November of last year to tell me that they needed food," Calvert recalled. "I told them to start collecting names of those who needed the food immediately—women, orphans, old men, those with no other income."

Pastors in 238 churches collected the names of 29,280 women whose families needed food. The reason for identifying the need through women is that some men have multiple wives. This way each woman can feed her children.

Baptist Global Response worked with Calvert to develop a strategy for providing staple foods to people suffering in Kenya's Rift Valley area.

"Cyclical hunger in Africa is a fact of life," noted Mark Hatfield who directs Baptist Global Response work in Sub-Saharan Africa. "Environmental changes, in association with land use methods that have degraded the environment, along with a series of very poor rainy seasons, brought about this need for assistance."

Each woman received 12 five-pound bags of flour and one tub of cooking fat. While the distribution will stave off hunger for a month, it will be six months before families will have an opportunity to plant new crops.

When word spread that relief supplies had arrived, about 2,000 people, mostly women, hiked more than an hour to assemble at one of the distribution points, Ilmamen Baptist Church, located in a village about two hours south of Nairobi.

Agnes Mongela has eight children. For the past four years, she has not had more than one meal every other day.

After waiting in a neighboring schoolyard for seven hours, Mongela heard her number called and, smiling broadly, went to the church to get her food.

However, not everyone will get food today. At each church, only slightly more than a thousand women are on the list to receive food. The other thousand will beg for a small share.

During a two-month period, 10 people have died because food is so scarce. The price of flour has risen greatly in the past year. The locals cannot afford it. The many aid organizations located in Kenya are out of money to feed the millions of people who still need food.

Some of the people in need, however, are being helped—because Southern Baptists cared. (BP)

Middle East

Iranian couple risks all to follow Christ

By Kate Gregory
International Mission Board

Tehran, Iran—Davoud* felt so disillusioned with life that he sank into a deep depression.

He wasn't destitute. Far from it. Davoud was successful in Iran's entertainment industry. He had done motion picture deals and created artwork that hung above fireplaces in the capital city of Tehran.

He had a good life. He loved his wife. He knew he should be happy.

But he felt hollow inside, like nothing really mattered. He tried to push the feelings aside by burying himself in work, but they kept creeping back, weighing heavier each time. My life "was meaningless because my heart was empty," Davoud recalled.

He shrugged it off when a friend told him the reason for his depression was that Christ was missing from his life. Most Iranians know of Jesus Christ because He is believed to be one of many Islamic prophets. For Iranians to try to convince others in the Islamic Republic that He is more than that can be punishable by prison or death.

When other friends accepted Christ, Davoud and his wife, Susan*, still were not interested. Fear wasn't their primary reason for rejecting Christ; it was disdain for religion of any sort.

When Davoud and Susan got married, they agreed that religion was only something to be tolerated at special occasions.

Both of their families followed religious practices out of obligation and necessity. It was clear to the couple that religion as they knew it had nothing to do with the heart.

Susan was caught off guard by the joyful outlook of a friend who had accepted Christ.

Up to that point, religion and religious people—including her ex-

tended family of strict Muslims—seemed cold and removed.

Finally Susan's curiosity piqued. She wondered who God really was, and her friend seemed to know.

When her friend led her to Christ a short time later, "It was love, real love," Susan said about who God is.

"When I pray to God and when I think, I can talk to God directly," she said, "at that time I can understand how God loves me and how much I love Him."

Growing up she felt "always behind a barrier so you cannot touch a real God. But in Christianity, I can reach Him very easily. I'm always open to hear Him."

Davoud's first thought when Susan told him about becoming a Christian was: "Don't react. After a while, she's going to forget (her impulsive decision) and everything (will) be the same."

But Davoud could not shake his feelings of restlessness and discontentment. He had recurring daydreams in which he was drawn to a group of people sitting in a circle. When they realized someone was approaching, the group stood up and turned to him.

"I figured out that I can do something in that dream," Davoud recalled. "I can act. Until that day, I was the audience of a movie but as soon as I figured this out, I started shouting and yelling—'What do you want from me? Who are you people?'" The circle parted, and a man with an intent look asked him, "Have you suffered more than I have?"

Davoud said he realized "with all the cells of my body" that he was receiving a spiritual message.

But he wanted to be sure what it meant, so he consulted a Christian friend. The friend congratulated him for receiving a personal invita-

tion from the One to whom he had been trying to introduce Davoud.

This time, Davoud accepted God's invitation. "After that, I did not feel depressed anymore," he insisted.

Davoud has learned that being a Christian is not just about suffering more than I have?" did not just pertain to his salvation but also to his Christian life, which would not always be easy.

"God came to save me from my spiritual problems, but you can still encounter problems in life in Iran especially if you become a Christian," Davoud noted.

There is a saying in Iran that being a Christian isn't a problem unless you're an active one. But for Christians, that's a problem.

"If you try to give people (the) Holy Bible, if you have a place, a room for Christian books, if you openly invite people to Christianity and do other things helping people to get to know Jesus Christ, you are considered an active Christian," Davoud explained.

Davoud and Susan had to leave Iran or risk imprisonment when some of those forbidden activities were discovered. Within a week they made arrangements and left behind almost everything they had.

They now are seeking refugee status in another country. They still face restrictions about what they can do and where they can go. Davoud said he longs to practice his art again. Susan sometimes wonders why rebuilding their lives is such a struggle, but they refuse to surrender to self-pity.

"When you read Acts, you don't find yourself lonely," Davoud pointed out. "So, we (Iranian Christians) are experiencing this truth—that our Lord was tortured, He was insulted and He was (put to death) in the most brutal way." (BP)

*Names changed for security reasons

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Missions' harsh reality

The church must do more to ensure the gospel is heard

This past week I had the rare opportunity to meet with several staff members from the International Mission Board. The meeting came about after many months of communication and planning as we seek new opportunities for missions.

Each year since 2001, Crossings has presented specific mission needs during camp and collected weekly offerings. This year our total given to date will exceed \$500,000. Quite amazing given the fact that students are the ones who contributed most of that total.

As we met to discuss projects that would be appropriate to challenge our camps with, I must admit I felt saddened during the discussion. The simple reality is that the IMB is literally sitting on many requests for help, but the resources to distribute simply are not there.

I was told of an individual over the age of 50 who finally has given into God's call to serve overseas. Little did he realize that the program he was hoping to go through has been put on hold for lack of funding. Additionally, a new program that helps get college-aged students on the mission field for

a four- to 12-month assignment is now sitting with a backlog of applicants without the funding to send these ready to go and share the gospel.

These are just two examples of what is now a very shocking reality. We have people ready and waiting to go, but the funding is not there to send them.

I realize that God is certainly bigger than the financial strains we face. However, I am convinced that we as the church are called to stand up and give sacrificially. I am reminded that if students attending camp can contribute more than half a million dollars,

we surely can do more. During the coming weeks and months the next steps for Crossings will unfold as we seek to be more mission-minded in the future, and I do know for certain that we as believers must exhaust all means to put witnesses for the gospel into the uttermost parts of the earth. How will people hear unless the preachers are sent?

Today, I am personally convicted that I need to do more. How about you?

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

Overcoming their worlds

Children in Sunrise's care face numerous hardships

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

The children who find refuge at Sunrise Children's Services have encountered trouble in this world. In many cases, they've endured the worst kinds of trouble. Our foster-care staff recently watched in admiration as a 13-year-old girl overcame multiple negative experiences in her life.

Cathy was removed from her home with her biological parents when she was 7 years old. She lived with a relative for five years until authorities discovered that her uncle had been sexually abusing her. With no safe place left for her, authorities placed her in the care of a Sunrise foster family.

Although she was a victim of terrible circumstances, Cathy faced the challenges with resolve. Many children in Cathy's situation shut down emotionally and withdraw from others. Instead, she worked through the pain she felt. She had

lost contact with her parents, had little interaction with her siblings and had minimal family support. She could have let her past define her future, but she didn't. She overcame her past.

While living in her Sunrise foster home, Cathy became a straight-A student who made friends easily at school. She earned a spot on the high school girls' basketball team despite her younger age. She attended church with her foster mother and participated in the youth group.

After almost a year thriving in foster care, Cathy was able to start living with her grandfather. Her ability to overcome adversity was inspirational to the Sunrise staff who worked with her.

Won't you consider helping children like Cathy overcome the troubles they've faced? Visit www.sunrise.org to find out more about becoming a foster parent or supporting our ministry financially.

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

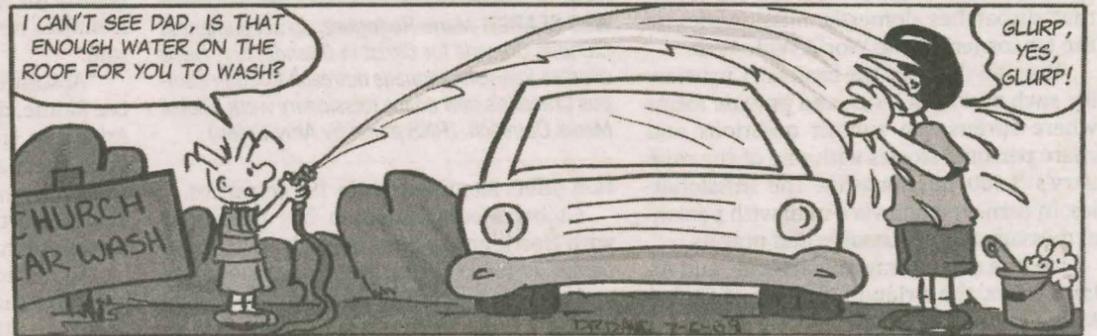
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "Every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not ____" (Judges 20:16)
- 5 "In their hands they shall ____ thee up lest ... thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:6)
- 9 Before
- 12 Duke or duchess, for example
- 13 Word in a threat
- 14 Disagreement
- 15 Tribe of Israel
- 17 "So then they that are in the flesh cannot ____ God" (Romans 8:8)
- 19 This cookie didn't crumble (it's a success)
- 21 Lets up
- 22 Outgrowth
- 25 Linking verb
- 26 Canola, for one
- 27 "Joy that was set before him, endured the ____, despising the shame" (Hebrews 12:2)
- 29 Unit of weight (abbr.)
- 31 Behold's partner
- 32 "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no ____" (John 1:47)
- 33 "They fled before the men of ____" (Joshua 7:4)
- 34 French conjunction
- 35 "This he said, not that he ____ for the poor" (John 12:6)
- 36 Consumed
- 37 With Aaron, he held up Moses' hands (Exodus 17)
- 38 "But ____ us from evil" (Matthew 6:13)
- 41 Maritime occurrence
- 43 "The third day he shall ____ again" (Matthew 20:19)
- 44 "Fallen ____ in Christ" (Christians who have already died) (1 Corinthians 15:18)
- 46 Stop on the journey from Egypt to Jordan (Numbers 33:27)
- 49 Tribe of Israel
- 50 "Hallowed be thy ____" (Matthew 6:9)
- 53 Continent
- 54 Hospital facility (abbr., pl.)
- 55 Sheet size
- 56 Ancient European

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49				50		51	52		53	
54				55					56	

Down

- 1 Baby lamb's cry
- 2 April addressee
- 3 Take to ____ (or defeat handily, colloq.)
- 4 Pottery remains (arch.)
- 5 "How can these things ____?" (John 3:9)
- 6 It loops the Loop (abbr.)
- 7 Serpent
- 8 "Whom will ye that I ____ unto you, Barabbas or Jesus?" (Matthew 27:17)
- 9 Wipe away
- 10 "The desert shall ... blossom as the ____" (Isaiah 35:1)
- 11 Part of the pasture populace (pl.)
- 16 Son of Peleg (Genesis 11:18)
- 18 Corn servings
- 20 Happen
- 22 "Make thee a fiery serpent and set it upon a ____" (Numbers 21:8)
- 23 Uproar
- 24 True's partner
- 28 Longer in the tooth
- 29 "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up ____" (Psalm 127:2)

- 30 Coffin and platform
- 32 Item of clothing
- 35 Find a solution
- 36 Disinclined
- 37 What are not barred (colloq.)
- 39 Illuminated
- 40 Ishmael's half-brother
- 41 Wise man
- 42 Peter, for one
- 45 "The Lord that delivered me out of the ____ of the lion" (1 Samuel 17:37)
- 47 To be under the weather
- 48 Panama, for one
- 51 Note on the diatonic scale
- 52 Printer's measure

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	C	E	I	D	O	L	I	R	O	N
R	E	M	O	V	E	A	R	E	L	O
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E	D	I	T	S	O	N	G	R	O	T



Because the Web was made for more than just singing cartoons and buying stuff.



On the Web

Domestic missionaries share gospel online

By Amy Green

Orlando, Fla.—For centuries, missionaries have ventured to the farthest reaches of the globe to share the gospel. Today, the new mission field is just a mouse click away.

Some 2 million surfers a day type keywords like “God” and “Jesus” into search engines, and hundreds of thousands of them end up at one of 91 Web sites operated by Global Media Outreach, a ministry of the Orlando-based Campus Crusade for Christ that dispatches domestic missionaries to the far corners of the World Wide Web.

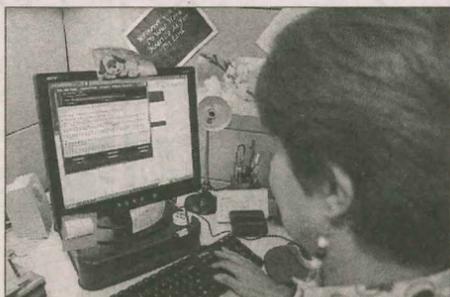
The sites describe the basics of Christianity, such as who is Jesus, and provide forms where surfers can submit questions and share personal stories with one of the ministry’s 3,000 missionaries. The missionaries, in turn, respond via e-mail with personal messages, Bible passages and prayers.

It is the newest way to reach out, said Allan Beeber, the Orlando director of Global Media Outreach, which also has offices in California’s Silicon Valley.

“The paradigm of evangelism is changing. In the past, various Christian groups would go door to door, or they would hold citywide crusades,” he said. “The paradigm change is that people are now coming to us.”

The number of these spiritual surfers has grown so much since the ministry launched less than a decade ago that officials now hope to double the number of missionaries by the year’s end. In the last year alone, traffic on the ministry’s Web sites more than doubled.

Campus Crusade is among the nation’s largest nondenominational campus ministries, with some 55,000 students involved at more than 1,090 colleges and universities nationwide. Worldwide, the organiza-



WEB SEARCH Maria Rodriguez, an accountant at Campus Crusade for Christ in Orlando, Fla., helps oversee Spanish-language outreach through Campus Crusade’s new online missionary work, Global Media Outreach. (RNS photo by Amy Green)

tion offers 29 ministries in 191 countries.

Global Media Outreach has partnered with Northland, a local megachurch whose pastor is Joel Hunter, to add missionaries and a church-planting effort to the ministry. Now, when surfers e-mail about how to start a church, Northland can respond with church-planting resources.

The partnership is a fit for Northland, which subscribes to the philosophy that a church is defined by its people and can be as small as three people gathered around a dinner table, noted Dan Lacich, a pastor at Northland. Some 10,000 people worship each Sunday at one of Northland’s multiple locations, including 1,000 online.

“It’s another tool,” Lacich explained. “What we’re hoping happens is that missionaries who are in field ... will get encouragement and support from this ministry as we’re able to connect them with people who are near them.”

Technology is now at a point where a Christian leader can track how many people worldwide are exposed to Christianity,

and how many want to become Christians, Beeber pointed out. It also is the first time missionaries can reach into dangerous countries, and other hard-to-reach populations, such as teenagers here at home, without ever leaving their desks. What’s more, online outreach can be specialized to target a variety of groups, from members of the military to hurricane victims.

One group of pastors handles especially difficult theological questions. Most missionaries respond within 24 hours, Beeber said.

“Absolutely it’s the new frontier,” said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project. “In advanced economies, the majority of people are online, and ... they begin to think of the Internet as the default starting place for all kinds of information searches.”

“So it’s not surprising that when people have spiritual questions or have concerns about the direction of their lives, a lot of them now sort of start their search for answers online.”

Maria Rodriguez, a Campus Crusade accountant who heard about the project around the office, said sharing the gospel is now akin to “going on a mission trip without stepping out of the house.”

Rodriguez helps oversee the ministry’s Spanish speakers and enjoys developing online relationships with those who write in, including a woman from Peru who is moving to Canada but worries about leaving her mother, who is in poor health, behind.

“We go back and forth, praying for each other, praying for her mother and her decision,” said Rodriguez, 48. “Mostly people want to be heard. They want to tell their stories. ... The family of God is so huge that we can reach others from such a distance.”

Christian retailers’ convention sees drop in attendance

Denver—Attendance dropped by one-fifth at this year’s CBA convention of Christian retailers, the organization reported, as overall Christian retail sales plunged by more than 10 percent.

Attendance of Christian retail professionals totaled 1,903, a drop of 20 percent from 2008 figures. International visitors at the Denver convention also dropped by 28 percent, to 534 attending from 56 countries.

The International Christian Retail Show concluded July 15.

“In light of the economy and its effects over the past 10 months, we approached this show with conservative expectations,” said CBA President and CEO Bill Anderson, who said most trade shows have seen drops in attendance. “While we knew attendance would be down some, I’m satisfied with a strong turnout and the enthusiasm and positive tone throughout the event by both retailers and suppliers.”

The low attendance numbers follow a drop in sales reported in May by the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based organization that once was called the Christian Booksellers Association.

Its annual “State of the Industry” survey found that Christian retail stores saw net sales drop 10.75 percent from the previous year. During 2008, at least 91 stores closed, while 54 new ones opened.

Next year’s International Christian Retail Show will be held June 27-July 1 in St. Louis. (RNS)

Tradition worth keeping

Teaching the gospel always has been Oneida’s mission—and always will be

By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

I recently had the privilege of serving on a panel with several evangelical scholars and writers on the future of evangelicalism. Our discussion was preceded by and launched from a presentation on church history and future developments by well-known author Phyllis Tickle.

Tickle’s main metaphor is this: Every 500 years, the church looks at everything it has accumulated and decides to have a rummage sale. For example, 500 years ago, the Protestant reformation was the “rummage sale” that discarded some things and kept others. Tickle believes that Protestant, evangelical Christians are going through such a rummage sale now, as new forms of church and new church movements emerge all over the world.

It does seem to me that many contemporary Christians are in the mood to throw out much of what has been traditional and meaningful in the past. Individual churches are experiencing stress as some generations want to discard familiar forms of worship for newer, more “relevant” worship expressions. Styles of preaching have changed. The access to information over the Internet has revolutionized nearly everyone’s life and work, the church included.

Some will pick up a ministry like Oneida Baptist Institute, look at it and wonder, “Do we keep it or do we toss it on the rummage pile? Can a 110-plus-year-old ministry with admitted respect for traditional methods of education and discipline still have a place in the world of ministry?”

The key lies in asking not just about relevance, but about mission. The Christian calling is not to be relevant, but to be part of God’s mission in the world. While having a useful Web site and using technology are important, they are only secondary matters for those called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Our primary calling is always to express the mission of Jesus—the Great Commission—in what we are doing. Relevance without mission

is a waste of time no matter how good it looks, how entertaining it may be or how trendy its methods. Jesus has not updated the Great Commission. It remains as relevant and important as ever.

That is why OBI runs on mission, not on image. We preach the gospel with a minimal use of technology. We use blended worship music with an appreciation for old and new. In our Bible survey class, the content of God’s Word is presented to each student. Our gospel is the classic, biblical gospel, and our main emphasis is discipleship. We spend little time dressing up the mission of Jesus in contemporary clothing. Love, sacrifice and constant commitment do not need to be decorated. Our hope is to make Jesus look great while we serve our students in His name. The needs we address as a Christian school are timeless. Our Savior is eternal and our call is ongoing.

When we ask for your support, we aren’t asking you to help us look good or be impressive to passing critics or worldly evaluations. We are asking you to help us stay on mission and be able to remain on mission today, tomorrow and until Jesus comes.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Servant hearts

Volunteers offer valuable services to Clear Creek

By the time you read this article, the last of our volunteer workgroups who have been with us since the first of May will be gone from campus as the summer break nears its end.

God so graciously provides for us through our wonderful and talented volunteers who give of their time to come to our campus and help with many different projects. We would not be able to complete a lot of what we do here if not for the servant hearts of these wonderful people who help out each summer.

This year, we have had volunteers groups from Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee. These groups helped with a major renovation project at one of our student apartment buildings. We were blessed with every one from general laborers to skilled laborers to do electrical, plumbing and drywall work. The building’s transformation this summer has been amazing.

We also have had groups who helped with painting houses where students lived who now have graduated to get them ready for new stu-

dents who will occupy them in the fall. This is very helpful because it frees up our maintenance crew to complete other tasks on campus. We also were blessed with a retired couple who came to campus for six weeks and lived in their motor home while updating some much-needed landscaping details around the campus.

I was impressed with a man and his wife who brought their two young children to campus to work in our campus thrift store. They spent a few days sorting clothes that were donated and did a great job organizing and cleaning up the store. Their goal was not only to help us,

but to teach their young children about the importance of mission work and serving others. We even had folks who were willing to cut weeds and clear banks so our campus would look better.

The campus of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is definitely more pleasing to the eye because of all these wonderful volunteers who so graciously gave of their time this summer. Thank you for all you do for us.

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.ccbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Gospel flows at Riverfest; 100 people accept Christ

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Wichita, Kan.—When people started heading downtown for the Wichita River Festival, Baptists already had mobilized.

The result: 100 decisions for Christ.

With the Arkansas River bisecting Wichita, Kan., and its metro area of 450,000 people, locals of all ages—75,000 on Saturday alone—swarmed to the riverbanks to enjoy the 10-day festival's food and attractions.

Many heard the gospel during the fifth annual Riverfest in May, thanks to the efforts of Southern Baptists from Kansas and across the United States.

"God blessed us with a great evangelistic event at Riverfest this year," said Loren Phippen, director of evangelism and church and community ministries for Heart of Kansas Baptist Association. "Not only did we have 100 decisions for Christ, we were able to reach a local young (subculture) group like we've never done before. God used this event to train many of our church members to be active soul winners, and many lives were changed."

A dozen volunteers from the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's ICE (Intentional Community Evangelism) team—from California to Pennsylvania—came to Wichita to share the gospel during the final three days of the festival. They also provided evangelistic training to 64 Wichita-area Baptists.

"Riverfest is an opportunity for the Heart of Kansas Association to assist our churches in furthering discipleship, especially in evangelism training," Director of Missions Glen Davis noted.

In all, some 20 of the association's 50 churches supported the Wichita River Festival outreach—supplying workers, food, music, entertainment or other attractions.

This year, one big draw was the Walking with Power team, based in Denver, which puts on strong-man exhibitions of bend-



REACHING OUT An Intentional Community Evangelism team led by Darrel Davis (left) of Garner, N.C., and Heart of Kansas Baptist Association church planter Daniel Diaz (far left) shares the gospel with "juggalos," a subculture of young street kids during the Wichita River Festival. (Photo courtesy of Heart of Kansas Association)

ing steel bars, smashing bricks and concrete blocks and breaking baseball bats over their thighs.

Wichita's Metropolitan Baptist Church—which faces the Arkansas River in the heart of the festival's pedestrian traffic—served as the anchor point for the evangelistic effort.

Bruce Cargile, senior pastor of the 775-member congregation, said the downtown church seeks to make the most of the Riverfest influx.

"Our church is right in the middle of everything going on during the festival," Cargile said. "The river goes in front of the church and all the food booths and activities are all around us. When Riverfest is go-

ing on, our church practically has to shut down. There's no way for our members to get in or out. ... So, since there are tens of thousands parading around our property, what a perfect opportunity to host some sort of evangelistic outreach.

"So many of the people need to be reached, especially the younger adults who have such serious issues in their lives—a lot of addictions and brokenness," said Cargile, now in his fifth year at Metropolitan Baptist.

Phippen said Baptist volunteers hand out thousands of tracts during Riverfest.

"For the rest of this year, like last year, we'll get phone calls from people who re-

ceived a tract during Riverfest and who later call for help or to find a local church. ... Everything we do for the festival is aimed at attracting people so we can share the gospel with them," Phippen said. The festival "generates a lot of prospects for our local churches, and each one is followed up on by a local church."

In addition to Metropolitan Baptist, other local churches playing key roles in the outreach were Country Acres Baptist, Faith Baptist of Andover, Midway Baptist, River View Baptist and Tyler Road Southern Baptist Church. Advanced prayer walking support also came from several Arkansas churches. (BP)

Mississippi Baptist Minister Hosts

Hawaii

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For brochure, information, reservations,
and letter from Pastor Williams, call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

Story of Asian martyr stirs missionaries

By Don Graham
International Mission Board

Lebanon, Ohio—"We've been waiting 30 years for you to come."

Charles Stoddard* won't forget the day he heard those words from a family of five living in a squalid shack in Asia. They hadn't eaten in three days, but food wasn't the reason the family invited the Southern Baptist missionary to their home—they wanted to know about Jesus.

Stoddard and his wife, Nicole*—who completed a three-year term overseas earlier this month—were among 21 missionaries appointed recently by the International Mission Board at Urbancrest Baptist Church in Lebanon, Ohio.

Speaking to a crowd of more than 800, Stoddard recalled that the Asian family's grandfather had come to believe many years ago in the existence of "one true God." Shortly before he was martyred for his faith, the grandfather told his family to wait for the day someone would come to tell them more about this God. Three decades would pass before one of the family's sons happened to overhear Stoddard talking about Christ in a public park and recognized he was the one they'd been waiting for.

"I suddenly realized that this family, who had never met another Christian, who didn't even know that a Bible existed—God had been preparing their hearts for 30 years to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ," Stoddard said. "That family accepted Christ that day, was baptized, and today a church meets in their home." At least 40 others have come to faith in Jesus as a result of the family's conversion and passion for sharing the hope they waited so many years to receive.

"Billions are still waiting to hear," Stoddard said, which is why he and his wife are returning to

Asia with their three children to continue spreading the gospel.

That overwhelming lostness also is what's sending Tricia Van Lesser* and her husband, Tony*, back to Central Asia after completing a two-year term there in 2008. Van Lesser remains haunted by the sound of women wailing at the funeral of a Muslim grandmother she had come to know and love.

"That evening, as her cloth-wrapped body was carried by her sons to the grave, the sound of the wailing became deafening," Van Lesser remembered. "As I stood with the family, I was overwhelmed at the hopelessness. They wept because they did not know where their devout Muslim grandmother would spend eternity. I wept because I did know."

The appointees bring the total number of IMB missionaries to 5,544. They are being sent to four continents—14 to Asia, four to Africa, two to South America and one to Europe. Of the 21 missionaries, 18 had previous short-term experience.

A significant shortfall in the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, compelled IMB trustees in May to suspend two short-term programs and reduce the number of new missionary appointments for the remainder of 2009. However, IMB President Jerry Rankin reported recently that gifts from several additional sources have been made to help close the financial gap. More than \$43,000 was contributed by messengers and guests attending last month's SBC annual meeting in Louisville. Also during the annual meeting, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention presented Rankin a check for \$100,000 for international missions. Rankin said these recent donations will be used to place missionaries on the field. (BP)

*Names changed for security reasons

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Church planter Keith Menshouse of Ashland.

Keith pastors LifeSong Church, a KBC High Impact church that was planted in October 2006. It focuses particularly on young adults who are not involved in church and many who have never even attended church. Pray that Keith can locate a permanent location that will help him fulfill LifeSong's mission. Pray, too, for wisdom in the selection of church staff and volunteers for developing a ministry to children and youth.

Master's Mission of Logan Todd Baptist Association in Russellville.

Under the leadership of Jim Moore and Nick Stamps, this ministry—based on James 2:17—coordinates men, women and youth to do small repair jobs for the elderly, disabled or disadvantaged residents of South Central Kentucky. They share the witness of Christ through activities such as small roof repairs, winterization, window and door repairs, and minor electrical or plumbing repairs. Pray that those whom this ministry helps will see the love of Christ through volunteers' witness as they meet needs. Pray, too, that God will provide more Christian "laborers" to help meet the many needs that exist in the association.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Parkway Church will host **The Hoppers** in concert July 30. The performance also will feature a mass choir from Parkway, First Church of Mount Washington and other area churches. Tickets are \$10 and will go to benefit Bluegrass Christian Academy. For more information, call Minister of Worship **Jeff Lutz** at (502) 348-4677.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—**Brent Neumann** recently resigned as minister of Christian life activities at First Church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church recently called **Eric Gillaspie** as children and families pastor. **Craig Loscalzo** is pastor.

Parkway Church recently called **Jeremy Couture** as pastor. He previously was youth minister at Union Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church recently honored Pastor **Dan Powell** on his 30th anniversary with the church.

Spotlight on ...

Franklin



Sulphur Spring Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary Aug. 1, 3 p.m., and Aug. 2, 11 a.m., with former pastor **David Dean** as guest speaker. **Matthew Sickling** is pastor.

Chris Huff recently resigned as associate minister of activities at Parkland Church.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Sorgho Church recently called **Allen Shouse** as pastor.

■ **CORRECTION**—**Tim Leadingham** recently was called as pastor at First Church of Morganfield.

Three student missionaries in critical condition after crash

By **Mickey Noah**
North American Mission Board

Billings, Mont.—Two "Innovator" student missionaries remain in critical condition at a Billings, Mont., hospital days after their SUV flipped and rolled over several times, injuring them and two companions.

North American Mission Board missionary Brad Lartigue—a local, full-time resort missionary for NAMB and the students' supervisor—said 21-year-old Jeremy Vangsnes is the most critically injured of the four. Vangsnes underwent a procedure last week to relieve pressure on his brain and reduce swelling, Lartigue noted.

The driver of the vehicle, 21-year-old Scott Minear of Marietta, Ga., also remains in critical condition but an MRI July 23 revealed no significant spinal or neck damage, Lartigue added. Although conscious, Minear, a University of Georgia junior, is wearing a "halo" medical device to restrict head movement.

Jeremy Vangsnes' two brothers—23-year-old Dan and 19-year-old Ryan—also were in the SUV at the time of the accident. The three brothers, residents of Spartanburg, S.C., were on a 350-mile side trip from Yellowstone to Glacier National Park, also in Montana, for a family reunion. Minear went along for the ride. Prior to moving to Spartanburg, the Vangsnes family lived in North Dakota.

"Dan has had three surgeries since the accident but suffered no significant head injuries," Lartigue told Baptist Press. "Dan is talkative and lucid—he knows what happened." Requiring only stitches, Ryan was treated and released from Deaconess Hospital in Bozeman, Mont.

The Vangsnes brothers were nominated as Innovator missionaries by NAMB, while Minear's appointment came through Georgia Baptist Campus Ministries.

The Vangsnes brothers and Minear are four of 17 Innovator missionaries who arrived at Yellowstone

Park on Memorial Day weekend to minister to resort visitors for 10 weeks, Lartigue said. They were slated to return home Aug. 3.

Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, made a visit to the Billings hospital last week, Lartigue said. Chapman, who coincidentally was vacationing nearby, said he learned of the accident via his BlackBerry and the SBC Web site.

Dennis Culbreth, senior assistant to NAMB president Geoff Hammond, immediately flew to Montana upon receiving word of the accident.

"The Montana Baptist Convention is doing a great job of making every effort to help these two families," Culbreth noted. "The spirits of the two families are good. They're praying for a miracle for Jeremy."

The brothers' parents, Mark and Kathy Vangsnes, are members of First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C. Minear's parents, Frank and Tammy Minear, are members of Crosspointe Community Church in Roswell, Ga.

"I told the parents that the entire NAMB family and Southern Baptists everywhere are praying for their sons," Culbreth added.

Culbreth said the dozen remaining Innovator student missionaries crafted posters last week with photos of Jeremy, Scott and Dan, and displayed them at Yellowstone, asking passersby to pray for their three friends.

"When tourists would come by and ask questions," Culbreth said, "the students would use the accident to remind people that, 'You don't know how long you have or what's coming down the road. Do you know Christ?'"

Innovator missionaries are self-funded student missionaries—assigned by NAMB or a state Baptist Campus Ministry—who are involved in resort ministries at various tourist venues throughout the United States. (BP)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

22 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

29 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

September

5-7 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

10 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, First Baptist Church, Leitchfield.

12 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Paducah, and First Baptist Church, Somerset.

14 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort; First Baptist Church, Murray; Marion Baptist Church; and Piner Baptist Church, Morning View.

15 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Second Baptist Church, Greenville; Unity Baptist Church, Ashland; and Walnut Memorial Baptist Church, Owensboro.

16 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Berea Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

18 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, and Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.

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

Megginson is new Campbellsville SID

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University has named Chris Megginson as its new sports information director.

Megginson previously served as sports editor for the Shelby County Reporter newspaper. He also has served as director of athletic communications at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tenn., assistant sports information director for the

TranSouth Athletic Conference, and a sports information assistant for the University of Montevallo in Alabama, of which he is a graduate.

Megginson has received awards from the Alabama Press Association, the NAIA-SIDA and the Council of Sports Information Directors of America.

He will begin in his role at Campbellsville at the end of August.

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SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for First Baptist Church, Taylorsville, Ky. Send resumés to First Baptist Church, PO Box 446, Taylorsville, KY 40071, Attn: Minister of Music Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time pianist/accompanist to support and enhance the music ministry programs of Parkland Baptist Church. Will play in Sunday services and weeknight rehearsals as scheduled. Requires proven ability to play piano and keyboard instruments and have specific skills to accompany choirs, orchestra and congregational singing. Submit resumés/letters of interest to Personnel Committee, Parkland Baptist Church, 7206 Shepherdsville Road, Louisville KY 40219.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor of students and education for First Baptist Church of Live Oak, Fla. Send resumés to apsearch@fbcliveoak.org; or visit www.fbcliveoak.org for contact information.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Clayville Baptist. Send resumés and sermon tape to 548 Birchwood Circle, Shelbyville, KY 40065; or e-mail jim.morris1@insightbb.com. Contact person: Jim Morris, (502) 419-5584.

SEEKING: Part-time worship minister to plan, organize and lead a growing worship ministry with Oakland Baptist Church. The church has a blended style of worship. Responsibilities include weekly leadership of worship choir, praise teams and instrumentalists, as well as seasonal events. Please submit resumé to Randy Benningfield at Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159. To learn more about our church, visit www.oaklandbchurch.org.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister. Lead congregational singing, occasional special music, and choir. Willow Baptist Church is a rural congregation 6 miles from Brooksville, Ky. Weekly attendance approximately 55. Contact Evelyn Cooper, (606) 735-3549.

SEEKING: Part-time nursery and preschool coordinator for a young, growing church in Hickory, Ky. For more information, call (270) 856-4463; or e-mail communityfbc@yahoo.com. For more info on the church itself: www.cfwithpurpose.org.

SEEKING: Director of children's ministries (30 hours per week). Salary plus benefits. Submit resumé to herb@richpond.org. Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister. Traditional/contemporary music for growing church. Please send resumés to 8200 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601; or contact Pastor Jeff Sargent, (502) 227-7278.

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

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.

'Quirky' pitcher comfortable sharing faith in the spotlight

By Joshua Cooley

Boston—Justin Masterson doesn't drink. "Never seen anything good from it," he'll tell you. But he has no problem going to the local watering hole with some buddies. And if he's in the right mood, he might even get a little crazy.

"You might see me in the bar with my friends," he said. "I won't be drinking, but I might be dancing on the bar. I'll be the sober one there. It's that genuineness that's lost."

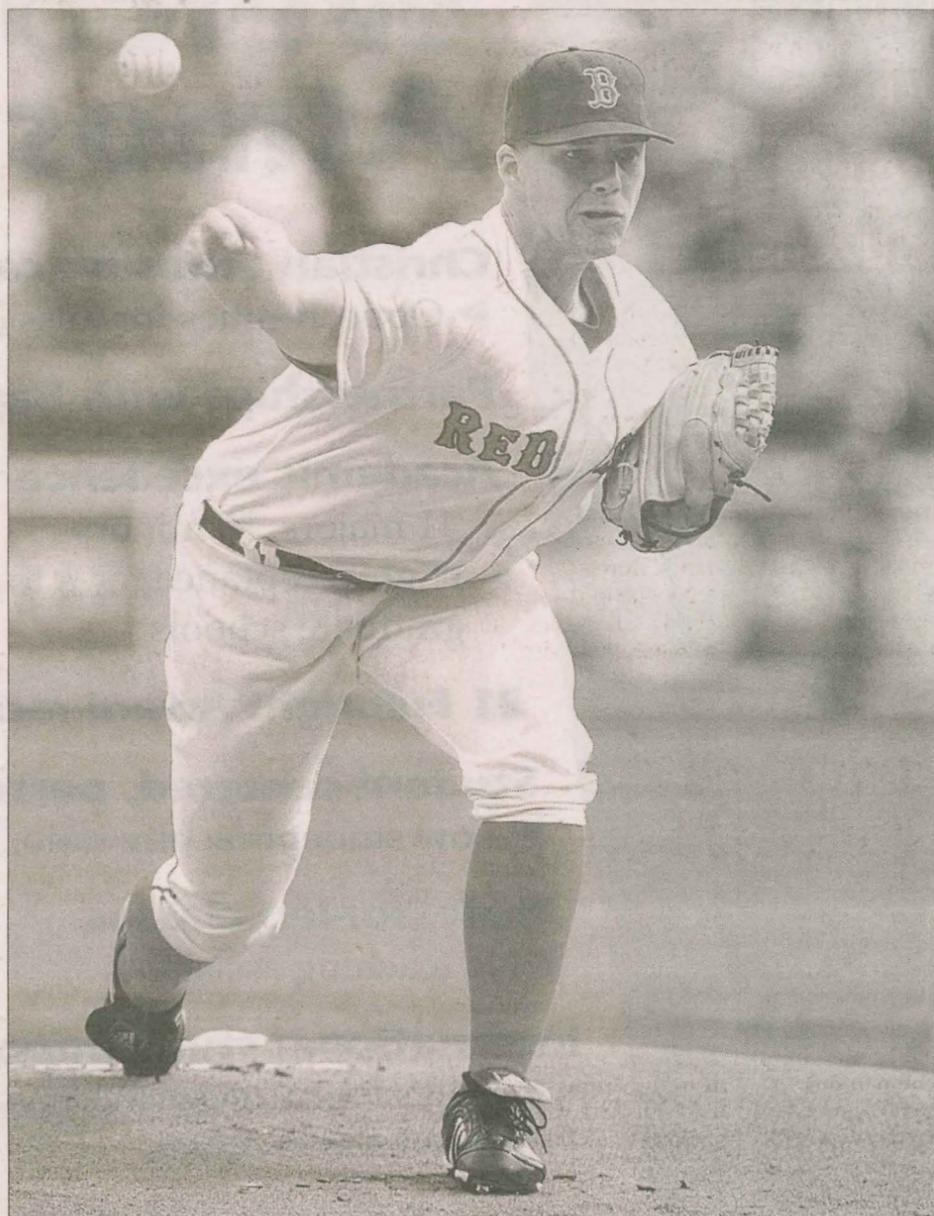
Ladies and gentlemen—and Christian traditionalists whose eyebrows now are arched—meet Justin Masterson, the Boston Red Sox's 24-year-old rising star whose deliciously dichotomous nature is as intriguing as his slingshot right arm. He's a freewheeling spirit with conservative values. He's a preacher's kid who is neither a goody-two-shoes nor an angry rebel. He's young but bald. He's rich and talented, but relatable and humble. And that genuineness he mentioned? Good heavens, if Masterson isn't genuine, the world is flat.

Ask him a question and you might get a five-minute stream of consciousness. Take, for instance, the following sample, which came at the end of a 450-word answer to the simple question, "So, tell me about your successful 2008 season"—a response that also included recollections of playing Ken Griffey Jr. on Super Nintendo and a reference to Charles Barkley's infamous "I'm not paid to be a role model" quote.

"It's amazing how just a few smiles and conversations (with fans) and being genuine with people—they appreciate that so much," Masterson said near the end of his mini-discourse. "And some will try to take advantage of you. I can see how some players put up a guard. It's nice to see some of these guys with their guards down. We have the same struggles as the person working a regular 9-to-5 job and the guy driving the trash truck."

OK, so maybe major league stars can't quite relate to the struggles of the local sanitation department worker. But if anyone can convince you otherwise, it's probably Masterson. His boyish charm, goofy wit and unshakable spiritual convictions are enough to make you wonder how a guy like him plays the same game as steroid cheats, narcissistic millionaires, et al.

"He's well-liked," said his father, Mark Masterson. "People know him and like him.



ON TARGET Pitcher Justin Masterson is in his second season with the Boston Red Sox.

But he's got his quirky side."

His talents are as striking as his clean-shaven dome (which he has sported since he first donned the razor in high school for a Mr. Clean Halloween outfit). A 2006 draft pick, he made his major league debut on April 24, 2008—an impressive spot start (six innings, two hits, one run) in place of starter Daisuke Matsuzaka, who was scratched due to illness.

After flip-flopping between the majors and minors a couple times over the next few months, he returned to Boston for good in late July. For the season, he went 4-3 with a 3.67 ERA in nine starts, and 2-2 with a 2.36 ERA in 27 relief appearances over the final two and a half months.

His most memorable moments came in the postseason, where Boston lost to upstart Tampa Bay in the American League

Championship Series. Masterson, though, did his part, setting a franchise record with nine playoff appearances, going 1-0 with a 1.86 ERA in relief. His win in Game 5 of the ALCS (he pitched a scoreless ninth) made him the seventh-youngest Red Sox pitcher ever to win a postseason game. The last player to do so at a younger age? Oh, some guy in 1916 named Babe Ruth.

"I was pitching in almost every playoff game," Masterson said. "It was almost too much to think about during the season. For lack of a better word, it was magical."

Having started this season in the big leagues, Masterson has avoided a sophomore slump. In 27 games—including six as a fill-in starter when Matsuzaka went down with a shoulder injury in late April—he has gone 3-3 with a 4.98 ERA.

It's all heady stuff for a humble Midwestern kid who was known in grade school as the fat catcher who could hit. Masterson, was born in Kingston, Jamaica, where his father was an academic dean and professor at Jamaican Theological Seminary. The following year, Mark moved the family back to Indiana. Four years later, they settled in Beavercreek, Ohio, where Mark has been the pastor of Creekside Community Church, a congregation of about 70 people.

The truth of the gospel, Justin said, really sank in during his early teenage years. His father's godly example was a catalyst.

"I've watched my dad and through it all, whether it's been struggles in the church or troubles in life, he has always gotten up for work," Justin said.

"He hasn't shoved the Bible down my throat, but we were always in church and he rejoiced when we were old enough to make our own decisions."

Now, Masterson is using his major league platform to spread the gospel. He faithfully attends the team's chapel services and is outspoken with his faith.

Last February, Masterson shared his testimony as part of a year-long 200th anniversary celebration at Park Street Church in Boston, and in April, he gave a brief devotional prior to the Celtics' first-round playoff game against the Bulls.

"My motto is to positively impact people's lives," he said. "I've gotten numerous random letters saying how I've been able to positively affect their lives. I'm the same person today that I was then. I thank the Lord for that." (BP)

Perseverance, faith pay off for 35-year-old PGA rookie Mathis

By Joshua Cooley

Bethesda, Md.—Golfer David Mathis' low point came about this time two years ago in Moscow, Pa., a sleepy little borough in Lackawanna County off Interstate 380.

David and his wife, Chastity, arrived at the Northeast Pennsylvania Classic, a Nationwide Tour event, fresh off his fourth straight missed cut. Only a month earlier, he convinced Chastity to give up a frustrating job to join him on the road. Then his game began to fizzle.

By the time they arrived in Moscow, money was so tight that Chastity caddied for David that weekend. Knowing divine intervention was needed, they sought the Lord at their host's home.

"We were in the bedroom they had for us, and we just prayed and cried out to God," David recalled. "It felt like we laid there for two hours."

Mathis missed his fifth consecutive cut that week despite playing two rounds at 1-under par. But God heard their prayers. The following week, at the Xerox Classic in Rochester, N.Y., Mathis finished seventh and pocketed a \$20,100 check that he said

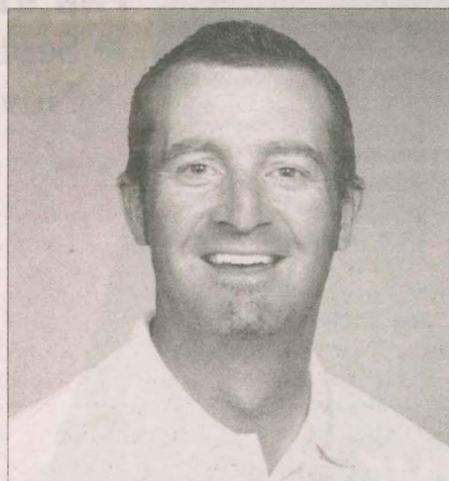
felt like \$20 million. He made the cut in eight of his final nine tournaments that season and earned fully-exempt Nationwide status for the following year.

In May 2008, he won the BMW Charity Pro-Am, catapulting him to an eventual 14th-place finish on the Nationwide money list and a spot on this year's PGA Tour.

"I think early on, I trusted in me," Mathis said. "As time went on, and especially when I got married, I knew, 'Here I am, out here playing golf, trying to provide, and I can't do it. I have to look to You, God. You made these promises, and I'm going to look to You.' I think when I started doing that, my golf started to jump up."

Mathis shared his inspiring story recently at Tiger Woods' AT&T National Tournament. Only a year ago, Mathis struggled to make enough money to cover his travel expenses and pay the bills. Now, he is walking between the ropes at hallowed Congressional Country Club in a \$6 million tournament.

That doesn't mean he has officially "made it." He has made 12 of 16 cuts on the main tour but he has plenty of work ahead



David Mathis

if he is to gain full exemption for 2010. His best finish this season is a tie for 23rd at the St. Jude Classic.

Considering his past travails, each day on the PGA Tour is another day in paradise. Mathis, a lifelong native of North Carolina, turned pro in 1997 after graduating from

Campbell University, where he was All-Big South Conference in 1993-94. But for the next decade, he kicked around the Tarheel (now eGolf Professional), Canadian and Nationwide tours.

For more than 10 years, he said his faith was tested severely. "Sometimes it's really hard because you want to control," Mathis said. "It's that leaning on God and leaning not on your own understanding."

For the remainder of the season, Mathis' focus will be on improving his rank on the money list. To receive a full exemption for next year, he needs to be in the Top 125. But specific performance goals aren't part of his plan.

"I just try to get better and work hard on things I struggle with—work hard and pray harder, basically, and see what the Lord has."

Mathis said he is relishing his opportunity. After all, it's not every day you see a 35-year-old rookie on golf's grand stage.

"Coming up through the Canadian Tour and the Nationwide Tour and finally getting out here, it's just an answer to prayer, to be honest with you," he said. (BP)

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