

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

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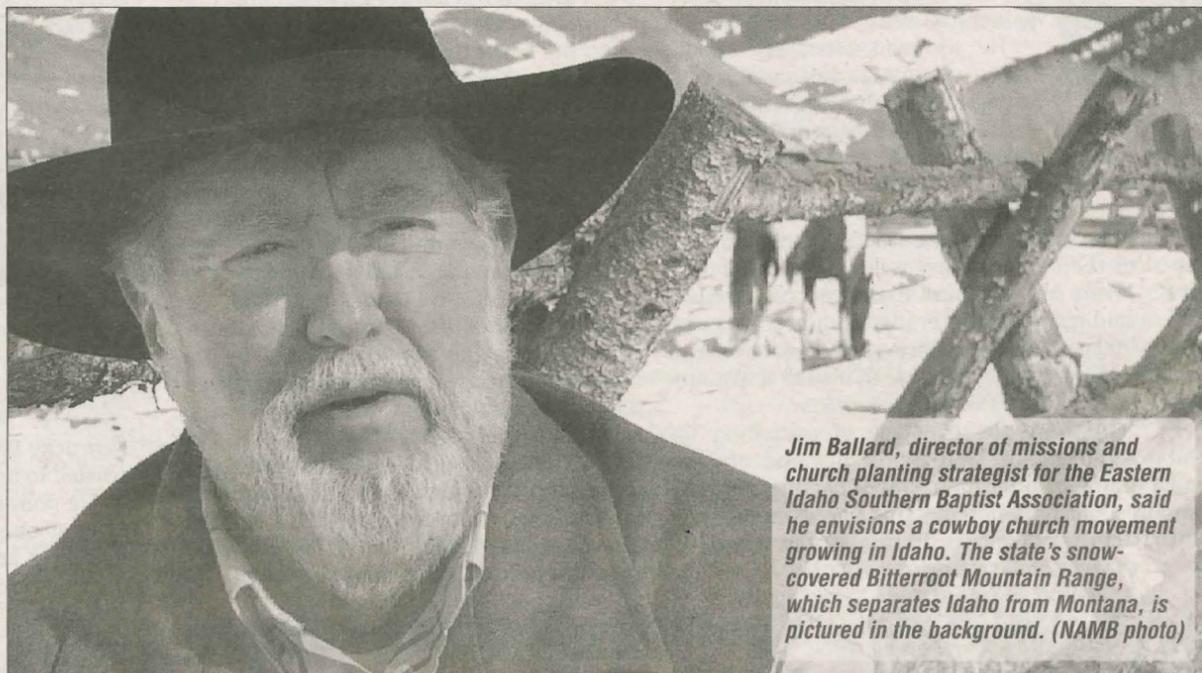
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## Church Cowboy



Jim Ballard, director of missions and church planting strategist for the Eastern Idaho Southern Baptist Association, said he envisions a cowboy church movement growing in Idaho. The state's snow-covered Bitterroot Mountain Range, which separates Idaho from Montana, is pictured in the background. (NAMB photo)

### NAMB missionary roams Idaho's wide expanses, planting churches

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

**Blackfoot, Idaho**—Wearing a hat like the one cowboy actor Tom Mix made famous in westerns in the 1920s and '30s, along with a vest, brown cowboy boots and a full gray beard, Jim Ballard looks like he just stepped out of a Hollywood movie studio.

But unlike the silver screen cowboys of old, Ballard spends his long Idaho days recruiting church planters and helping plant churches as director of missions for Eastern Idaho Southern Baptists for Association. He also has served as a North American Mission Board worker for the last seven of his 37 years in ministry.

"Probably the greatest challenge I face is the distances I have to cover," said Ballard, whose association is made up of 13 counties and surrounded by three states—Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. "There's a lot of distance between places up here."

With his home in Blackfoot, Idaho—midway between Pocatello and Idaho Falls—Ballard, 57, said he puts an average of 75,000-80,000 miles a year on his vehicle as he covers his assigned territory.

"It's nothing to drive 500, 600, 700 miles some days," he said.

Ballard preaches at a different church every Sunday in his associ-

ation, which includes 13 churches and two missions. Some are without pastors or are church plants which have not yet called a pastor, so Ballard often fills in. He may preach in as many as three churches on a given Sunday, some three hours or 200 miles apart.

Born in Pueblo, Colo., Ballard grew up working on ranches and farms, so he relates well to the ranching and farming community of Eastern Idaho.

"I've been around ranchers all my life. Westerners are very individual people but some of the finest people on earth," Ballard said. "Moral-  
See Missionary roams ... Page 8

### Ky. pastor's e-mail addresses NAMB president's future

By Mark Kelly

**Alpharetta, Ga.**—A trustee of the North American Mission board has expressed concern about rumors that other trustees are planning to seek the removal of NAMB president Geoff Hammond during a meeting of the board's executive committee scheduled for Aug. 11 in Atlanta.

Concern about the possibility of that action led other trustees to request the meeting be changed to a special called meeting of the entire board.

In an e-mail dated July 29, Jason Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, told other trustees that the previous day he had received a telephone call and an e-mail from other trustees, saying they had heard about an effort to remove Hammond.

"After praying throughout the day, I recalled our chairman, Tim Patterson, telling us in May at our spring meeting to contact him if we had any questions or concerns," Pettus wrote in the e-mail.

"I shared with Tim what I had been told and I asked him if indeed the executive committee was planning and seeking the removal of Geoff Hammond as president of NAMB at their next meeting on August 11," Pettus wrote. "He told me that he

did not know if that would be the outcome, but that he and the executive committee had several 'serious issues' that they needed to talk with Geoff about."

Now other trustees have asked the Aug. 11 meeting become a called meeting of the entire trustee body, said North American Mission Board spokesman Mike Ebert.

Pettus said Patterson, who is pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., identified three issues some trustees have with Hammond:

- That Hammond had stopped meeting with an executive leadership coach trustees had hired to work with him and was seeking a different coach.

- That Hammond had hired an administrative associate without consulting trustee leadership.

- That morale among board staff is at "an all-time low and people within the entity and outside of it are unhappy with the way things are going."

"Tim stated that this was an example of problems he and the executive committee had been having with Geoff for 18 months," Pettus wrote. "I shared that I was not aware of any problems any trustees were having with Geoff. It was and is a

surprise to me because Tim had made glowing remarks about Geoff at the commissioning service in May, and then we as a board affirmed the great job Geoff was doing as our president in May. Tim shared that he had kept these problems from the rest of the trustees for practical reasons. He did not want these problems to be a distraction for us or those that work at the board."

Pettus wrote that he asked Patterson if he was seeking Hammond's removal as president.

"Tim said he had no desire to see Geoff removed as president, but that members of the executive committee could pursue Geoff's removal and that he would be serving only as the leader of the meeting and would have to allow the members of the executive committee to pursue what they believed was needed," Pettus wrote. "He said that some on the executive committee were very 'angry' and 'frustrated' with Geoff. He also said that the executive committee has the authority to act on behalf of the entire board when the entire board is not in session."

Pettus acknowledged he did not personally know whether the trustee executive committee had such authority and added, "All of this is very disturbing to me and I believe every trustee of NAMB needs to be aware of this and be in prayer for our mission agency." (BP)

### Committee will study trimming size of KBC's Mission Board

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Louisville**—Following up on action taken by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board in May, KBC President John Mark Toby has appointed a committee to explore the advantages of trimming the size of the convention's governing board.

The Committee to Study the Size of the KBC Mission Board "will evaluate if a change in the size of the Mission Board will best serve Kentucky Baptists," Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, told the Western Recorder.

The committee is the result of an approved recommendation by the Mission Board in May to examine reducing its membership as a way to save money. Convention officials have reported an expected Co-operative Program budget shortfall of \$1 million for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

With 172 representatives, Kentucky has the largest executive board membership among all state Baptist conventions. Only 16 of those individuals do not represent one of the state's 72 associations.

The KBC's 2009-10 budget includes a line item of \$66,000 for Mission Board expenses.  
See Committee will ... Page 2

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Aug. 5

## Evangelist Mathis is KBC presidential nominee

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Corbin—Don Mathis, a vocational evangelist and staff member at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president when the KBC annual meeting convenes Nov. 10 in Elizabethtown.

Mathis, 67, who was KBC president in 1985-86, will be nominated by Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, who served as KBC president in 2006-07 and is chairman of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee.

Mathis is the first announced candidate for the post.

Gaddis said his nomination of Mathis is being "made out of a sincere concern for our convention." Pointing out such issues in Kentucky Baptist life as declining baptisms, membership totals and Cooperative Program gifts, Gaddis noted that Mathis has the experience "to lead our convention toward a Great Commission resurgence."

"To see a rebound in the life and work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will require leadership from those who know and understand Kentucky Baptist people and churches," Gaddis said of Mathis, who nominated the Corbin pastor for KBC president at the 2006 annual meeting.

"I do believe there are some advantages to experience," said Mathis, who led Kentucky Baptists as president nearly two and a half decades ago. "Surely, I have learned some things through these years that would make me a better president."



Don Mathis

As for addressing those issues of concern among Kentucky Baptists, Mathis indicated he would do so by providing leadership and influence, as well as affirming the goals of the Kentucky Baptists Connect initiative.

He also said it is "very important to encourage and mentor our young KBC pastors and other leaders. ... They are essential to every Kingdom ministry and especially our present and future in the KBC."

Some have suggested that Mathis has preached in more Kentucky Baptist churches than anyone alive today, he pointed out. While he's not sure if that is true, Mathis said his role as an evangelist and the nearly 700 revivals he has preached—most of them in Kentucky—have allowed him to stay more in touch with Kentucky Baptists.

"I have the privilege of preaching in some of our larger churches and in many of our smaller membership churches," Mathis noted. "This allows me to see Kentucky Baptists do ministry in a variety of styles and settings."

Mathis, who has been a full-time vocational evangelist since 1999 and staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist since 2004, also has served as pastor at Central Baptist, Corbin; Southside Baptist Church in Princeton; Central Baptist Church in Winchester; and Green River Baptist Church in Cromwell.

Also a former president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Mathis has served on a number of KBC committees and is a trustee for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

In his denominational leadership roles, Mathis served for nearly three years as executive director of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, and as director of pastor-staff leadership at LifeWay Christian Resources from 1996-99. He also has written a pair of books, including "The Pastor & Staff Search Committee Guide" and "Surviving and Thriving in Today's Ministry: Prescription for Effective Leadership."

Eastwood Baptist Church consistently places among the top 10 churches in the state in Cooperative Program giving. In 2008 (the most recent data available), the church gave more than \$203,000—13.2 percent of undesignated receipts—to CP, according to information provided by the KBC's business services team. Data from the KBC's Annual Church Profile report showed that Eastwood Baptist reported 25 baptisms last year.

## Committee will study trimming size of KBC's Mission Board

Continued from page 1

which includes travel, lodging and meals. This year's budgeted amount is \$61,000. In 2007-08, the KBC spent more than \$103,000 on Mission Board expenses.



Adam Greenway

The board meets three times annually: in May at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad; in November prior to the KBC annual meeting; and in December at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

"I think we should always be looking for ways to be good stewards of the Cooperative Program resources the Kentucky Baptist churches have entrusted to us," Toby said.

He pointed out that, on average, at least one-third of Mission Board members are absent from each of the meetings. "We need to improve participation no matter what size the Mission Board is," he said.

Toby also suggested utilizing such tools as conference calls and video teleconferencing as a way to save time, money and out of concern for Mission Board members' safety. He said that some committee meetings last winter were conducted that way when inclement weather limited travel.

The 12-member committee will report its findings to the full Mission Board at a future meeting. Any recommended changes approved by the board would represent a constitutional amendment and would require action by convention messengers.

The committee members are:

- Adam Greenway, chair, assistant professor of evangelism and applied apologetics at Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.
  - Jim Castlen, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association.
  - Phil Fisher, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Eubank.
  - Stan Lowery, director of missions for Nelson Baptist Association.
  - Don Mathis, vocational evangelist and staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
  - Jim McGee, pastor of East Hickman Baptist Church in Lexington.
  - Jerry Oakley, former director of missions for Warren Baptist Association and interim pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Russellville.
  - Mike O'Neal, pastor of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
  - Larry Purcell, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.
  - Ronny Raines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cold Spring.
  - Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.
  - Bettie Wright, layperson from First Baptist Church of Barlow.
- As KBC president, Toby also will meet with the committee.

## Children's minister Cundiff, 56, recalled as 'dedicated servant'

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Tina Cundiff, minister of children and preschoolers for Hurstbourne Baptist Church, died July 25. She was 56.

Cundiff served at the Louisville congregation since 1998. She also directed the church's Day School ministry.

Sharing the gospel with children "was really the core of everything that Tina did," said Mike O'Neal, pastor of Hurstbourne Baptist. "She was one of the most dedicated servants I have ever worked with on a church staff."

A graduate of Murray State University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Cundiff was an ideal example of Christian singleness described by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 7, according to her friend and colleague James Stillwell, minister to single adults at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Prior to joining Hurstbourne Baptist, Cundiff served at Immanuel.

"Her singleness was never a disadvantage," Stillwell noted. "Her happiness didn't depend on marital status."

Stillwell said he appreciated Cundiff as his co-worker and also as minister to his own children.

"She had a personal relationship with each and every child," he said, noting that she made sure to position herself at eye level when speaking to children.

Stillwell's eldest children made professions of faith in Christ during Cundiff's time at Immanuel. She began a new Christians class just for children, ensuring that each boy and girl understood the gospel and the decision they were

making to accept Christ as Savior.

"As a parent, I had a lot of confidence that when my child got through her class there was no doubt that they understood," Stillwell said.

To celebrate a child's first Christmas as a believer, Cundiff made personalized Christmas ornaments shaped like doves. "We still have those on our tree every year," he said.

Cundiff died after a long illness. Stillwell said he, his wife and two eldest children "had the privilege of going to her bedside," and praying for Cundiff before she died.

In addition to the congregations in Louisville and Lexington, Cundiff served at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.; Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas; and First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va. While a student at Southern Seminary, Cundiff taught music at Coral Ridge Elementary School in Fairdale.

O'Neal described Cundiff as a wise and spiritually mature believer.

"That only increased in the last few months," he noted. "Tina never stopped learning." He said the last time he spoke with Cundiff, "she talked about the new things God was showing her, even in her illness."

It was Cundiff's wish that expressions of sympathy take the form of gifts to the preschool and children's ministry at Hurstbourne Baptist Church.

The funeral was held July 29. Cundiff is survived by her mother, Anna Cundiff; two sisters, Beth Hancock and Suzy Watkins; and several nieces and nephews.

## Kentucky Baptists collect 514 buckets for Africans

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—A total of 514 in-home care kits collected by Kentucky Baptists will be among the thousands of buckets delivered to Africa by Southern Baptists this fall.

The In-Home Care Kits Project is designed to help provide relief to millions of Africans afflicted with the HIV virus and AIDS. Organized by Baptist Global Response, the health care items will be given to caregivers and disease victims in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"This project gives us an opportunity to offer the love and life of Christ to those who have had their lives stolen by AIDS and other diseases," said Coy Webb, KBC's disaster relief associate. "As Christ's followers, we are called to enter the brokenness of life and join him in rescuing and caring for the perishing. The buckets are a tool we can use to make a difference in Christ's great rescue operation."

BGR is hoping to collect 5,000 filled buckets from Southern Baptists across the nation by the end of August, said Dennis Eastridge, BGR's project manager. During the 2008 pilot project in Kentucky and several other states, 1,400 buckets were collected and sent to Africa for Southern Baptist missionaries to distribute.

In Kentucky this year, the collection was again coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission and Kentucky's Woman's Missionary Union.

"Kentucky Baptists always respond to opportunities to touch lives in tangible ways. Doing the shopping, packing the buckets and praying over the supplies as they are ready to be sent is very meaningful," said Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU director. "We look forward to the report that Coy will bring after his trip to Africa in September when he will be able to observe the AIDS ministry and see how these buckets are making a difference."

To fill the buckets, individuals and churches in Kentucky purchased requested items and brought them to participating Kentucky Baptist churches. Items included household health products, such as soaps, vitamins, healing ointments, bedding and more.

Participating churches then packed the donated supplies in five-gallon buckets and transported them to 16 drop-off locations across the state during the week of July 20. All buckets from the participating states will be delivered to BGR's offices in Richmond, Va., by Sept. 1, where they will be prepared for delivery to Africa sometime this fall, Eastridge said.

For more information about the project, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/AfricaProjects](http://www.KyBaptist.org/AfricaProjects), or contact the Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3527, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

## Students share gospel with U of L's international community

By Evelyn Chang  
The Towers

**Louisville**—As they step out into the world for the first time, college students face many decisions and questions concerning their lives, faith and values.

During this transitional point in students' lives the Baptist Campus Ministry at the University of Louisville seeks "to develop fully devoted Christ followers," said Bill Noe, U of L campus minister and a 2003 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Regardless of their background, all campus students share a common need: salvation in Christ.

Noe is one of many students from Southern Seminary deeply involved in proclaiming the gospel on the U of L campus through BCM. The organization, funded by the Cooperative Program, fulfills its mission through a broad variety of ministries and events, such as lunchtime Bible studies, weekend outings and activities, a weekly worship service, and a language partner program for international students.

Despite the abundance of Christian fellowship, BCM leaders point out that the organization is not a substitute for the local church.

"BCM exists to serve churches," noted Riley Byers, international minister who graduated from Southern Seminary last May. Byers encourages volunteers from the seminary to minister at the U of L BCM as representatives of their local churches.

Byers personally lives out his goals through his work at Louisville's Third Avenue Baptist Church, where he has started a Sunday school class for international university students called "International Christianity Matters." Founded as a place for Christian internationals to grow in their faith, the class has become more evangelistic in nature as several non-believers attend, he said.

Local church involvement is essential not only for international students but also for American students. Noe said that by being part of a local church, college students can continue to grow in their faith after they graduate. Noe said he sees BCM as a bridge between Christians and non-Christians in helping lead them to Christ. By keeping students connected to Christ, BCM strives to disciple students for the Lord, he added.

BCM also provides unique opportunities to share the gospel with students of different nationalities without having to go overseas.

"The Lord in His grace is bringing the nations here," said Jennifer Hall, a BCM semester missionary and Southern Seminary student.

University of Louisville students come from all over the world, including China, India, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain. More than 80 percent of these international students will return to their homelands after they graduate. By hearing the gospel

while they are in the United States, these students can be effective witnesses in their own countries where many of them hold influential positions.

Yet it is not an easy process.

Many international students come from pagan or even atheistic cultures. The concept of God and His existence is quite foreign to them, making it hard for them to grasp the gospel. For these students, BCM works to sow seeds that may one day bear fruit in another land.

Many international students are attracted to BCM as a way to learn about American culture and language. The organization then is able to present Christianity as a part of American culture.

Although not a Christian, one doctoral student was so fascinated with Christianity and its connection with American culture that she videotaped Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, sharing the gospel. When she returns to her home country, she said she plans to show the video to students there.

BCM also reaches out to international students through its language partner program, weekday Bible studies and weekend activities. In the language partner program, Christian students are paired up with international students. Each pair meets at least once a week to practice conversational English.

BCM volunteers devote themselves completely to these students, showing them the

love of God by inviting them to their homes for meals and spending time with them. One student from Spain said, "These are the only people that care about us."

The majority of international students that BCM works with are Chinese. Coming from a strong atheistic background, Chinese students are open to the idea of a God, but the newness of the idea of a God prevents them from believing. Once they do, however, their lives are changed.

Kang, originally from China, came to Louisville for post-doctoral studies. He regularly attended a Saturday night Bible study organized by BCM where he heard the gospel for the first time. Last Easter, Kang accepted Christ and was baptized at the Chinese mission at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. He said that as a Christian he has greater security and can depend on the Almighty God instead of only himself. Kang also explained that his faith has prompted him to change many sinful habits.

Whatever BCM's efforts to share the gospel, leaders insist it is still all by the grace of God that students come to accept Him. Moved by the Spirit, even Muslim students come to BCM hungering for the Word of God. It is then up to these students to teach Scripture to these students.

BCM welcomes volunteers who will involve themselves in the lives of a few college students, helping them to come to Christ and grow in their faith.

## Missionary couple plants church emphasizing creativity and Creator

By Jami Becher  
On Mission

**Atlanta**—In Paris, while on a short-term mission trip, God planted a seed in Kerry Jackson's heart that ultimately would become Bezael Church.

"For part of the two weeks we were in Paris I ministered to street artists. We discussed our art and I was able to have some great spiritual conversations with them," Jackson recalled. "When I got home I began praying for the missionary and the artists we met, but I couldn't shake the question, 'Who is trying to reach the arts community with the gospel?'"

That question eventually grew into a calling, as he felt God asking, "Will you?"

So began the journey of Jackson and his wife, Twyla, to plant a church that not only would reach visual artists but actors, designers, photographers and all types of creative people. A visual artist himself, who works mostly in fine art painting and drawing and mixed media, Jackson said he understands the culture of creative types.

"I want to create an environment that welcomes those who've been labeled as 'weird' because of their artistic expression," he noted. "I'd like to offer them a place to express and share their creativity while learning about the Creator."

Bezael Church, named for the artist chosen by God to lead a team of artisans to decorate the tabernacle in Exodus 31:1-6, is part of Jackson's assignment as a church planting national missionary with the North American Mission Board. He and Twyla, a NAMB Mission Service Corps missionary, are working through the Georgia Baptist Convention and Atlanta Association of Southern Baptists to develop a church planting model for the affinity group of cultural creatives.

Reaching this affinity group has not been easy. Kerry compares sharing Christ with creatives to Jesus' parable of the sower.

"We've encountered lots of hard, rocky and thorny soil," he said. "We've come to

realize that before you can plant a seed you need to prepare the soil. We feel like we've spent the last two years removing debris and plowing, and we're finally beginning to see the seeds we've planted grow."

The Jacks began serving the hard soil of Atlanta's creative community by moving from their suburban home in Sugar Hill, Ga., into the city.

"We looked at cities all over the world to find a place where we could reach creatives," Twyla said. "But God kept drawing us back here. We moved to midtown to be where the creative people are. We wanted to be able to touch this community on a daily basis."

The Jacks began serving the arts community by joining the Atlanta Artist Center, the city's oldest arts organization.

"We've made some great connections," Kerry said. "We brought in volunteers to help check in and hang art for shows. We've done yard work, and we're bringing in a mission team this fall to replace the roof of their building. Our goal is to serve in love and help Atlanta artists be successful."

"We've broken down walls and dispelled a lot of misconceptions about Southern Baptists and Christians in general by making ourselves available to do the jobs nobody else wants to do."

One of the jobs was sorting artificial flowers for the Alliance Theater in an un-air conditioned storage room on a hot and humid Atlanta afternoon.

"They needed help, and we explained that we had a group that wanted to do a community service project," Kerry recalled. "So we brought in this group of mostly guys who worked so hard even though it was hot and they were even with flowers. The theater director said to me, 'What did they do?' He thought they committed a crime."

"Because those guys served with such excellence we were able to say, 'We're not doing this because we have to. We're here because we love Jesus, and we want you



**SUPPORTING THE ARTS** Bezael Church is geared toward Atlanta's artistic community. The church was planted by North American Mission Board missionary Kerry Jackson and his wife, Twyla. The couple hopes to officially launch the church by the end of the year. (BP photo)

all to know that He loves you.' The theater staff allowed us to pray with them before we left."

While reaching out to Atlanta's creative community, in a large sense the Jacks and their core group—which also includes NAMB MSC missionary Adam Jachelski and his wife, Sherri—are making personal connections and starting small-group Bible studies that will be the foundation of Bezael Church.

Bezael has started small groups throughout the city. The Jacks worked through the Baptist Colligate Ministries of Georgia State and Emory universities to start small groups on campus, and they also hold a Bible study in their home. Kerry said he hopes to see the small groups multiply in the next year.

"Because the Atlanta arts community is so pocketed throughout the city, we see Bezael Church as a series of small groups that come together for corporate worship," he explained. "We see a lot of creative peo-

ple who have a desire and need for community but don't know how to get it. We want our small groups to be a place where they can be transparent enough to connect."

Earlier this year, not long after the church held its first services, it held an art exhibit titled "In Remembrance" featuring the work of Christian artists who were asked to interpret different elements of Passion Week.

"We had paintings depicting the crucifixion and resurrection. We had poetry, video, multimedia pieces and even an installation piece that illustrated the effects of sin and God's power to forgive," Twyla said. "Each artist provided a statement to explain the work they had created."

Another unique facet of Kerry Jackson's ministry is creating live art in worship services. Through his art, he is able to tell God's story of redeeming love in a contemporary way. The Jacks and their core group hope to officially launch Bezael Church by the end of the year. (BP)

## Super Saturday '09

Super Saturday continues to be an outstanding learning experience for more than 3,000 Kentucky Baptist leaders and volunteers from hundreds of churches every year.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The benefits of Super Saturday are unlimited. Many churches take advantage of the travel and conference time for fellowship. It is also fun to renew acquaintances and learn from leaders in other churches. Some of the best insights come from what others are doing and resources they have discovered. I have always been blessed and encouraged by how other churches are approaching their ministries.

One of the best testimonies that I have heard was from a lady who attended a Super Saturday at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Because she was so excited about what she learned, she enlisted 15 people from her church for the session at Severns Valley Baptist Church the very next week.

Consider how great the impact could be if someone from each church were to bring 15 workers and potential workers with him or her to a Super Saturday for training, resources, encouragement and inspiration. The people of each church would be blessed, and the workers would never forget that someone cared enough to enlist them for training.

In anticipation of the Super Saturday theme, "Making Vital Connections," I am reminded of the key phrase in the KBC mission statement, "... connecting all people to Jesus Christ." Our connection to God through Jesus Christ is essential. This year's theme is designed to help your church make connections that are vital to effectively reach and disciple people for Christ.

Here are the top 10 reasons why I believe you should attend Super Saturday this year:

10. More than 75 conferences are offered.
  9. Six events provide opportunities close to home.
  8. "Find it Here" training will be featured.
  7. Topics and resources address leader needs.
  6. New conferences are offered every year.
  5. Presenters are experienced practitioners.
  4. Challenging topics are included.
  3. Conferences from 18 ministry areas provide something for everyone.
  2. Content is relevant to churches of all sizes.
  1. Low cost means a high value for your church.
- Participants may choose to attend any of the six dates and locations across Kentucky:

Aug. 22: Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington  
 Aug. 29: Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown  
 Sept. 12: First Baptist Church, Somerset  
 Sept. 12: First Baptist Church, Paducah  
 Sept. 19: First Baptist Church, Pikeville  
 Sept. 19: Zion Baptist Church, Henderson

For more information or to register today, go to [www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday](http://www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday) or call 866-489-3572 (toll free) or 502-489-3572.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... in August

Imagine the joy of receiving a Christmas gift that you didn't expect, but really needed. Now imagine the thrill of opening it five months early!

Southern Baptists will have an opportunity this month to do something unexpected that is not only critical, but also will bring a lasting joy to millions of people around the globe.

President Johnny Hunt and other Southern Baptist Convention leaders are challenging churches to collect an additional offering this year as part of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis. Last year, the offering for international missions fell short of its \$170 million goal by more than \$29 million. Consequently, in



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

May, International Mission Board trustees suspended new appointments to two short-term missionary programs and cut back on the overall number of missionaries to be appointed for the remainder of the year. The IMB currently employs about 5,600 missionaries, but—without additional funds—by the end of this year, there could be 400 fewer.

Hunt and others are suggesting that a "Christmas in August" offering would help the International Mission Board recover some of the deficit, so it can send some of the missionaries who are waiting to go.

"I know these difficult economic times are impacting families but has not the Great Commission always demanded sacrifice?" asked IMB President Jerry Rankin during his report to messengers to the SBC Annual Meeting in Louisville. Reminding Baptists of the vast pockets of lostness where multitudes have yet to hear about Jesus, Rankin charged, "Is it really a problem with the economy, or rather distorted priorities and hearts that are not aligned with our Lord's passion to be glorified among the nations and peoples of the world?"

Southeastern Seminary President Danny Akin told alumni attending an SBC luncheon: "It breaks my heart that people want to go, but we don't have the funds to send them. I am not going to tell our students to look for a home assignment just because of a shortage of funds. I am going to tell them to look for a movement of God to get the necessary funds to get them to the fields."

Perhaps as an initial step in that movement, the Christmas in August offering provides Southern Baptists with an extra opportunity to demonstrate their devotion to Christ and their passion for reaching lost people. While it is not an official promotion of the IMB, Trustee Chairman Paul Chitwood remarked that they are very grateful for any gifts to help "get the hundreds of missionaries whose appointment process has been slowed more quickly to the field."

The need is real and urgent: "God is giving us unprecedented opportunities to reach the nations for Christ. We have missionaries ready to go. We must

make the necessary sacrifices to send them," urged Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington and assistant professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Certainly, Christmas in August sounds like a good solution to the immediate shortfall in meeting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for supporting international missions. But the extra offering must not hamper support for the ministries of local churches and associations, the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions efforts, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions, and the Cooperative Program.

"Kentucky Baptists are always responsive to the needs at home and abroad, and I trust they will be during these days. I have been very encouraged to see the growing commitment to the Eliza Broadus Offering and trust that any special gifts to the IMB during August would not detract," Chitwood said.

In an article in the Florida Baptist Witness, Ken Whitten, a former chairman of the IMB's finance committee, also urged Baptists, "Let's do 'Christmas in August,' and let's do it big!" But he wisely cautioned: "We don't do it at the expense of another worthy ministry," and "we still make our Lottie Moon Offering bigger than ever in December" to sustain the missionaries whom we send.

"Keep in mind, the solution is not giving—it is sustaining," Whitten said. Affirming that "God's work, done God's way, never lacks for God's supply," Whitten urged fellow Southern Baptist to keep missions and God's work moving.

"As our convention president Johnny Hunt says, 'We are never more like Jesus than when we are giving,' he maintained.

To assist churches in promoting the "Christmas in August" offering, Southwestern Seminary has created a two-minute video, web banners, bulletin inserts and posters. The free promotional resources are available at [www.swbts.edu/ChristmasInAugust](http://www.swbts.edu/ChristmasInAugust).

Reiterating that some current students will not be able to go unless funds become available, Thomas White, SWBTS vice president for communications and student services, reminded, "If we don't give, they can't go. More importantly more than 6 billion people will face eternity, and we must get the gospel to them."

By participating in the Christmas in August offering, Kentucky Baptists yield a tangible expression of our love for Christ, our heart for missions and our faithfulness to the Great Commission in sending more missionaries to the field. As Chitwood challenges us, "A Great Commission Resurgence can begin now, begin here, and extend to the world!"

## Reaching scientists

I should begin with something I rarely tell fellow Christians: I am a scientist. Your July 14 article on beliefs of scientists highlighted a barrier Christians erect for the gospel.

We know scientists are less likely to believe in God than most. But any Christian in science knows why: Christians try very hard to keep their people out of science.

When Christians respect history and reading, but want to make sure that science ends with Genesis, what should a Christian child think? When Christians encourage their youth to pick colleges based on the theology taught in biology and physics classes, what should Christian youth think? When Chris-

tians expect their adults to enter "practical" careers, what is a Christian young adult to think?

I learned long ago what to think. When a Christian asks my occupation, I say that I teach at the university. Maybe that the university also requires me to do some research, but never that I love it. Say that I'm a scientist—never.

I know many Christians in science. But I know even more lost people. Who will God send? Who will go to them? Who will they listen to?

They won't listen to preachers or students denouncing evolution. They won't listen to "scientists" who "prove" conventional science wrong and the Bible right.

Who can reach them? Maybe a mosquito biologist who approaches

life with passion like none they've ever seen. Maybe a particle physicist whose relationship with God is more intimate than any relationship they've had in their lives. Or maybe—with God's blessing—a mathematician who mourns for the world and begs people of Hope to come over here and help us.

Wesley Calvert  
Murray

**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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## When your adult child divorces

By James Stillwell

**Q:** My child is going through divorce. I feel so helpless. My child's spouse has been close to us. I don't want to lose that relationship. I care so much about my grandchildren. I don't know how to feel or what to do.

**A:** Offer support, the support of neutrality, not the support of taking sides regarding agreement with their decision, says Marsha Temlock, author of "Your Child's Divorce: What to Expect." Support means you say, "How can I make this easier on you?"

Support can mean being there for your child financially. Money is a concern in most divorces. Offer practical help. Your child may need a new dresser or suit. Offer to take care of the children. Offer to clean their house.

Don't try to swoop down to be the "marriage savior." While they may reconcile over time, that is their decision, not yours. Counseling can be helpful no matter what. Since they are parents, they will need to have a healthy post-divorce relationship even if marital reconciliation does not happen.

Listen to your child. Look to your child for cues as to whether or not you should be "on the scene," whether or not they need lodging, or whether or not it is a good time to reach out to their former spouse.

Remember to have boundaries. Give their former spouse some space. You can communicate sympathy, respect and affection, but stay "above the fray," and be careful not to hold grudges.

Build bridges with the other grandparents so that you may partner in giving stability to the grandchildren. Provide safe harbor where they can still have fun and find relief away from their stressed-out parents. Give them a sense of belonging and security.

Overcome your sorrow so you can work with your child, their former spouse, any new partner or any new in-law grandparent that may come their way.

Take care of you. You certainly need emotional energy for yourself. Remember, you do not know what tomorrow holds, but you know who holds tomorrow. Prayer is always an action you can take, offering all concerned into God's care.

*James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.*

## The value of teaching children about money

By Chuck Bentley

It's important to teach your children about money and how to manage it. But even more important than understanding the basics of making and spending money, children need to learn what the Bible says about money and how it affects our spiritual lives. How we handle money is an outside indicator of our inside spiritual condition. It has a direct link to our relationship with the Lord.

Many times, the only thing children learn about money is that "it doesn't grow on trees." But how often do children hear phrases like "being a good steward" or "using money wisely"? Teaching the biblical truths of finances will have a "return on investment" far greater than we can imagine.

**It changes their perspective.** Teaching children about money will change their perspective. Once children gain an understanding of how money is gained and what happens once it is spent, they will better understand the financial decisions that you make each day. They will learn how a household is managed, that resources are sometimes limited, and that you must be a good steward of what you have.

They will also begin to see the difference between a "want" and a "need." Today's society places such a great value on material goods, and this generation is the most materialistic generation in history. They are exposed at very young ages to all types of items that they just know they need. Teaching them about being a good steward will help them discern between a true "need" and a simple "want."

They will also learn to save up for items they want to purchase. This goes against the "instant gratification" that our society craves. Teaching them to save for things will bring a greater appreciation of what they have and a sense of satisfaction when they are able to purchase something.

**It helps with future decisions.** Children who are brought up with biblical financial principles are able to make better financial decisions once they are adults. The things they have learned in childhood and young adulthood will translate to their lives once they are on their own.

They will have learned that all money and possessions come from God and that they are merely stewards of His resources. And they will see the difference between their wants and their needs, and they will know the benefits of saving up for items instead of buying impulsively on credit.

These adults will be able to make wise purchase decisions regarding homes and automobiles, buying something of good quality that fits within their budget instead of becoming prey to the advertising world that tells them to get the biggest and the best.

They will know the dangers of debt. Instead of starting their adult lives saddled with college loans, credit card debt and other problems, they can know the freedom of a debt-free lifestyle.

**It strengthens faith in God.** God knew that money would be the No. 1 competitor for our love and attention. When children learn the biblical truths about money, they will see God as their Provider, the source of all they need. Their faith will be strengthened as they learn to look to Him for what they need and as they see Him answer prayers and provide for them.

Being a good steward of God's possessions brings us into an intimate walk with Christ. As children mature in their Christian walk, they will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading to help others. The Bible says that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7), and children who are taught God's financial principles learn that it truly is "more blessed to give than to receive" (Act 20:35).

Learning to be generous as children will create generous adults who see God's blessings on their lives as opportunities to bless others. God's work will be funded and many will come to know Christ through the generosity of His people.

A child's view of money will have a great impact on his or her life. Choosing to make wise financial decisions is as important as choosing whom to marry and what career path to take. When it comes to what to teach your children, teaching them God's financial principles will have lasting value.

*Chuck Bentley is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries.*



FAMILY FORUM

### FIRST PERSON

## Good administrative skills require attention

If there is one consistent area of concern that I hear about youth ministers, it is their lack of administrative skills. It also seems to be one of the top items most churches are looking for in a new youth minister. I'm not convinced that being a good youth pastor and having good administrative skills are mutually exclusive. I know some excellent youth ministers with tremendous administrative skills.

Here are some administrative areas that youth ministers/workers need to pay attention to in order to have an effective youth ministry:

**Finances**—The amount of money that passes through most youth programs every year is significant. Our budgets may not be what we think they ought to be, but by the time our students pay for retreats, mission trips, camps and such, a tremendous amount is entrusted to our ministries.

We need to have a system in place that has checks and balances in how the money flows from receipts to deposit to disbursement. I would recommend that, as the youth minister, you stay completely out of the handling of money. Assign a volunteer to collect and record receipts and keep track of student accounts. Assign another to make deposits. It may seem like a lot of extra steps, but it keeps us above reproach.

**Calendaring**—The sooner we plan events and get them on the church calendar, the least likely there will be a chance of a major conflict. I hear plenty of stories of conflicts with church calendars. It is a huge help to parents who, with an ever shrinking summer, can know which weeks that camps and mission trips are scheduled when planning their vacations. You don't have to know all the details of a trip or event, but a date on the calendar will protect it from being planned over.

It is also imperative that someone from the youth ministry attend the church council meetings or whatever organization meets to coordinate calen-

dars from all ministries in the church. It keeps the directors of other organizations informed.

**Communication**—One of the biggest concerns of youth ministry will be communicating with parents and the church about what is happening in the youth program. No matter how much information is sent home, there are always the last minute

calls about what time and how much. Build a Web page and put all pertinent information there. Make sure the church secretary and key youth leaders know. Also post the information by the phone in your house. That way, if someone calls your house, your spouse or children are able to quickly relay information.

**Records and prospects**—There are several good computer programs to help keep track of computer programs (name, address, email, cell phone, grade, etc.) Most will allow you to track attendance, generate reports and print a birthday list. Find one that works for you and use it. You can be sure that somebody at church wants to know how "your numbers" look.

**Camp reservations**—Preferred weeks at camps fill up fast. Every year Fuge, Student Life and Changers have weeks that close early. In fact, most camps will let you make a reservation for next year before you leave. That is another reason we need to work through the calendaring process early. A lot of camps and mission opportunities will let you register early. Make sure once you receive confirmation that you place it on all calendars.

The areas of administration that we need to pay attention to as youth workers could be endless: coordinating fund raisers, enlisting volunteers, ordering teaching materials, finding storage areas. The list goes on and on. Administration may not be our strength or gift, but it is an area that needs our attention.

*Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

## Are your financial goals different?

By Jeremy White

When I am working with new clients, we meet and try to understand their situation. This often involves asking them what their financial goals are. People usually respond with something along the lines of planning for retirement, reducing debt, investing more, or spending less than they earn.

In a recent CNN/Money survey, respondents said their financial goals include the following: sticking to a budget, reducing debt, saving for their next major purchase, and investing more for retirement. The responses may be wise moves.

As I reflect further, however, I wonder if most Christians would respond with the same goals as non-Christians. Shouldn't we look different in our financial lives than our non-believing neighbors? We are called to be salt and light to the world. Are our financial goals the same as everyone else?

I suggest that we should have a bigger picture when contemplating our financial goals. Let's aim at broader and perhaps attitudinal goals. As I read the scriptures, I don't see where Jesus says directly you should stick to a budget or save more for retirement.

Think outside the box and on a grander scale. Here are some ideas for life-long financial goals:

- To live in contentment.
- To have financial peace of mind, even though you may not have financial security.
- To be known as a generous giver.
- To not let financial and material matters predominate my thinking.
- To serve God and not money.
- To set giving goals and accomplish those goals.
- To have financial flexibility to allow me to respond to God's change of direction for my life.

I'm not suggesting that paying off credit card debt or building savings is a wrong goal. We just need to have some goals different than the world, reflecting our different worldview.

If we don't think and plan differently, how shall we live differently? Let's examine how we live, how we parent, how we communicate and how we manage our finances. May these be in contrast to—and an improvement upon—the world's ways.

*Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.*



FINANCIAL FORUM

# Floyd: Great Commission, not 'old wars,' focus of task force

By Charlie Warren  
Arkansas Baptist News

Springdale, Ark.—Ronnie Floyd knows many Southern Baptists had reservations about the Great Commission Resurgence declaration and some are concerned the Great Commission Task Force appointed during the annual meeting in June will turn the Southern Baptist Convention structure on its head.

But Floyd, who is chairman of the task force, assured Southern Baptists he simply wants everyone to focus on the Great Commission.

"The emphasis ultimately is let's have a Great Commission resurgence—period," said Floyd, who is pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., and The Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers. "I think that's where the group is going to operate. This isn't about anybody being against anybody else. This is about us joining forces to ... effectively serve together as Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission around the world.

"We're not talking about some of the old wars of the past here. We can all get together on the Great Commission," Floyd added. "We are talking about the biblical mandate to take the gospel to the lost people of this world. That is how we will navigate through this process. We have got to understand we are in a critical and urgent hour, and we cannot sit here and do business as usual and expect change."

The task force will meet twice in August, once Aug. 11-12 in Atlanta, and then Aug. 26-27 in Rogers, Ark. The Arkansas meeting will be preceded by a luncheon at The

Church at Pinnacle Hills for area pastors and staff, laypersons serving on SBC entities and "anyone who wants to come."

Floyd urged every pastor, lay leader and denominational employee to develop "a new fervor" for the Great Commission.

"The Great Commission was given to the church of Jesus Christ, and that's where we must start a resurgence," he said. "Yes, there are things we can do denominationally to better service our churches for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission ... but we have to understand that local church, that pastor, that lay leadership team has got to come up with a new fervor for the Great Commission, beginning locally where God has them," then spreading the gospel regionally, nationally and across the world.

Floyd said it was a "great question" whether the Great Commission Resurgence declaration issued April 27 by SBC President Johnny Hunt and Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, would give total direction to the task or whether it was just a starting point. The declaration sparked lengthy discussion of its clarity, tone and content, especially a section that called for restructuring the denomination "at every

level." Although messengers to the SBC annual meeting in June voted overwhelmingly to appoint the task force, the declaration itself was never presented for discussion and adoption.

Even still, Floyd insisted he wants to ease the minds of state convention and association employees who feel the original document devalued the impact of their ministries.

"We have two state convention directors on the task force, one which is in a new SBC convention out of Texas and the other out of a more traditional, yet innovative convention down in Georgia," he pointed out. "You've got two men there who believe in state convention work and who I am sure will make that voice known."

Floyd said the task force welcomes input, comments and suggestions. He promised listening sessions would be held in certain locations, and that he plans to encourage task force members as they travel to various engagements to set up listening sessions wherever they go to

hear what people have to say.

He noted the group will follow procedures and SBC bylaws. Changes in structure or other major changes have to go through the proper procedure. "The SBC bylaws pro-

tect the convention from anything radical," he said.

Floyd responded directly to various concerns individuals have raised regarding the task force agenda:

■ Some have said the objective is to pull Cooperative Program dollars from state conventions to send to the SBC. "Every state convention determines what they send to the national convention," Floyd replied. "The national convention doesn't decide that."

■ Some have said it's about merging the North American Mission Board with the International Mission Board. "I have heard that for years," he said. "Is that the purpose of this? I don't think it's the purpose of this at all. The purpose is to find one thing: how we can better serve the Great Commission as Southern Baptists."

■ Others have said the task force is more about reshaping the denomination than about the Great Commission. "I'm committed as chairman to do more for the Great Commission, whatever that is," he said. "There's more lostness in America than ever before—the diversity, the religious pluralism, ethnicities, completely different than the culture you and I grew up in. ... You don't have to go overseas to do the Great Commission, but at the same time, we've got to understand we've got to take the gospel to the ends of the earth."

Floyd also pointed out that the International Mission Board currently lacks funds to send all the missionaries who are ready to go. "That's unprecedented and I would say it is inexcusable. We've got to do something about it." (BP)



*"We are talking about the biblical mandate to take the gospel to the lost people of this world. That is how we will navigate through this process. We have got to understand we are in a critical and urgent hour, and we cannot sit here and do business as usual and expect change."*

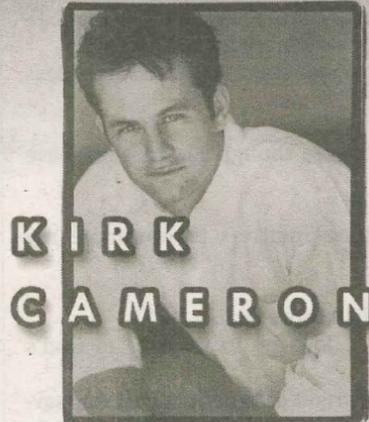
—Ronnie Floyd,  
Great Commission  
Task Force chairman

"Hearts On Fire" is a life-changing conference designed to reach students with the gospel and to challenge the believer to a more dynamic walk and commitment.

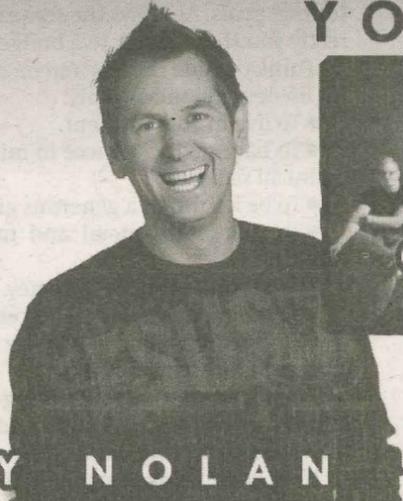
It is an honor and privilege to have as our guest speakers Kirk Cameron and Tony Nolan. Musical guests include Aaron Shust, Charlie Hall and FEE. We are so excited to see how God will work in Gatlinburg this November! Our prayer is that God will use Hearts On Fire to bless you like never before!

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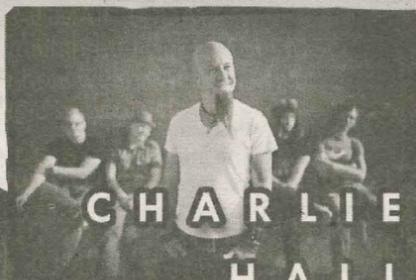
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## P, P, P & P givers

### Parents set lasting example for being a 'cheerful giver'

I am one of those fortunate individuals whose parents began teaching me and holding me accountable at an early age about the importance and role of financial stewardship in my relationship to Christ and other human beings.

My late father's favorite Scripture verse was Malachi 3:10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse ... Test me ... says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

My father more than tithed out of his income and the profits from his business. My late mother tithed out of the allowance my father provided her to run the household.

So, all of my life I have been a **proportionate giver** with the tithe as the floor—not the ceiling—of my giving. I like what the late R.G. Lee said to those who claimed tithing was an Old, not a New, Testament requirement. He said: "To give less under grace than we give under law is a disgrace."

I also was taught to be a **priority giver**, which means to give

"first" regardless of the proportion, then save and spend.

Too many Christians spend first, and too often there's nothing left to give or to save. The Apostle Paul advises in 1 Corinthians 16:2 to set aside on the "first day of the week" a proportionate sum to give.

To be a **progressing giver** was another part of my parents' teaching. That meant to be ever growing the proportion of my giving. The example of Zaccheus in Luke 19:8, who gave one-half of his possessions, is not out of the question for many.

Finally, I was taught to be a **pleasurable giver**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, "for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Over the years I have proven both the reasons and the promises Malachi and Paul made to the people of God about giving; I urge you to do the same thing.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

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

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

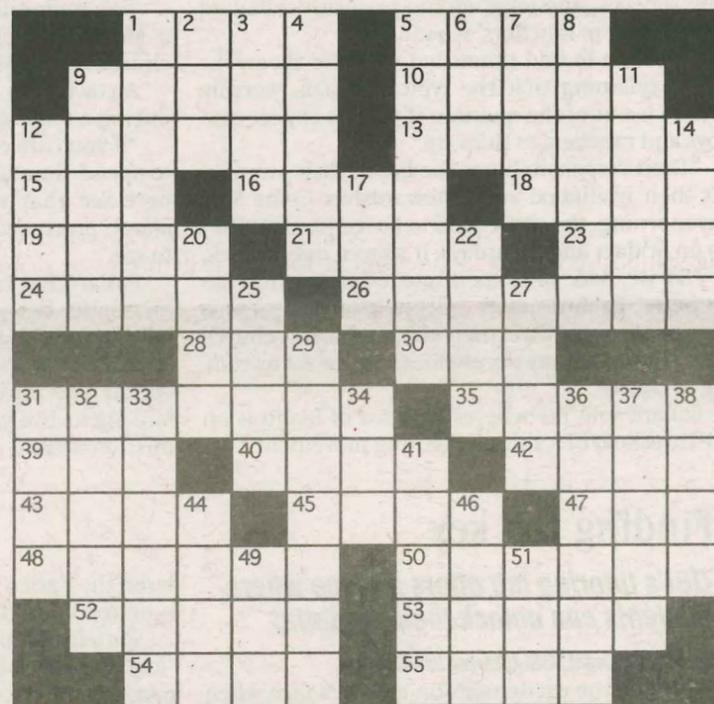
By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 They give a hoot
- 5 Smite, modern style
- 9 Time of personal testing
- 10 "Every kind of beasts ... hath been \_\_\_\_ of mankind" (James 3:7)
- 12 Rio \_\_\_\_
- 13 Officer of David who "was over the tribute" (2 Samuel 20:24)
- 15 Cereal grain
- 16 "He cannot \_\_\_\_ himself" (2 Timothy 2:13)
- 18 Trigonometric ratio
- 19 Healing plant
- 21 Put two and two together
- 23 Middle-school subj.
- 24 Egg size
- 26 One who grinds his teeth
- 28 "Stand in the \_\_\_\_ before me" (Ezekiel 22:30)
- 30 Cotton \_\_\_\_
- 31 God \_\_\_\_ those who honestly seek Him
- 35 Earl, for one
- 39 Ancient Scandinavian war horn
- 40 \_\_\_\_ de France
- 42 Dandelion, for one
- 43 To be (Fr.)
- 45 "I will ... that men \_\_\_\_ every where, lifting up holy hands" (1 Timothy 2:8)
- 47 One beguiled by the serpent
- 48 Scoundrel (colloq.)
- 50 "Looking up to \_\_\_\_ he blessed them" (Luke 9:16)
- 52 Garden or grass, for example
- 53 Amend
- 54 What club coffers contain
- 55 Lunch orders (abbr.)

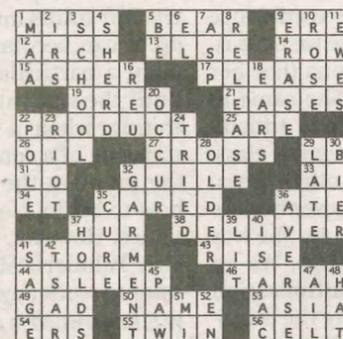
### Down

- 1 "The Lord ... doth take away from Jerusalem ... the eloquent \_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 3:1, 3)
- 2 "I count all things but loss ... that I may \_\_\_\_ Christ" (Philippians 3:8)
- 3 Actor Alan



- 4 "Now I lay me down to \_\_\_\_"
- 5 \_\_\_\_ power
- 6 Young boy
- 7 Minor prophet
- 8 "\_\_\_\_ the thought"
- 9 Singing syllables
- 11 "Praise him with the timbrel and \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 150:4)
- 12 Paul's was the high calling of God in Jesus Christ
- 14 Gutsy Golda
- 17 What husbands don't want wives to do
- 20 Served shirred, perhaps
- 22 "The Lord God had not caused it to \_\_\_\_ upon the earth" (Genesis 2:5)
- 25 Whence the wise men came
- 27 \_\_\_\_ on-the-mountain
- 29 "Thou must prophesy again before many \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 10:11)
- 31 Played certain instruments
- 32 Old stringed instruments
- 33 Task to do
- 34 French preposition
- 36 "And levy a tribute unto the Lord ... both of the persons, and of the \_\_\_\_" (Numbers 31:28)
- 37 Bar used to pry
- 38 "All the trees of \_\_\_\_, the choice and best of Lebanon" (Ezekiel 31:16)
- 41 "They ... came into an harlot's house, named \_\_\_\_" (Joshua 2:1)
- 44 Firstborn of Isaac and Rebekah
- 46 Make oneself heard
- 49 Make ends meet, with "out"
- 51 Memo abbr.

### Last week's solution



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# Missionary roams Idaho's wide expanses, planting churches

Continued from page 1

ly, most of them are very sound. Cowboys believe in God because they see the effects of God outdoors. Their word is their bond. If you get a handshake here, it's better than any contract a lawyer can draw up. But there's also a lot of lost people here."

Ballard calls ranchers some of the greatest innovators on earth.

"They have to make things work—rebuild old equipment and get by with it with challenging budgets and money to work with. They're rugged individuals—pioneers," he explained.

"At times being a rancher, it seems like you've got everything in the world against you, both in ranching and agriculture," Ballard pointed out. "Prices keep going up on everything except the products ranchers sell. But prices on vehicles and the other equipment they need continue to go up. Ranchers have to be really creative in order to just survive. As one of my friends says, 'It's a way of life rather than a living.' They could all do much better in a different field but this is where their heart is."

## No 11 a.m. services here

And then there are the ranchers' long hours and seven-day work weeks. Most ranchers start before daylight and work long after dark, Ballard said. So for successful church plants and well-attended worship services, missionaries and pastors like Ballard must adjust to ranchers' schedules.

"We have to find times that work for them," he said, explaining that the typical 11 a.m. worship service is out of the question if pastors expect cowboys and ranchers to show up.

"Their responsibility is the life of their animals. It's their livelihood and a stewardship. Come Sunday morning, the cattle have to be fed just like they do on Fridays and Saturdays. It's seven days a week.

"So we have afternoon and evening churches up here," Ballard noted. "All the chores are done, they're through with their day, so having church later eliminates any excuse for them, as far as coming to church."

Ballard said he believes his area of Idaho is on the threshold of a church planting movement.

"A vision was cast two years ago that every church and mission in our association would plant a church within the next five years, and then those church plants would plant another one in the next five years, which would take us from 11 to 56 churches in 10 years' time.

"I'm afraid I way underestimated because we've had three church starts just within the last three months," Ballard said.

He made a special plea to have more Southern Baptists everywhere become part of his prayer group.

"I've asked the Lord to give me 1,000 prayer partners who have access to e-mail," Ballard said. "We need for these partners to pray for the lost to be saved, and that God would raise up church planters. And we are praying for more resources from our Bible Belt churches in the South.

"Some people would call this work hard. It is long miles and grueling work. It's also fulfilling. But yet to me, with 90 percent of the people in Eastern Idaho not knowing the Lord, we have the greatest opportunity of anywhere on earth to take the gospel of Jesus," Ballard emphasized. "I think it's the most exciting place on earth to be—right here where God's called us."

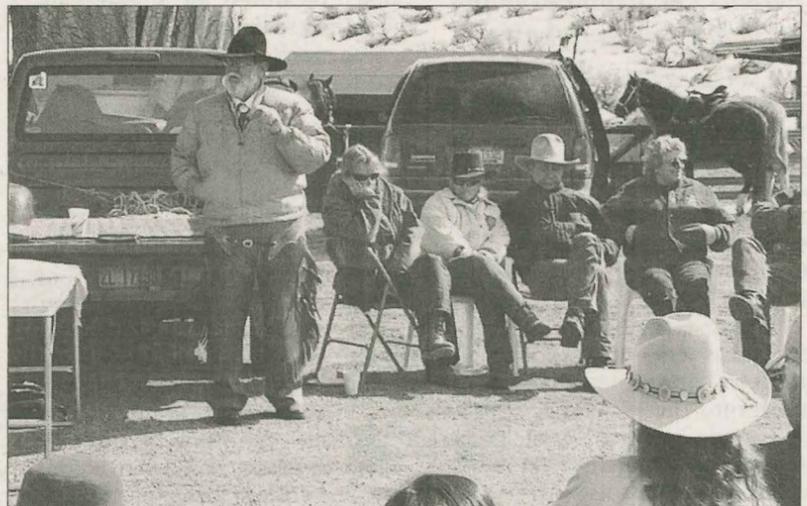
Ballard said he is seeing a movement afoot in the development of cowboy churches.

"We're finding out that even if the folks have a Mormon background, if we'll do a cowboy church in their setting, they'll come," he said.

A cowboy in his 70s recently accepted Christ during a Bible study.

"If you care enough about folks, you're going to spend time with them. When people around here see that you care about what they care about, pretty soon they'll listen to what you have to say."

Ballard has been married to his second wife, Myrtle, for two years. He was married to his first wife Beverly for 34 years prior to her death in 2006. Prior to coming to Idaho as a church planter and director of missions three years ago, Ballard spent five years in Utah as an associational missionary and church planting strategist. (BP)



**OPEN-RANGE PREACHER** North American Mission Board missionary Jim Ballard (standing), who also is director of missions for Eastern Idaho Southern Baptist Association, regularly preaches at cowboy churches—this one outdoors—every Sunday. He sometimes will preach at two or three churches on a Sunday, some several hundred miles apart. (NAMB photo)

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## Finding the key

### OBI's tutoring lab offers a place where students can unlock their potential

By Sharon Grant, OBI tutoring lab director

To see the excitement on a child's face when he finally comprehends something that has been a struggle for a long time is pure joy. That is one of the many blessings we receive in the tutoring lab at Oneida. The lab is not a special education program, but rather a support for those who need a little extra help. It is a place where students can get caught up on or accelerate their learning.

Our program has evolved into a specialized, structured environment that focuses on each student's specific needs. We try our best to make the program fit the student instead of making our students fit into our program. Each student who comes through our doors is seen as an individual with certain gifts and challenges. We assess with what style the students learn best and try to use their strengths to help them become more successful.

Often a student just needs the confidence that she can do it. A common phrase we hear is, "I hate math. I just can't do it." Jenna (not her real name) was one such student. She came to us during her seventh-grade year due to difficulty keeping up with the pace of the regular class. Jenna was an excellent student in other areas, but was convinced that she would never be able to do the math all her peers were doing. She was embarrassed by her lack of knowledge. We assessed Jenna and found that her multiplication skills were very weak. After mastering the multiplication facts, Jenna just took off. She realized that math wasn't so hard after all once she mas-

tered the basics. Jenna now is in high school and is on the honor roll.

Sometimes our students need to find the "key" to unlock their potential. Max (not his real name) came to us as a struggling reader. He was in the seventh grade and attended public school before enrolling at OBI. At his previous school, he was assigned an aide to help him read his assignments and a scribe to help him write papers. He struggled to read at a second-grade level.

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Max was eager to learn and willing to work hard. He had never learned phonics as a young child. We began him on an individualized phonetic program. This was his "key." His history teacher came into the lab one day and told us that Max had received a 'B' on a test after failing nearly every other test he had taken in her class.

Max realized he was capable of learning and doing well on his own. He still struggled at times, but now had the confidence in himself to try.

It takes a special person to work in this ministry. Our tutors must have a passion for what they do. It can become very tedious as you try to explain a particular concept over and over again until the student comprehends it. It's very frustrating when a student demonstrates understanding of a concept one day, but then looks at the problem the next day without a clue as to how to begin. Not everyone has that kind of patience. However, for Mrs. Bunch, Miss Harmon, Mrs. Palmieri, Mr. Pratt and me, we wouldn't want to work anywhere else.

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

## The Bible comes to life

### Archaeological dig offers new perspective of Bible

This summer, Roy Lucas, professor of New Testament, and Dan Haggerty, a junior at Clear Creek, spent five weeks participating in an archaeological dig at the biblical city of Tel Gezer investigating the Iron Age history of this ancient city.

The dig was led by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Israeli Antiquities Authority. It included more than 80 people from 10 colleges and seminaries. The dig helped Haggerty gain a new perspective on some of the very things he is studying in the classroom.

"As I dug and sifted through the destruction I kept thinking about how hot the fire must have been when the Assyrian destruction came to the ancient city of Gezer," Haggerty said. "I thought about what it must have looked like when this whole place was an inferno right where we were digging.

"As we dug through the ash and destruction, the Lord brought 2 Kings 17:7-20 to my mind," Haggerty noted. "These verses give reason for why the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians—like worshipping other gods, acting like the pagan world around them, and not

listening to the godly men the Lord sent proclaiming repentance. They didn't listen to these godly men. Instead they turned a deaf ear and in turn abandoned the ways of the Lord. The Lord became angry with them and brought about their destruction.

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

"We dug in and around ancient things in an ancient city," Haggerty recalled. "We saw pottery and other man-made things that were very old. Dr. Lucas and I were one of the first couple of people to walk on a street in almost 3,000 years. But those people are long gone. Other than for archaeological reasons, the basic usefulness of the things we found are well past their prime.

"But the biblical record of the reasons for the destruction we unearthed are still very useful today," Haggerty noted. "As I thought about these things the Lord led me to reflect on my life and my walk with Him. Where in my life am I rejecting the ways of the Lord for things I want to do? Where in my life am I acting more like the pagan world of today than like Christ?"

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](http://www.ccbcc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccbcc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbcc.edu)

## Baptist leaders support common ground on abortion debate

By Bob Allen

Washington—A number of religious leaders are backing an effort to defuse the contentious debate over abortion with common-ground solutions that reduce the need for abortion by preventing unintended pregnancies and supporting women who might otherwise abort for economic reasons.

Democratic Reps. Tim Ryan of Ohio, a member of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, a member of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus, have introduced legislation titled "Preventing Unintended Pregnancies, Reducing the Need for Abortion and Supporting Pregnant Women and Parents Act."

More than three dozen faith leaders and organizations from across the political

spectrum announced support for the bill, which seeks to redirect decades of debate away from abortion rights and toward the reasons women have abortions.

"It emphasizes not the 10 percent of the issue, where we continue to differ, but the 90 percent where we all agree," DeLauro said at a Washington press conference announcing the bill July 23.

Supporters range from NARAL Pro-Choice America to Florida pastor Joel Hunter, a one-time president-elect of the Christian Coalition.

Several Southern Baptists submitted statements of support, including Frank Page, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who told the Associated Press he has concerns about the bill but that he tentatively supports it.

David Gushee, an ethics professor at Mercer University in Atlanta, said from his pro-life perspective it is "regrettable" the bill does not challenge legal access to abortion, but that it sends "a new kind of message" on abortion—providing "genuine choice" by meeting economic and health care needs of women who otherwise might feel they have no choice other than to terminate their pregnancy.

Jonathan Merritt, national spokesman for the Southern Baptist Environment and Climate Initiative, said young evangelicals take protecting unborn life just as seriously as their predecessors but bring a new approach to that commitment.

"Valuing results and eschewing combative rhetoric, we embrace a comprehensive approach that reduces abortion by prevent-

ing unintended pregnancy through means such as comprehensive sex education with an emphasis on abstinence, supporting pregnant women and families, and expanding adoption," Merritt said.

The bill says 49 percent of all pregnancies in America are unintended and that, excluding miscarriages, 42 percent of unintended pregnancies end in abortion. It adds that low-income women are four times more likely to experience an unintended pregnancy than their higher-income counterparts.

Not everyone is on board, however. Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council argued that instead of reducing abortion, the bill would actually increase federal funding for abortion providers like Planned Parenthood. (ABP)

## U.S. House, Senate negotiate gay hate crimes

Washington—The U.S. Senate has approved military-related legislation that includes language expanding hate crimes protections to include homosexuals and transgendered people, sending the bill to a House-Senate conference committee.

The Senate voted 87-7 for a Department of Defense authorization bill that includes an amendment that would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the current categories—such as religion and national origin—protected from hate crimes.

Senators' July 23 passage of the measure means select members of both chambers of Congress will meet in a conference committee to resolve differences between the defense authorization bills. The House of Representatives approved its version of the authorization legislation June 25 without hate crimes language. The House, however, passed a stand-alone hate crimes bill with a 249-175 vote in late April.

President Obama has expressed support for expanding hate crimes

law to include homosexuals, bisexuals and transgendered people. The only hurdle in a final defense authorization bill that may prevent Obama from signing it into law could be inclusion of additional funds for the F-22 fighter jet. The president threatened to veto the legislation if it authorized money for such a purpose. The Senate bill does not permit funding for the F-22, but the House measure does.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and others oppose efforts to expand hate-crimes protections based not only on their inclusion of categories defined by sexual behavior or identity, but also because of 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.

Before attaching the hate crimes measure to the defense bill July 16, the Senate approved an amendment

by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., intended to address some of those concerns. Brownback's amendment says the free exercise of religion and other First Amendment rights 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 hate crimes measure "is still inappropriate legislation," in spite of the "protection that Senator Brownback gained for people of faith," said Barrett Duke, ERLC's vice president for public policy.

"The amendment protects the pastor as long as his speech or other action was not 'intended' to lead to an act of violence," Duke said. "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." (BP)

### NATIONAL NOTES

**TV ad warns about health care plans**—A pro-family group has released a television ad that argues the current health care bills will lead to benefits rationing and the taxpayer funding of abortion. Family Research Council Action plans to air the ad in five states where key senators reside: Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska and Pennsylvania. In a statement explaining the 30-second ad, Family Research Council President Tony Perkins pointed to government-run plans in England and Canada, and said that in a "world of health care rationing, the elderly, the handicapped and the frail" will suffer most when health care is delayed or denied. Pro-family and pro-life groups have criticized the lack of pro-life protections in the current House and Senate bills, warning that if abortion is not specifically excluded, it will be covered, and by extension taxpayers will be forced to pay for it.

**Effort to defund Planned Parenthood fails**—The House of Representatives defeated an effort July 24 to prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving funds under the federal government's family planning program. Representatives voted against an amendment that would have barred Title X money for the country's largest abortion provider. Affiliates of Planned Parenthood Federation of America performed more than 305,000 abortions in 2007, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Planned Parenthood, the largest recipient of Title X funds, received more than \$349 million in government grants and contracts during the financial year of July 2007 through June 2008.

**Coach claims he was fired over religion**—A legendary high school wrestling coach in Michigan has filed a federal lawsuit claiming he was fired by a Muslim principal for his Christian beliefs. Gerald Marszalek, 64, accuses Dearborn schools and Principal Imad Fadlallah of violating his constitutional rights, and claims religious discrimination and violation of his civil rights. Marszalek, a 35-year wrestling coach at Dearborn's Fordson High School and member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, said he was informed in 2008 that his coaching contract would not be renewed. He claims that is because Fadlallah, a Muslim, was upset with his Christian beliefs and his close ties to an Assembly of God missionary controversial in Dearborn's large Muslim community. Trey Hancock, pastor of Dearborn Assembly of God, was a volunteer assistant coach for the wrestling team until 2005, when Fadlallah ordered him fired after he baptized a Muslim student.

**Christian schools report closures, declines**—An organization of Christian schools is reporting that more than 200 schools closed or merged in its last fiscal year. As of June 30, 186 schools had closed and 16 had merged, according to the Association of Christian Schools International. That's up from an average of 150 school closures that the association has reported in previous years. Janet Stump, a spokeswoman for the group, said the U.S. economic crisis also is affecting the number of students who attend the Protestant schools affiliated with the association. There now are 689,000 students attending its 3,781 schools nationwide, a decrease of 4.5 percent from the previous fiscal year.

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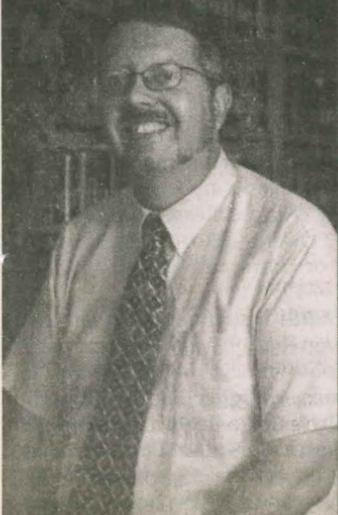
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PLAN OF SALVATION

By Mike James

I am so thankful that a Sunday school teacher shared the plan of salvation with me. Who shared the gospel with you? Think about it: You're going to heaven because someone cared enough to share Christ. Now it's your turn to tell your personal story of what Christ means to you. These five 'R's will help you present the gospel.

**Realize.** The first step is to realize that we've all messed up and can do nothing to make ourselves right before a holy, perfect God. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

**Relate.** Tell God that you have come to this realization about your sin and you desire His forgiveness. This happens as we confess our sins. 1 John 9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

**Repent.** Step three is to turn from your sin and give God complete control of your life. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

**Receive.** Invite the Lord Jesus to come take up residence in your life by receiving and believing. "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

**Respond.** The Bible says in Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Here is another 'R' to remember: **Resolve** today that you will actively share the gospel with people each day.

Mike James is a regional church development strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Isaac Ferguson recently retired as pastor of New Beginning Church, and Jeffrey Griggs was called as pastor.

■ **BENTON**—Sharpe Missionary Church recently honored Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fowler on their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **BEVINSVILLE**—Jack's Creek Church recently called Paul Grainger as pastor. He previously was pastor at West Van Lear Church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church will host a youth concert featuring Jimmy Dooley Aug. 8, 7 p.m. For more information, call (859) 254-5264. Damon Jones is pastor.

Victory Church recently called Patrick Smith as minister to students. David Head is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host Southern Sound in concert Aug. 9, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

Hopewell Church will celebrate

Spotlight on ...

Finchville



Finchville Church will celebrate its 210th anniversary with Founder's Day Aug. 9. For more information call (502) 834-7973, or visit www.FinchvilleBaptist.com for more information. Jay Tigner is pastor.

its 120th anniversary Aug. 9, 11 a.m., with former pastor Ralph Hodge as guest speaker. Don James is pastor.

■ **ORLANDO**—Flat Rock Church recently ordained Roger Amburgey as a deacon. Larry Burton is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Temple Church recently ordained Joe Record as a deacon. Jerry Walker is pastor.

NAMB task force meets, closes future meetings

Atlanta—The North American Great Commission Task Force held its first working meeting July 28, discussing its purpose and the need for a new name—and voting to hold its meetings in private.

North American Mission Board President Geoff Hammond announced May 21 the creation of "a specially called North American Great Commission Task Force that will seriously study the actions and activities that will impact this continent for Christ in more effective ways."

The press release announcing the task force's membership said it was "designed to dovetail with the Great Commission Resurgence declaration issued by Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt, who will be kept apprised of the group's progress."

Confusion over the name similarity of the two

task forces came up during the Atlanta meeting as one reason to change the name of the NAMB group, while also affording the opportunity to select a name more descriptive of its purpose.

The group also approved a suggestion to close all meetings except for one hour of a February meeting in Nashville when reporters would be admitted. Martin King, editor of the Illinois Baptist who was the only reporter present, was asked to leave the meeting, and the remaining three hours were held behind closed doors.

The NAMB task force will meet in a Web-based conference Nov. 23 and in April 2010. The only other scheduled face-to-face meeting will be next February in Nashville. The group's final recommendations will be reported at the June 2010 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. (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.

19 Children in Action Missions Day Camp,

19 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Pikeville, and Zion Baptist Church, Henderson.

21-22 Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.

24 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

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

Update: KBC accommodations

One hotel was inadvertently left out of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's listing of Elizabethtown accommodation information for the Nov. 10 KBC annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church. The announcement should have included the following hotel information:

LaQuinta Inns and Suites

210 Commerce Drive  
Elizabethtown  
270/765.4747

\$79.99 rate (Kings, queens)

Reservation deadline: October 26

For more information, visit www.KyBaptist.org/AnnualMeeting, or contact the KBC Communications Department at (502) 489-3578.

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**SEEKING:** Are you a country-loving, God-fearing pastor looking for a medium-sized, faith-based Southern Baptist church set in a rural environment? Maybe God is leading you to us. Please send resumé to: Blue River Island Baptist Church, 595 Big Bend Road, Battletown, KY 40104; or e-mail to Lisa@onechurchallpeople.org.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for growing church. Primary duties include leading choir and congregational singing, coordinating music program and preparing seasonal cantatas. Please send resumé, references and DVD, if available, to: Minister of Music Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, 2022 Verona-Mudlick Road, Verona, KY 41092; or e-mail: nbbc2003@aol.com.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for Audubon Baptist Church. Responsible for blended-style congregational worship and choir direction. Only mailed resumé will be accepted. Mail to Linda Owen, 3205 Broeck Pointe Circle, Louisville, KY 40241.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for First Baptist Church of Galax, Va. Located in southwestern Virginia, First Baptist Church has a long history of being related to Virginia Baptist General Association. This 350-resident-member congregation is nearing the conclusion of an intentional interim process and is looking forward to innovative pastoral leadership that supports gifts-based ministry teams, deacon family ministry (men and women may serve as deacons), worldwide missions, creative Bible study, life-oriented worship, vital children and youth ministries, Hispanic ministry and warm Christian fellowship. The prospective pastor should have outstanding preaching abilities, be a skilled administrator, team builder with the staff, and one who relates well with all people. Applicants should have an earned Master of Divinity (minimum; preferably a doctorate) from an accredited seminary. If you feel that God is leading you to this calling, please send a resumé to: Pastor Search Team, First Baptist Church, 1024 East Stuart Drive, Galax, VA 24333. For more information about First Baptist Church, you may visit our website: www.fbcgalax.org.

**SEEKING:** Bellevue Baptist Church (SBC), a growing, contemporary, innovative church averaging around 1,000 in worship, is seeking a creative and experienced full-time youth pastor/director for its MS/HS student ministry. Must be able to administrate a balanced ministry to students, their parents and youth workers; able to work within the vision of "helping students from all walks of life become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ." Experience and education with a successful track record in youth ministry is required. Send resumé to wroberts@bellnet.org.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Oak Grove Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky. Send resumé to Martha Davis, 2460 Old Dover Road, Cadiz, KY 42211.

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

**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:** Full-time pastor for Lake City Baptist Church. Send resumé to 410 Hazel Demory Drive, Grand Rivers, KY 42045.

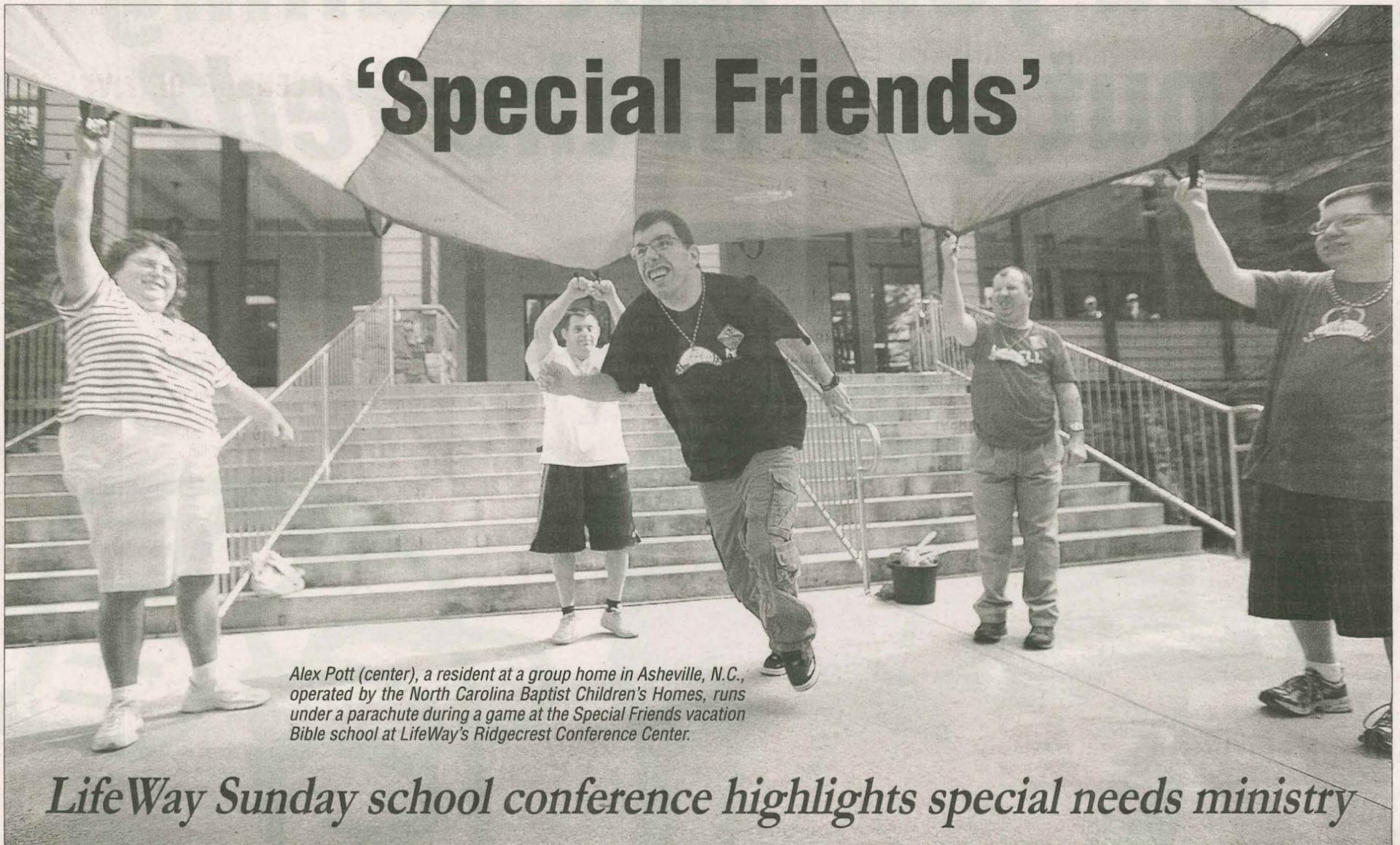
**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister. Lead congregational singing, occasional special music, and choir. Willow Baptist Church is a rural congregation 6 miles from Brooksville, Ky. Weekly attendance approximately 55. Contact Evelyn Cooper, (606) 735-3549.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Clayvillage Baptist. Send resumé 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 music minister. Traditional/contemporary music for growing church. Please send resumé to 8200 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601; or contact Pastor Jeff Sargent, (502) 227-7278.

**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.



Alex Pott (center), a resident at a group home in Asheville, N.C., operated by the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes, runs under a parachute during a game at the Special Friends vacation Bible school at LifeWay's Ridgcrest Conference Center.

## LifeWay Sunday school conference highlights special needs ministry

By Andrea Higgins  
LifeWay Christian Resources

Ridgcrest, N.C.—“Go, Bobby! Go!”

A broad grin spread across Bobby Shifflett's face below the blindfold covering his eyes. His classmates laughed and cheered as 44-year-old Shifflett, who has Down syndrome, tried to spoon cotton balls into a bowl without being able to see what he was doing.

The unreserved enthusiasm continued as class members answered Bible lesson questions during the Special Friends vacation Bible school, part of the special needs ministry track offered at LifeWay's Ridgcrest Conference Center during LifeWay's The Power of the Connected Sunday School Conference (aka Sunday school week) July 10-13.

“Have any of you ever shared Jesus with anyone?” asked teacher Jo Ann Banks.

“Yes!” replied adult learners who had disabilities ranging from intellectual disabilities to autism to genetic disorders.

“He died on the cross for our sins—so we could have eternal life,” said Rob Powell in his strong, outgoing, matter-of-fact voice. Powell, 39, has Williams syndrome.

Across the hall, parents, advocates, church members and Sunday school teachers learned key elements of establishing and improving special needs ministries. The information included tips regarding ideal space needs, teaching tools and outreach methods.

For some, the lively VBS was their first opportunity to get hands-on experience in a class full of special needs students.

Dianne Reynolds of Gainesville, Fla., was drawn to the LifeWay conference as the leader of a task force to form a special needs ministry at Northwest Baptist Church in Gainesville. Reynolds' son Jason, 13, has multiple diagnoses, including Charcot-Marie-Tooth, a degenerative nerve disease.

“Jason was born into the church, and he's always been served by our church,”

Reynolds said. “God is calling us to a ministry to reach out to this community.”

Ronda Bradley of Belmont, N.C., whose daughter has special needs, said she attended the conference to learn more about how churches can reach “the most unreached population in our country.”

“Nobody thinks they get it,” she said.

“Oh, they get it,” insisted Banks, who started a Special Blessings adult Sunday school class nine years ago at Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C.

“We apply it to their everyday lives—and we make it fun,” she said.

Throughout more than 25 years in special education, 10 years leading a troop of Girl Scouts with special needs, building her A.D.A.M. (Adult Disability Activities Ministry), and raising her daughter Kelley, 30, who has special needs, Banks has learned that individuals with developmental delays are capable of more than coloring or

being read to during Sunday school. She said purpose emerges as churches learn from them.

“They can have that childlike acceptance we're all supposed to have,” observed Ellen Beene, a special needs resources editor at LifeWay. “If you want someone to pray for you without ceasing, tell the special needs class. They also laugh and have fun with a joy that a lot of our adult classes have forgotten.”

“They are totally uninhibited when they worship,” Beene added. “It doesn't matter if someone is off key. No one's judging them. Their's is the most sincere worship I've experienced.”

As conference instructor Susan Foster, writer for LifeWay's Special Buddies curriculum, put it: “We're continuing the ministry that Jesus started,” explaining that Jesus spent a lot of time among people overlooked by mainstream society.

Volunteer Scott Hurd, 22, often helps Banks with special needs retreats. He is an elementary education major, with minors in special education and theater, at Western Carolina University. Through volunteering, Hurd said he learned how much he enjoys working with people with autism. “If you do it once, you're hooked,” he said.

Jon Ponder agreed. He volunteers, along with his wife, Darlene, in Banks' Asheville class.

“What cool people,” Ponder said. “We had a girl in our class in a wheelchair, and she would pray for Jesus to make her be able to walk, but then she would say it's OK if that wasn't until she was in heaven.”

“You just can't hear that enough.” During a break after an outdoor game with a parachute and some balls, group home resident, Ralph Moore, 53, who has developmental delays, turned to Banks and thanked her, carefully reaching for the right words.

“You are just a fabulous, sincere person,” Moore said to Banks. “You've got a much more good way of teaching—that I can understand.”

For more information about special needs ministry resources and events, visit [www.LifeWay.com/SpecialNeeds](http://www.LifeWay.com/SpecialNeeds).



CLASSROOM FUN The special needs group participates in games, crafts and Bible lessons using LifeWay's “Boomerang Express” VBS materials. (LifeWay photos by James Yates)



MAKING CONNECTIONS Bobby Shifflett (left) shares a fist bump of encouragement with Scott Hurd, Western Carolina University student who often volunteers with special needs retreats like the one at Ridgcrest.

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