

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

August 11, 2009  
Vol. 183, No. 31

## FOR THE RECORD

**Kentucky**  
Western Kentucky pastor vows to rebuild after fire destroys church. *Page 2.*

**Missions**  
Mission trip to Chicago's inner city offers eye-opening lessons for Paducah church's youth. *Page 3.*

**Evangelism**  
Kentucky Baptist Convention honored by NAMB for baptism increase in 2008. *Page 3.*

**Guest Viewpoint**  
New fuel is needed for Southern Baptists' missionary-sending vehicle. *Page 4.*

**Financial Forum**  
Give your house—and live in it, too. *Page 5.*

**Baptists**  
Web site urging prayer for Great Commission Task Force is launched. *Page 6.*

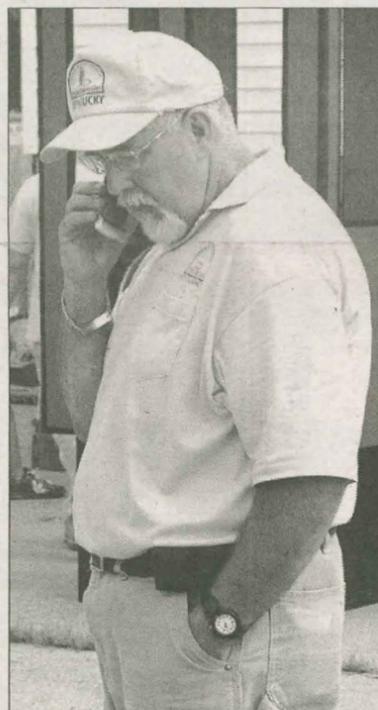
**Baptists**  
Young girl injured in Louisiana church bus crash dies. *Page 6.*

## Soggy surprise

*Kentucky Baptists respond after unexpected storm dumps record rainfall on Louisville*



A storm many local meteorologists predicted would bypass Louisville Aug. 4 instead settled over the city, pouring rain at the rate of 8.8 inches per hour according to the National Weather Service. **Left:** Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers drain floodwater from a plastic storage bin containing clothes. A team from First Baptist Church of Richmond assisted Louisville homeowner Mary Holmes Vogt who, with her family, had to be rescued from the second floor of her home during the flash flood. **Top:** Landa Boggs and Harold Smith carry plywood from a flooded Sunday school class in the basement of Foster Avenue Baptist Church. The congregation's activity center also was damaged. Boggs is a member of Vine Hill Baptist Church, Smith of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, both in Bullitt County. **Right:** Bob Perkins talks to Foster Avenue Baptist's pastor, Danny Payne, about additional damage found in the fellowship hall. A member of Jeffersontown Baptist Church, Perkins supervised clean-up efforts. **More coverage on page 2.** (Photos by Dannah Prather)



Find us on  
**Facebook**  
and on  
**twitter**  
as *westernrecorder*

## Background checks help churches uncover the unexpected

By Brooklyn Noel Lowery  
LifeWay Christian Resources

**Westmoreland, Tenn.**—Good guys don't wear superhero capes, and bad guys don't always have shifty eyes and devious-sounding chuckles.

In real life, discerning the heroes from the villains often requires more than a visual assessment.

That means you cannot know whether someone is "good" or "bad" by looking at them when they walk through the front door of your church and volunteer to serve.

That is why LifeWay Christian Resources entered an agreement with BackgroundChecks.com to provide discounted screenings for churches.

"It is so important in this day and time to run these checks," said Barbara Strong, church secretary at Jubilee Worship Center in Westmoreland, Tenn. Strong processes the checks for Jubilee, which began using the Web service about a year ago. "We just don't know who is coming into our church. We'd like to think everyone is a good Christian, but we can't know that."

### Checks reveal offenses

BackgroundChecks.com reported that about 450 churches have requested more than 5,000 background checks on volunteers and prospec-

tive employees since LifeWay began offering the service in 2008. Most of those searches returned clean records or minor traffic-related offenses. However, 80 screenings uncovered serious felony offenses, and more than 600 people had some type of criminal history that may have disqualified them from volunteering or working at a church.

First Baptist Church of Estero, Fla., has had to turn away a few volunteers due to the information uncovered by BackgroundChecks.com. Associate Pastor Wayne Rogers processes the checks for the church, which he said is a congregation that welcomes a lot of "snowbirds" who only are present during certain times of the year.

"It's important that we let new folks know we will be running checks" if they volunteer, Rogers said, adding that the church stresses the confidentiality and necessity of the process. "When we have a negative screening result, we deal with it in a loving way. We know that people make mistakes, and we know we've been made new creations in Christ."

He noted that, as much as possible, church leadership tries to minimize embarrassment in these cases, but that specific people—directors of the children's or youth areas, for instance—

must be informed that a particular person should not be permitted around children.

"Children are our precious commodity," Rogers said. "They've been entrusted to us, and we have to protect them at any cost."

### Budget concerns

Greg Young is a buyer for LifeWay Christian Stores, but he also serves as minister of education at Cedar Hill Baptist Church in Tennessee. The church began using the screening service about a year ago and so far has screened 50-60 people. Young said all church staff members and all volunteers who will be working with individuals 18 years old and younger are required to submit to a screening.

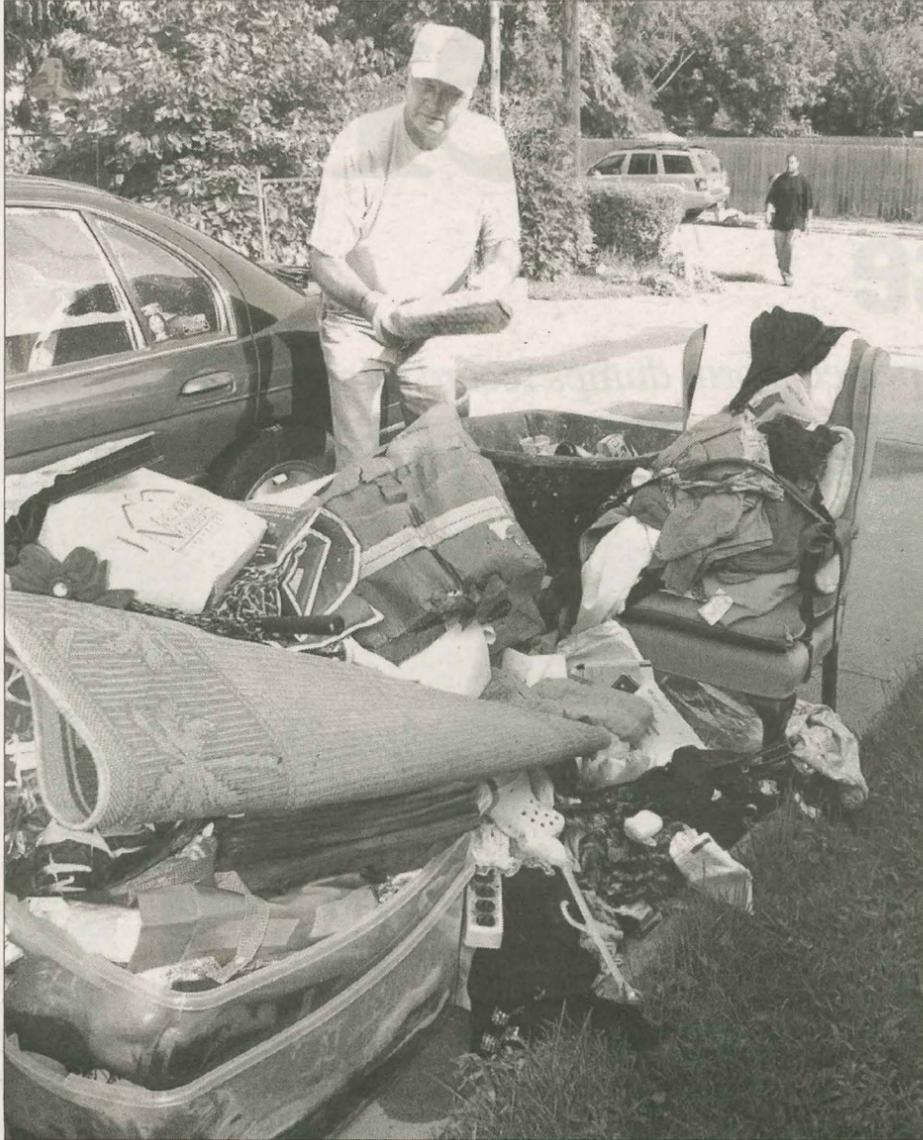
In spite of church budgets that are shrinking in the current economy, Young said his church did not even consider cutting back by nixing background checks.

"We're trying to make sure we provide the safest environment possible for youth and children," he said. "BackgroundChecks.com helps us with our due diligence, and I think that's being a good steward."

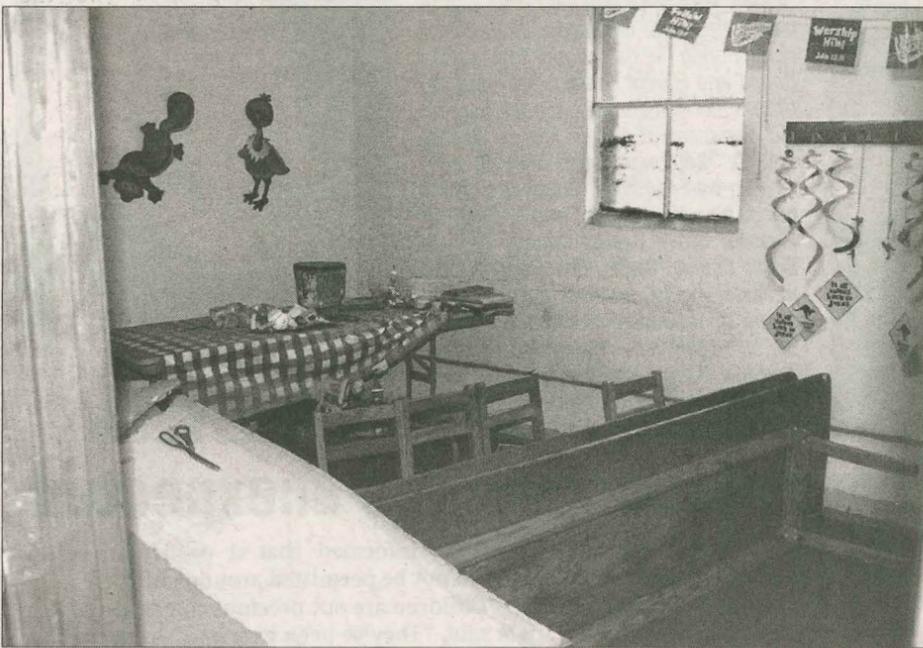
For more information about the background screenings, call (866) 300-8524, or visit [www.LifeWayStores.com/BackgroundChecks](http://www.LifeWayStores.com/BackgroundChecks).

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Aug. 12

# Kentucky Baptists respond after Louisville's record rainfall



**WHAT REMAINS** ■Left: Delmar Sevier, a member of First Baptist Church of Richmond, unloads a wheelbarrow with items from Mary Holmes Vogt's house in South Louisville. Volunteers "were God-sent to me," Vogt said. Bob Perkins, supervisor for the Kentucky Baptist clean-up efforts, said several other homeowners asked for help. Additional workers rallied to meet the growing need. Clean-up was expected to continue this week. ■Right: A familiar rendering of Christ, and other treasures salvaged from Foster Avenue Baptist's facility, were placed in the parking lot, waiting to be cleaned. Much was lost. The congregation does not have flood insurance. (Photos by Dannah Prather)



**HARD WORK STILL TO BE DONE** ■Above: Still decorated for the "Boomerang Express" vacation Bible school theme, this classroom in the basement of Foster Avenue Baptist Church held more than five feet of water at the height of the flood. The water line can be seen in the lower panes of the window. In addition to out-of-town volunteers, workers came from Foster Avenue Baptist's membership and other congregations in Long Run Baptist Association helped with clean-up. ■Right: Soaked in sweat and filthy water, Keith Stinson, a member of First Baptist Church of Richmond, takes a breather before giving another pull on saturated carpet and padding that must be removed from Mary Holmes Vogt's house. Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb put out a call last week for more volunteers to help with the clean-up efforts in Louisville and said he expected the work to continue through at least Aug. 15. As of last Friday, more than two dozen volunteers had helped out. To volunteer, call (502) 489-3527 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.



**CHURCH DESTROYED** Smoke rises from what remains of Water Valley Baptist Church in Graves County July 24. Pastor Howard Copeland said the building is a total loss, but vowed that the church will be rebuilt. (Photo by Mike Farmer/Fulton Kentucky News)

## Pastor of Western Kentucky church destroyed by fire vows to rebuild

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Water Valley**—On July 24, Pastor Howard Copeland has just sat down to relax at home after officiating a funeral that morning.

That's when the phone rang.

The voice on the other end, a neighbor, told Copeland his church, Water Valley Baptist, was on fire.

By the time he drove the two blocks from the parsonage to the church, the building already was engulfed in flames.

Copeland said he arrived at the same time as firefighters, but there was little they could do. It took less than one hour for the fire to consume the building.

"Basically, we stood there and watched it burn to the ground," Copeland recalled, describing the building as a total loss. "We lost everything. We didn't even get anything out of the church."

For Copeland, the fire was personally devastating. His office contained more than four decades worth of sermon outlines, commentaries and Bibles. Only one Bible escaped the blaze since he had it with him that morning at the funeral.

Fortunately, no one was in the church at the time. Fire investigators determined the blaze started in Copeland's office, sparked by an overheated ballast in a fluorescent light fixture.

Water Valley Baptist turned 140 years old this year, but the building was built in the 1920s or '30s, Copeland estimated. The area where the fire started was added in the 1960s.

The church does have an unattached educational building that was untouched by the fire. That has allowed the

congregation to continue having services at the location, thanks primarily to donations of hymnals and a pulpit from nearby churches.

Two days after the fire, Water Valley Baptist, which averages about 75-80 people in attendance on Sundays, welcomed more than 100 people to the church's Sunday services.

Copeland's message was simple and a question that was on most members' minds: Why?

"I told them one thing we have to understand is the church is not dead; the church is still alive. The building's the only thing we've lost and we can rebuild that," Copeland said.

The pastor related his congregation's plight to that of the Israelites returning to Jerusalem in the Old Testament.

"How do you think Israel felt when they crossed that last hill coming back to Jerusalem after 70 years of bondage, ... and when they get home, there's nothing there?" he asked his congregation that Sunday morning.

"We're going to overcome. We're going to rebuild. We will be victorious because God has promised it," Copeland said.

The church has just begun the process of assessing the damage and making preparations to rebuild. Copeland said a committee already has been formed that will soon begin looking at designs and floor plans that will become the new Water Valley Baptist Church building.

For now, "we just keep going," Copeland said. But he added, what the church needs most is prayer. "We just need people to be in prayer for us. It's going to be a vital part of our lives."

## Trip to Chicago's inner city opens Paducah students' eyes

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Paducah—After working in Chicago's inner city during Immanuel Baptist Church's mission trip in July, Jared Sigler has a much different outlook on life.

"Those people have so many needs to be met and they still find ways to laugh and be happy," said Sigler, a junior at Paducah Tilghman High School. "I have so much, I have no reason to be down."

Sigler was one of 12 teens and adults who traveled to the Windy City to lead a vacation Bible school, serve meals at a homeless shelter and a soup kitchen, and lead activities at a low-income retirement home.

The week whetted Taylor Hundley's appetite for finding a ministry to the homeless in Lexington when he starts the fall semester at the University of Kentucky.

"It had an effect on all of us," Hundley said. "It encouraged us to continue the same work when we got home to Paducah. You can have this same kind of ministry in any city where the people are less fortunate."

Both students identified encounters with homeless children they taught during VBS as the highlight of the week.

"You put so much into it and they give so much back," Sigler said. "It was interesting to see how they reacted."

"The first day they weren't really open to us, but by the time Friday rolled around it was like they had known us their whole lives. It was neat to see how we connected."

Ironically, the group discovered that children in the city aren't that much different from those in rural Eastern Kentucky, which Immanuel visited twice on previous mission trips.

While the youngsters in Chicago came from less stable backgrounds and faced more stress, they had the same basic needs, said youth pastor Chris Cash.



**HANDS-ON MISSIONS** Olivia Carner (left) of Immanuel Baptist and a child color Bible story sheets as part of an "early arriver" activity at vacation Bible school.

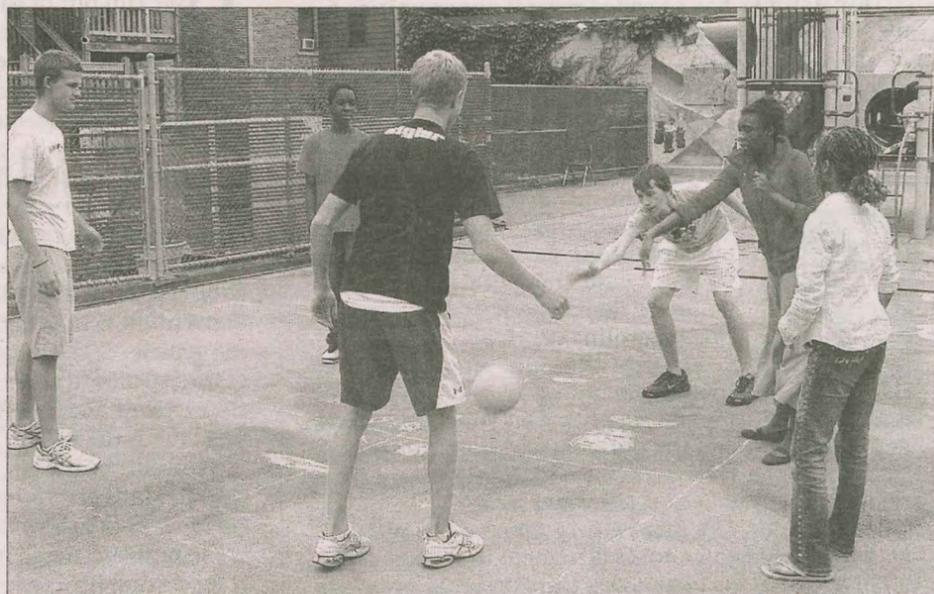
"One of the things our group talked about is regardless of their situation or background, they all need love, care, compassion and to be shown they need God," Cash noted.

The latter was emphasized during VBS' daily Bible study, recreation, craft times and music.

The 25 to 30 children who attended presented some discipline challenges, which Cash said allowed Immanuel's youth to learn creative ways to care for them.

"We focused on teaching them about Christ and how He even relates to the situation they find themselves in now," Cash said. "Not only did we teach them about Christ's love, we showed them love through our interaction."

Chaperone Ginny Devine said that love and attention made a major difference in the children's behavior as the week progressed.



**GAME TIME** Immanuel Baptist, Paducah members Taylor Hundley (left), Jared Sigler (center) and Hunter Hawes (right center, leaning over) play a game of four square with children and youth on the homeless shelter's rooftop play area during recreation time at the VBS. (Photos courtesy of Immanuel Baptist Church)

After expressing some frustration over their unruly son the first day, on a call home, her 11-year-old son replied, "Mom, you need to remember those kids are there to learn more about God."

"It took a child to remind me of why we were there," said Devine, a mother of three. "I also learned that it's not what your home is like or where your home is, as long as your family is together there can be so much love and happiness."

"Those people were trying to keep their family together, but there were a lot of happy people," she added. "And their trust in God was carrying them through a tough situation."

Another interesting experience came the evening they helped serve dinner at

a shelter run by a man who places tablecloth, napkins, silverware and flowers on each table to show the homeless respect.

Cash said in a post-trip evaluation, the teens cited that as one of the most meaningful experiences, saying it impressed and challenged them.

"On a personal basis, the trip opened my eyes and emphasized that there is need throughout the world," the youth pastor said. "The issues behind the need are complex, but I was encouraged there are a lot of people working daily to meet those needs."

Devine said the trip showed her the need to be more intentional in meeting needs back home. "I'm more motivated to help in our community because the needs are much clearer now."

## NAMB honors Kentucky Baptist Convention for baptism increase

Atlanta—The Kentucky Baptist Convention was recently honored by the North American Mission Board for its increase in baptisms during 2008.

Kentucky was among five state conventions honored by NAMB at its annual summer senior leadership meeting in Atlanta July 26-30.

Kentucky Baptist churches reported 15,815 baptisms in 2008, a modest gain of 312 baptisms, or 2 percent more than in 2007, according to the convention's Annual Church Profile report. The 2007 baptism numbers were the state's highest in more than 10 years.

The four other conventions recognized were the Florida Baptist Convention, Baptist Convention of New Mexico, Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

Using "Living With Urgency: Sharing God's Transforming Power" as the conference theme, NAMB President Geoff Hammond challenged the 430 Southern Baptist leaders in attendance on how they can make the greatest impact for the Great Commission.

"We stand at a historical point in Southern Baptist life. We are embarking on the most extended, farthest-reaching national evangelism initiative we've ever attempted," said Hammond, referring to NAMB's GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) effort.

"Forty-two state conventions have bought into GPS, and we have the possibility in the weeks before next Easter to sow down the gospel impacting 32 million homes, one-third of the population of North America," Hammond said.

For its part in the GPS push, the KBC has launched the Find It Here campaign. Kentucky Baptists are being urged to help deliver the gospel to 1.5 million households in the commonwealth during the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday 2010.

The convention has launched a Web site, [www.FindItHere.com](http://www.FindItHere.com) offering updates and resources for churches to use in accomplishing the task in their communities.

KBC leaders have stressed three specific phases for Find It Here:

- Prayerwalking and preparation.
- Gospel distribution and media campaign.
- Follow-up.

At the leadership meeting, Hammond cited that 65 million people in North America live in the top 100 metro areas. He said vast lostness also exists in America's rural areas, a defining feature of the Bluegrass State.

"We must have a Christian presence to change a community for Christ," he said. "That's why we send missionaries. But there are 186 counties in the North Central states with no Southern Baptist witness. In Wisconsin alone, there are 25 school districts with not a single evangelical church. There are 440 counties—with 7.6 million people—in the U.S. with no SBC work at all."

Hammond said North American mission work must be cross-cultural, reproducible, indigenous and must use multiplication, not simple addition, in order to reach the continent's estimated 255 million unbelievers.

Compiled from reporting by NAMB's Mickey Noah and News Director Drew Nichter



**HONORED** Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Team Leader Ross Bauscher (left) accepts an award for increased baptisms in 2008 from North American Mission Board President Geoff Hammond. The KBC was one of five states recently honored during NAMB's summer senior leadership meeting last month in Atlanta. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

## Summertime with family

This summer has provided several opportunities for my wife, Kay, and me to spend special time with our family—especially our grandchildren.

In early July, the two 5-year-olds spent a week with us following the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting here in Louisville. Our daughter, Beth Wooten, and her husband, Bartley, were here for the convention, and had brought our grandsons Zach and Mack along so they could stay with us. Bartley is pastor of Beulaville Baptist Church in North Carolina.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Kay kept the children busy with activities, including trips to the YMCA family water park, Waterfront Park and the museum and train ride in New Haven. Zach said, "Nana, we are little people so we need help at the water park."

A week later, Kay met Beth in Charleston, W.Va., so the boys could return to Zach's home in Raleigh, N.C., to attend camp for two weeks. Our 3-year-old grandson Nate Wooten also was at camp for three mornings each week.

Soon after that, Kay met Beth in Beckley, W.Va., in order to bring two of our other grandchildren Lilly Wooten and Will Nepa to our home. Lilly has completed the second grade and Will is getting ready for first grade.

Plans were altered during their visit when Will received a cut on his eyebrow after falling into a bedpost the second day. Even though he could not be in water for seven days because of the cut, Kay still had many things for them to enjoy, including the museum and train ride with Granddad, the riverfront and a dinner theater.

To our surprise, the thing that Lilly and Will enjoyed the most was playing along the Ohio River and interacting with an elderly gentleman who was fishing nearby. They were fascinated with his rod and reel and the worms that he let them help put on the hook.

When the man began describing a big fish that he once caught, Lilly took the opportunity to mention the big fish in the Bible. When he asked where she learned the story about Jonah and the whale, Lilly asked, "Are you a believer?" He replied, "Yes." You can imagine that Granddad was very pleased.

During the last days of July, our family gathered at my cousin's house in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., as we have done for about 30 years. For the second year, my brother also was vacationing nearby with some of his family. This provided some great fellowship, especially for cousins who rarely get to see each other.

I am grateful for my family and I also am grateful for the family of God that I know as Kentucky Baptists.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## New fuel needed for our sending vehicle

Ever run out of gas? Frustrating. Some people become so frustrated that they beat on the steering wheel, yell at the fuel gauge, kick the tires and bang on the motor. The problem isn't the car. The driver failed to place adequate fuel in the vehicle at the appropriate time.

"I wiped the tears from my eyes," an International Mission Board trustee said when he learned the brutal reality that the Lord is calling more people than Southern Baptists are willing to send. The IMB—the Southern Baptist Convention's international missionary-sending vehicle—is running out of gas in the midst of the journey to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. All that is left in the mission-sending fuel tank is the reserve.

Convention leaders, editors, bloggers, trustees—all kinds of Baptists—are proposing a myriad of ideas as to how the convention can rectify the problem. Some have boldly proposed structurally modifying the convention to give it better missions fuel economy. In other words, let's take the same Cooperative Program dollars from the churches and then rearrange the dollars so we have a convention that has less horsepower but squeezes 2 percent, maybe even 4 percent more for mission agencies.

Small percentages, however, are not what is needed, and structure is under constant review by the various state and national ministries. What's needed is more new fuel in the tank. This means new missions dollars, not the reshuffling of old currency. And the fuel is needed now. It takes significant time and additional resources to change the structure and gain marginal efficiency. The new dollars, however, are needed now.

If Southern Baptist churches keep doing the same things they have always done with missions giving, they are missing what God desires to do in the midst of His people to lift up a witness for Him in this land and to reach the world. Missions giving follows missions passion.

Have we lost our passion? Numbers don't lie. The book, "One Sacred Effort: The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists," by Chad Owen and David Hankins, mentions some interesting research that shows a significant drop in overall missions expenditures by our SBC churches. They say that, in 1985, Southern Baptist churches gave, on average 17 percent of their total gifts to "missions." (The "missions" category on the Annual Church Profile is anything the church calls missions, including Cooperative Program, denominational missions offerings, parachurch efforts, local church mission trips and projects.) In 2003, that percentage had dropped to 11 percent.

Owen and Hankins found three clear trends:

- Church members were giving a smaller percentage of their income to local churches.
- From this smaller percentage, local churches are spending less on ministries outside the local church.
- From this even smaller percentage, the Cooperative Program is receiving a slightly smaller percentage of the total local church's missions giving.

What can be done?

First, let's begin by scripturally challenging church members to look outside themselves to the lostness of the world, this nation, their state and their communities. One of the signs of genuine spiritual awakening in the church is a fresh vision of the Righteous One who loves lost people and desires to transform lives.

Second, settle the issue. The church and its members belong to the Lord. Consequently, a

believer's resources and a church's resources are to be managed according to the owner's wishes. The Lord of lords is passionate about the gospel reaching the people in the corners, the alleys, the houses and the huts of this planet. Does a believer's checkbook and the church's budget reflect His passion?

Third, let's stop blaming the structure for the current state of affairs. Instead of beating the mechanism into submission, focus on the fuel needed to reach the lost. Be honest about the hard data that shows we've spent increasingly more on ourselves and shrunk the percentages going toward all missions endeavors.

Fourth, celebrate success. Churches need to take inventory of their total missions giving. Begin by adding up all missions expenditures: CP, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, state missions offerings, mission trips, church plants—everything outside what the local church spends on its "Jerusalem." How close is the figure to 20 percent?

If the total missions giving of Southern Baptist churches were to average 20 percent, it would transform the Southern Baptist Convention. Why? Cooperative Program dollars would rise along with the missions offerings and the other various direct missions ministries. Celebrating total missions giving reflects a mindset transformation.

If the local church's total missions giving trend swings back up and beyond 1985 levels, there won't be tears for missionaries waiting to be sent. There will be new fuel to send missionaries to the lost peoples of the world, to the dark places in the cities of this nation and renewed resources to train those God is calling. (BP)

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

### Guest Viewpoint



John Yeats

## Clarification

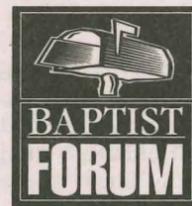
I want to clarify that the confidential e-mail dated July 29, 2009, which I sent only to my fellow trustees of the North American Mission Board communicating the contents of my conversation with Tim Patterson, chairman of the board of trustees of NAMB, pertaining to NAMB President Geoff Hammond and issuing a call for informed prayer among the entire board of trustees, was not intended for anyone other than the trustees, to whom I sent the message.

I want to clarify that I did not authorize or give permission for any recipient to provide my e-mail to anyone else or to publish the contents of said e-mail in any manner.

We, as trustees, need to continue to work together to provide excellent leadership for NAMB, which is an agency critical to Baptist work around the world. I remain prayerful for NAMB as it addresses these important issues, and would ask all Southern Baptists and those who de-

sire to see a Great Commission resurgence in North America and all over the world to join in prayer for NAMB and those who lead this significant agency.

Pastor Jason Pettus  
Living Hope Baptist Church  
Bowling Green



## Our schools need God

We just returned from a two-week trip to Kenya. While there, we visited 20 primary and secondary schools and were privileged to speak to more than 6,000 students. We encouraged the students to do well in school, and we shared God's love with them and our faith in Jesus Christ.

These children were very attentive, polite and extremely well behaved. We entered these schools as spokespersons for the Judeo-Christian faith and were warmly and enthusiastically received by the principals and faculty members.

God is still part of the Kenyan school system and because of that,

the schools are reaping tremendous benefits. Kenyan students are not disrespectful to the teachers. They are highly motivated and disciplined in the classrooms. Though many of the schools had no electricity and some had dirt floors and no glass in some windows, we believe these schools are far ahead of our own schools here in Kentucky.

The U.S. Supreme Court was wrong to exclude God from our public school systems. We believe it is time we allow God back into our schools for the sake of our children and nation.

Pastors John Routh  
& William Curle  
Hodgenville

**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.

WESTERN  
Recorder

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

DR. TODD DEATON  
Editor

DREW NICTER  
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND  
Marketing & Business Manager

www.WesternRecorder.org

### Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), London;  
Skip Alexander (vice chairman),  
Campbellsville;  
Duane Bolin, Murray;  
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;  
Dan Francis, Erlanger;  
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;  
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;  
Willis Polk, Lexington;  
Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;  
June Rice, Paintsville;  
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;  
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

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

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

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

**To subscribe:** Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes.

## Seven habits of happy kids

By David Garrard

Many readers will readily recognize the name Stephen Covey and be familiar with his bestseller, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Although Christian folks will take exception with Covey's Mormon faith, much can still be learned from him. "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids," written by Covey's son, Sean, uses pictures and fun stories to teach the seven habits to children.



**Be proactive.** Lots of kids want to blame others for their problems and their circumstances. Proactive kids take charge of their lives and assume responsibility for their own happiness or unhappiness.

**Begin with the end in mind.** Happy kids have learned the importance of having a plan, and understand that planning ahead almost always leads to good things.

**Put first things first.** Covey says that of all the habits, this is the hardest one to keep. However, learning to work first and get the most important and hardest things done before playing will establish a habit that will serve children well through their entire lives. "Do what you have to do so you can do what you want to do."

**Think win-win.** The fourth habit involves learning to think about others and their needs/wants. Children who learn to do this will have an advantage when it comes to building and maintaining relationships.

**Seek first to understand, then to be understood.** In order to understand, we must be able to listen. Learning to listen shows respect for the ideas and opinions of others and helps us understand their point of view.

**Synergize.** Most children will not know the word "synergy," but they do know about teamwork. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Together is better.

**Sharpen the saw.** Sharpening the saw involves nurturing and maintaining balance between our body, heart, mind and soul. Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and men. Happy children will do the same.

*David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.*

## Seeking God in the desert within our hearts

By Erich Bridges

The story is told of a third-century Christian monk, Abba Agathon, who lived alone in the Egyptian desert:

One day Agathon was going to town. On the roadside, he met a man with paralyzed legs who asked him where he was going. "To town, to sell some things," Agathon answered.

The crippled man replied, "Do me the favor of carrying me there."

So Agathon carried him to town. When they arrived, the man said, "Put me down where you sell your wares." After Agathon had done that, the man said, "For how much did you sell it?" Agathon told him. The man said, "Buy me some food." Agathon did.

When Agathon had sold all his wares and was preparing to leave, the man asked, "Will you do me the favor of carrying me back to the place where you found me?" Agathon picked him up and carried him back to that place.

As the monk prepared to leave him, the man said, "Agathon, you are filled with divine blessings, in heaven and on earth."

Raising his eyes, Agathon saw not a crippled man, but an angel of the Lord.

Tall tale? Perhaps. The story comes from "Sayings of the Desert Fathers," a compilation of maxims and legends attributed to some of the earliest Christian hermits and mystics. They went to the deserts of Sinai, Palestine and other places in the Holy Land, partly to escape the corruption of the cities—but mostly to seek God and do battle with the temptation in their own hearts.

Some of them became unhinged after years alone in the desert. Some were fools. But they were holy fools. Another story about Agathon:

Several monks came to find him in his solitary cell, having heard of his great discernment. Wanting to see if he would lose his temper, they asked, "Aren't you that Agathon who is said to be a sinner and a proud man?"

"Yes, it is very true," he answered.

"Aren't you that Agathon who is always talking nonsense?" they asked. "I am," he answered.

Again they said, "Aren't you Agathon the heretic?"

"I am not a heretic," he instantly shot back.

"Tell us why you accepted everything we cast at you,

but repudiated this last insult," they asked.

He replied, "The first accusations I take to myself, for that is good for my soul. But heresy is separation from God. I have no wish to be separated from God." They were astonished at his discernment and returned home, edified.

That's about as complicated as the theology of the early desert monks gets. They didn't talk much.

"A monk ought not to inquire how this one acts or how that one lives," advises a saying. "Questions like this take us away from prayer and draw us on to backbiting and chatter. There is nothing better than to keep silent."

What significance do the voices of a few ancient hermits have for our frenetic lives? The answer to that question may lie in another question: If they felt compelled to seek holiness in the wilderness, long ages before the countless distractions of modern life, what about us? We, too, need to seek God in the desert—the desert within our hearts. That's where most spiritual battles are fought.

The Apostle Paul's admonition to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12) has "nothing external about it at all," writes Andree Seu. "You will never see someone 'fight the good fight of the faith.' It all happened when you weren't there, alone on a long country walk, just between him and the Lord. That's where the blood and sweat and dying occurred. By the time you spotted the fellow out in public—in the visible battlefield ... pushing away some lucrative job offer or not leaving his wife—the heavy lifting was already done."

The same applies to the battles that decide whether whole nations and peoples will hear the gospel. The big, history-changing spiritual struggles begin in prayer. The strongholds of darkness are defeated by people on their knees. Or a gifted young person pursue a prestigious career or serve in a place most folks have never heard of?

And always, silent skirmishes rage within each soul. Will you serve Christ today, or will you serve your own desires? "If there is no constant battle, there is probably no authentic life," Seu contends. "The battle can be joyful, but it is a battle."

The desert monks understood that. (BP)

*Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.*

## Living a prayer-filled life

By David Jeremiah

Our victories are gained on our knees. As we turn ourselves, our plans and our problems over to God, He intervenes. When we bow before Him, we're acknowledging Him as our "Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend."

Sometimes we make the mistake of not getting on our knees before accepting a job offer, making a purchase, choosing a new church, or making any decision of consequence. People are quietly watching and they know when we're living in prayerful obedience, or when on the other hand, we act without consulting Him.

It's also obvious to others when our knees draw down blessings from above. In the January/February 2003 issue of Pray! Magazine, Elmer Towns said that he and his wife made it through college by faith, praying together and trusting God to meet their needs. Towns earned a dollar an hour driving a school bus, but his income barely met their needs.

"One evening," he wrote, "the only thing in the kitchen cabinet was a can of tuna, so my wife served a tuna casserole. As we clasped hands to thank God for the food, I prayed, 'God, you know we are broke. You know it's two days until payday. You know we are willing to fast until we get money, but we ask you to please take care of our needs.'"

Just as they finished, the laundry man came to the door. Ruth greeted him, telling him they had nothing to send to the laundry, for they couldn't afford to have anything cleaned.

The man quickly explained that he hadn't come to pick up but to deliver. "A few months ago," he said, "your landlord asked me to pass along \$20 to you to pay for having thawed the pipes for him. I had forgotten about it until today."

It was no coincidence. Elmer and Ruth earnestly believed their prayer had reminded the laundry man that he had money for them.

If you want to pull down blessings from above and impact the world around you, you've got to be surrendered to God's will, taking life on your knees, bowed in

humble reverence, obedience and dependence on Him.

One of the reasons we're so worn out with life is because our knees aren't.

Missionary Arthur Matthews once said, "We made it to China on our knees," and that sentence summed up his entire missionary career. Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote in his studies on the Sermon on the Mount: "Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God."

John MacArthur said, "As we look out on the masses of lost humanity, the enormity of the need should drive us to our knees in evangelistic prayer."

Warren Wiersbe said, "Sins that ought to send us to our knees weeping are now acceptable recreation."

The late Gypsy Smith used to tell of the conversion of his Uncle Rodney. Among gypsies, it was not considered proper for a child to address his elders unless spoken to, so young Gypsy prayed and waited for an opportunity. One day, the boy's uncle took note of Gypsy's worn trousers.

"Laddie," said Uncle Rodney, "how do you account for the fact that the knees of your trousers have worn nearly through, while the rest of the suit is almost like new?"

The boy answered, "I have worn the knees through praying for you, Uncle Rodney." Then he added with tears, "I want so much to have God make you a Christian!" Uncle Rodney put his arm around Gypsy in a fatherly embrace, and a few moments later, he fell on his knees, confessing Christ as his Savior.

It's great to have good habits, high hopes, bold strategies, deep pockets and passionate zeal. But nothing can replace humble hearts, bent knees, and worn out pants.

Do your knees give off signs of life?

Like a California miner, let's each declare: "I do most of my work on my knees." (BP)

*David Jeremiah is the founder of the radio and television program "Turning Point for God," and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.*

## Give your house and live in it, too

By Laurie Valentine

Don and Della want to do something significant for their church and to use their house to accomplish their giving objectives. They considered making a current gift of their house, but decided against that because they hope to live in it until they die.

The logical solution seemed to be a bequest. They could revise their wills to bequeath their house to the church after both of them are deceased.

Then Don and Della heard about a special tax law provision that allows them to give their house to their church now, get a sizable income tax deduction and still be able to live in their home for the rest of their lives. This solution—a retained life estate gift—seemed perfect.

To make a retained life estate gift, homeowners deed their residence or farm to a qualified charitable organization through a retained life estate agreement. The deed includes a provision reserving to the owners the right to use the property for the rest of their lives. At the death of the last life tenant, the charity becomes the full outright owner of the property.

Before the property is conveyed to charity, it must be appraised to determine its fair market value. Then the life expectancy of all the life tenants is considered along with other factors to determine the present value of the charity's remainder interest. This amount represents the value of the homeowners' charitable contribution for income tax deduction purposes.

If the property were transferred through the will at death, no income tax deduction would be allowed. Making the transfer during life, while retaining the right to use the property, creates the availability of the income tax deduction because the transfer is irrevocable.

Don and Della, as the life tenants, would be expected to maintain property insurance and pay property taxes and for typical maintenance and repair items.

For more information on this giving idea visit [www.KentuckyBaptistFoundation.org/RLE](http://www.KentuckyBaptistFoundation.org/RLE).

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*



## Great Commission Task Force prayer Web site is launched

Nashville—A Web site encouraging support for the Southern Baptist Convention's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force has been launched at [www.Pray4GCR.com](http://www.Pray4GCR.com).

The site, which went live Aug. 1, gives interested people an opportunity to register their commitment to pray, interact with the task force and sign up for updates about significant developments.

The task force is asking for 5,000 individuals to commit to pray for task force members and a renewed passion for the Great Commission among Southern Baptists, according to chairman Ronnie Floyd.

"We cannot accomplish the task entrusted to us without a groundswell of prayer support. Surely, thousands will join in prayer together," said Floyd, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., and The Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers.

"Southern Baptists have entrusted the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force with a great responsibility. I can assure all Southern Baptists that our final report

will reflect the boldest visionary dreams of Southern Baptists to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are ready to get busy with bold thinking, hard questions, fervent prayer and big dreams. The world is waiting to see how serious we are. I can tell you that this task force is ready to get to work."

Floyd said he is asking supporters to pray about three primary concerns:

- For the members of the task force and "for God's leadership to be upon them mightily, making His direction clear for them."

- For a Great Commission resurgence "to occur in my life, my church and through the 50,000 churches and missions in our convention."

- For a Great Commission resurgence "to occur in the leaders of and through the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Task force members are scheduled to meet twice this month, including this week in Atlanta and Aug. 26-27 in Rogers, Ark. (BP)

## Girl injured in church bus crash dies

Jackson, Miss.—A July 12 rollover of a bus carrying a church youth group to a summer camp has claimed a second fatality.

Maggie Lee Henson, 12, died Aug. 2 after a three-week battle with critical head injuries received when the bus from First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., blew a tire and overturned en route to a youth camp in Georgia.

All 23 passengers were injured in the accident on an interstate highway near Meridian, Miss., several seriously. One, Brandon Ugarte, 14, died while being air-lifted to the hospital.

Henson was thrown from the bus, which rolled several times, and trapped underneath. A busload of Alabama National Guard soldiers that happened on the scene helped upright the vehicle to free her.

She was taken to University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss. She died at about 6:30 p.m. Aug. 2 in a private room where she had been transferred July 31.

Survivors include her father, John Henson, an associate pastor at the church; her mother, Jinny; and a younger brother, Jack.

Her parents reported details of her three-week fight for life on a Web site called [CaringBridge.org](http://CaringBridge.org).

"At 6:30 p.m. tonight, our precious Maggie Lee was carried into the arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," they said in an Aug. 2 posting. "For these last three weeks, she fought for her life courageously, with the skillful help of the medical staff at Batson Children's Hospital here in Jackson. She was blessed to have thousands of people praying and pulling for her. We celebrate her eternal life in the presence of her Creator tonight."

In keeping with their daughter's giving spirit, the Hensons said her organs would be donated to help two children.

A memorial service was held for Maggie Aug. 6 at First Baptist, Shreveport. Pastor Greg Hunt described the young girl as "the flashing comet that was Maggie Lee Henson." (ABP)

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Va. Baptist exec nominated as BWA president**—John Upton, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, has been nominated as president of the Baptist World Alliance. If elected at the BWA's Baptist World Congress in 2010, Upton will begin a five-year term to end in 2015. He will succeed David Coffey of Great Britain, who was elected at the BWA's 2005 Congress. Upton would be the eighth American to serve as president and the third with Virginia Baptist ties. The last American to hold the BWA's top elected office was former Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Duke McCall, from 1980 to 1985. Upton, a graduate of Southern Seminary, has served as the executive director in Virginia since 2001.

**GuideStone trustees receive positive report**—GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins updated trustees during their July 27-28 meeting on GuideStone's efforts to maintain the right perspective during a challenging economic environment. He reported that the organization's assets have increased nearly 30 percent to \$8.3 billion, adding that the gain highlights the need to "stay the course" amid the current financial downturn. Hawkins said that even during challenging times, GuideStone has continued to provide high levels of service to its participants. Trustees also received reports on GuideStone's operations, and heard an update on the entity's plans to offer specific financial advice to its participants.

**Retia Dukes dies after four-month battle**—After fighting for her life for four months, Retia Dukes died Aug. 3 from injuries sustained when she and her husband, Jimmy, were struck by a vehicle in April. She was 68. The Dukeses were crossing a street at the main campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary April 4 when the accident happened. The couple had been in New Orleans while Jimmy Dukes, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's theological educational and distance learning department, attended a meeting there. Retia Dukes experienced severe head trauma in the accident and underwent surgery for a brain hemorrhage upon arrival at the hospital. She remained in a coma for 21 days. She was later transferred to a rehabilitation center. Her condition had recently deteriorated. A memorial service was held Aug. 5 in New Orleans; another is scheduled for Aug. 18 in Orlando, Fla.

**New medical school planned for La. school**—Louisiana College has announced plans to open a medical school in 2012. The new program is expected to have an initial class of 60 students and grow to 110 incoming students per year. Louisiana College President Joe Aguillard said he believes it will meet a significant need in the state, which ranks among the worst in the nation in percentage of population lacking access to primary care—due mainly to a critical shortage of primary care doctors. During the past four years, 92 percent of the college's applicants to medical schools have been accepted. That ranks the pre-medical training program at the Pineville, La., school as one of the best in the South.

## BWA marks anniversary of Baptist movement

Utrecht, Netherlands—Four hundred years after the first Baptist congregation was established, followers have been challenged to continue championing religious liberty.

"We as Baptists must continue to defend religious freedom for all peoples and all religions," said Denton Lotz, former general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, at a special service held July 30 in Amsterdam to mark the 400th anniversary of the Baptist movement.

The service was held in a Mennonite church in central Amsterdam, a short distance from the site of what is recognized by some as the first Baptist congregation, founded in 1609 by exiles who had fled religious persecution in England.

That church was established in an Amsterdam bakery under the

leadership of Thomas Helwys and John Smyth, a former Church of England cleric, who sought a self-governing church free from state control.

Smyth maintained that the church should receive its members by baptism after they had consciously acknowledged their faith and thus opposed infant baptism.

Still, the threat today is not directed at religious practice, "but rather whether or not religion will be granted a fair hearing," Lotz said. "Our public and state education has promoted secularism as its own religion and has indoctrinated the younger generation to believe that man can live without God and can explain the universe and history and community without faith."

American evangelist Billy Graham sent a letter to celebrate the an-

niversary.

"For four centuries, Baptist men and women have preached the gospel of Jesus Christ, ushering countless people into the family of God," Graham wrote in his message, which Lotz read during the service. "I challenge all of you to reconfirm the mission and ministry mandated by our Savior."

Graham had a long association with the BWA and spoke at every Baptist World Congress between 1950 and 1985. The world congress is the largest international gathering of Baptists, held every five years, and is planned by the BWA.

The anniversary service was attended by the delegates of the BWA annual gathering and general council meeting held in Ede, a town about 50 miles from Amsterdam. (RNS)



## making vital connections

For nearly 20 years, Super Saturdays have offered practical training for an unbeatable price. Churches of all sizes will benefit from expert leadership in a wide-range of ministry areas. Join us at an event near you and discover how to make vital connections... within the church and beyond!

August 22	Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington
August 29	Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown
September 12	First Baptist Church, Somerset First Baptist Church, Paducah
September 19	First Baptist Church, Pikeville Zion Baptist Church, Henderson

**REGISTER TODAY!** \$35 per person —OR— \$25 Early Bird Special (must register by Monday before event for discount)

Details and registration: [www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday](http://www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday)  
502.489.3572 or 866.489.3572 (toll free in KY)



## Another summer in the books

### Work of Crossings staff is crucial to camp's impact

Another summer of Crossings has come and gone, and each year it seems as though camp moves at a more rapid pace.

There are so many aspects of this summer I would like to share, so many stories of lives that have been forever changed.

Personally my highlights usually are centered upon our staff—the people I get to work with on a yearly basis. While our ultimate goal is to see our guests cross from death unto life, the players that God uses to set the stage for all the happenings of camp mainly fall on 22 people.

These individuals include our full-time employees at our office in Louisville, and property staff at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

While the roles of these 22 people are all very unique, an underlying code of operation is simply “to do whatever it takes.” You may wonder, “What does this mean?” Well, it means being available for any issue or need that may arise as a result of having more than 11,000 people come to camp and stay for a short period of time. Everything from allergies to emergencies, sickness, sadness, loss of

loved ones—and most any other thing you could possibly imagine.

I get to work with some of the most servant-minded staff members you could find anywhere in the world. In fact, the only way people can withstand the relentless seven-day-a-week schedule is through the power of God manifested in the heart of a servant.

My heartfelt thanks go out to my co-laborers. I consider each of them much more than a co-worker—they are my friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

This ministry could not function without such committed people. In the coming weeks as camps end and our summary of the summer decisions are finalized, I look forward to sharing with you the eternal impact that has taken place this summer.

Without question, this year has been like no other and eternal decisions are well beyond anything we have ever experienced. Thanks for all the prayers for camp as the Lord gave us a safe and eternally productive year.

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

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

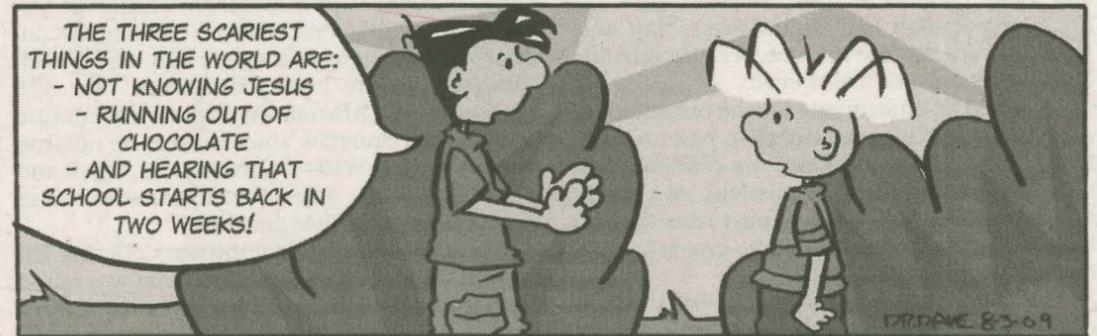
## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 Polite word (pl.)
- 5 Seaport of Israel
- 9 Nocturnal creature
- 12 David or Solomon, perhaps
- 13 London's Abbey is one
- 14 Nineteenth-century American author
- 15 Prophetess and daughter of Phaniel
- 16 They respond to 911 (abbr.)
- 17 Like food or water
- 18 "Or if he shall ask an \_\_\_\_\_, will he offer him a scorpion?" (Luke 11:12)
- 20 Former P.M. of Israel
- 22 "\_\_\_\_\_ not at all; neither by heaven" (Matthew 5:34)
- 24 Period
- 25 Simile syntax
- 27 One hundred fifty-one, to Livy
- 28 Hoover, for one
- 30 Large group
- 32 Trite phrase
- 34 Like one who "hath a devil" (John 10:20)
- 36 Always
- 37 "Be ye \_\_\_\_\_, and sin not" (Ephesians 4:26)
- 39 Regret
- 41 Before
- 42 Movie rating (abbr.)
- 43 Texas Tech's \_\_\_\_\_ Raiders
- 45 Like a foyer
- 47 Room's partner
- 49 Just a \_\_\_\_\_
- 50 Asaph the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chronicles 29:30)
- 52 Have a bite
- 54 After the crucifixion, the soldiers gambled for Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_
- 57 Hole-making tool
- 58 "His clothes shall be rent and his head \_\_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 13:45)
- 59 Prophet who follows Joel
- 60 Still
- 61 Former British P.M. Anthony
- 62 It comes with the territory, in the kitchen

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
		18		19		20		21		
		22			23		24			25 26
27				28		29		30		31
32			33		34		35		36	
37				38		39		40		41
42			43		44		45		46	
			47			48		49		
50	51				52		53		54	55 56
57					58				59	
60					61				62	

- 6 Search thoroughly
- 7 Demolished (as in Psalm 137:7)
- 8 Sullivan, for one
- 9 Pull to \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 "One \_\_\_\_\_ is past and behold there come two" (Revelation 9:12)
- 11 "He was \_\_\_\_\_ as a sheep to the slaughter" (Acts 8:32)
- 17 "As vinegar upon \_\_\_\_\_, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart" (Proverbs 25:20)
- 19 Tribe of Israel
- 21 "There is but one \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 8:6)
- 22 "His \_\_\_\_\_ was in his hand: and he drew near the Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:40)
- 23 Slam against
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ Fisher Hall, in NYC
- 26 Withered
- 27 "O \_\_\_\_\_ your hands, all ye people" (Psalm 47:1)
- 29 Deface
- 31 "But be of good cheer; I have \_\_\_\_\_ the world" (John 16:33)
- 33 "He is risen from the dead: so the last \_\_\_\_\_ shall be worse than the first" (Matthew 27:64)
- 35 Date \_\_\_\_\_ (library logo)
- 38 KJV affirmative
- 40 Naval officer (abbr.)
- 44 "Fear and \_\_\_\_\_ shall fall upon them" (Exodus 15:16)
- 46 Father of Abram
- 47 Update of biblical girdle
- 48 "For I will not \_\_\_\_\_ to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought" (Romans 15:18)
- 50 "\_\_\_\_\_ what?"
- 51 Lea dowager
- 53 "Praise the Lord with ... an instrument of \_\_\_\_\_ strings" (Psalm 33:2)
- 55 Flamboyant wrap
- 56 NYC time
- 58 Exist

### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
T	R	I	A	L	S	L	A	M	E	D
G	R	A	N	D	E	A	D	O	R	A
Q	A	T	D	E	N	Y	R	S	I	N
A	L	O	E	P	A	I	R	S	C	I
L	A	R	G	E	G	N	A	S	H	E
G	A	P	G	I	N					
B	L	E	S	S	E	S	N	O	B	L
L	U	R	T	O	U	R	W	E	E	D
E	T	R	E	P	R	A	Y	E	V	E
W	E	A	S	E	L	H	E	A	V	E
S	N	A	K	E	A	L	T	E	R	
D	U	E	S	B	L	T	S			

© 1999 Barbour Publishing

JOIN YOUR BAPTIST CHAPLAIN REV. ROY MYERS

# Alaska Cruise

& Northwest Tour Including Lake Tahoe and San Francisco  
15-Days Departs July 23, 2010 from \$1948\*

Join other Southern Baptists and Rev. Roy Myers on this unique vacation package timed to escape our hot summer weather! This will be Rev. Myers' sixth trip with YMT as Baptist Chaplain. He is retired after serving 43 years as Pastor in Mississippi. Devotions and Baptist religious services will be available most days through out this cruise and tour, for those in our Baptist group who want to participate. Friends and family are welcome. One does not have to be Baptist to join our group. Your group will start in Seattle for one night with an included city tour. In Seattle, board your Norwegian Cruise ship, the "Star" for your 7-day inside passage cruise to Ketchikan; Juneau; Sawyer Glacier; Skagway; and Prince Rupert, BC. Enjoy total freedom with NCL's Freestyle cruising. You pick what to wear, and where and when to dine from 10 different restaurants. Next, travel to San Francisco through Washington State. See the Columbia River, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Rainier. Travel through Oregon; then spend two nights in the beautiful Lake Tahoe/Carson City area. See this beautiful region made famous in the old TV western Bonanza, including Lake Tahoe, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Next, take a scenic drive to San Francisco for your final two nights where you'll see the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, and lots more on your included city tour. Fly home from San Francisco. \*Your price of \$1948 (per pers., dbl. occ.) includes the 7-day cruise on NCL's "Star", 7 nights hotels, baggage handling, taxes, port charges and lots of sightseeing. Airfare is extra.

For information, reservations, brochure and letter from Rev. Myers with his phone number call:

**YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300**

Affordable fun-filled vacations since 1967!

WESTERN Recorder + Your church newsletter  
TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE

### Down

- 1 Retreat, perhaps
- 2 Electrically charged atom
- 3 "Be ye transformed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your mind" (Romans 12:2)
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ struck
- 5 Linking verb

## Special missions offering raises concerns among Southern Baptists

By Mark Kelly

Nashville—While additional gifts for missions are welcome, the "Christmas in August" special offering being promoted across the Southern Baptist Convention will not solve the long-term funding needs of the International Mission Board, the organization's leader says.

"We are grateful for the passionate response we are seeing on the part of so many churches when it is obvious they have other critical needs and many families in their churches are hurting," Jerry Rankin told Baptist Press. "But one-time gifts are not the solution because missionary support must be maintained.

"It would be unfortunate to send out additional missionaries this year and then have to bring them home next year because we could not sustain this level of giving to missions. As churches take special offerings, we must have faith to believe that they will continue to give at this increased level in the future."

The idea of taking up a special Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in August was proposed by Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, in June during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville. Akin proposed the special offering to help the IMB make up a shortfall in the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The \$141 million collected for that offering fell \$29 million short of the \$170 million goal.

As a result, IMB trustees suspended new appointments to two short-term missionary programs and cut back on the overall number of missionaries to be appointed for the rest of 2009.

A number of concerns have been expressed about raising money for an extra missions offering in August. Among them is the impact on state and associational missions offerings, some of which are conducted in September, as well as the still-ongoing Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and even the

2009 Lottie Moon Offering, to be promoted in December.

Some also have noted that "Christmas in August" is the trademarked name of an established partnership between Woman's Missionary Union and the North American Mission Board. Since 1927, Christmas in August has mobilized WMU groups in local churches to provide materials that NAMB missionaries need for their ministries.

"We understand and appreciate the intent of some Southern Baptist leaders to encourage giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this August," national WMU President Kaye Miller said. "However, we are greatly concerned that calling the effort 'Christmas in August' will confuse many in our churches, since there is no offering associated with (WMU's) Christmas in August and it supports North American missionaries rather than international field personnel."

While the international missions offering fell short of its goal, the \$141 million that was raised may represent serious sacrifice, given the state of the nation's economy, said WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee.

"Naturally, we are concerned that the goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was not met," Lee noted. "However, in a year of financial hardship for many families and churches, we are grateful for the sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists to missions. This year's giving to these offerings may be more sacrificial for some than ever before considering the level of unemployment and loss of income experienced by many in our churches.

"While many continue to focus on our nation's economical plight, the real issue here is stewardship," Lee added. "... WMU has instilled the biblical principles of stewardship in all areas of life. What is needed is an ongoing infusion of these principles through the teaching of the church through missions education. Then, and only then, will stewardship of our resources become a part of the fabric of our daily living." (BP)

## School bells are ringing

### A busy summer soon will give way to an even busier school year here at Oneida

When you read this, our faculty and staff will be completing the finishing touches in preparation for the return of our students this Sunday. Not long ago, our school year began one or two weeks before most public schools. But with revised calendars, many schools now begin one or two weeks before we do. No matter who starts first, however, we are nearly always out before the public schools. Our school year always ends around May 15. Last spring, because of the days that had to be made up due to bad weather, some Kentucky students were still in school the first week of June.

Like all of our summers, this has been a busy one. Because of our deep commitment to the importance of students learning work responsibilities, two different groups of students spent part of the summer here on campus. Half of them stayed for three weeks right after school was out in May, and the other half returned the day after summer school was over in July to work their three weeks. These students who receive additional scholarship funding spent their time painting, cleaning, mowing, housekeeping, working in the dining room, mowing the grass and working on the farm.

This also has been a busy summer for volunteers. Back in the mid-1980s, only six or seven groups would come during the entire summer. Over the years, our volunteer program has grown a lot. This year, nearly 30 different groups will have visited our campus by the time the volunteer season is over. I had requests for another dozen or so groups who wanted to come but all of my

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

beds were taken.

We had a good summer school but fewer students. I suspect two major factors played a role in the lower number. First, the slow and uncertain economy has definitely impacted most of our students. Second, the number of students on the honor roll has been increasing dramatically the past several years. More students on the honor roll means there are fewer students failing classes, which means fewer students need summer school.

I often am asked if the slow economy has caused us to limit the amount of scholarship funds available to our low-income students. Even though the economy has definitely impacted the resources we have to work with, we actually have increased the funds to help not only our students from low-income homes, but also students who would not normally qualify for additional funds.

Most of our readers know that even a full-paying student only pays about one-third the actual cost to attend. Virtually every student receives a significant portion of their room and board in the form of a scholarship. Needless to say, there are limits to how much we can help middle-income families with room and board expenses.

The past two years have been challenging. I never think about how difficult it has been for us without thinking of all of our friends who sacrifice to support our work. I am deeply thankful for all of our friends. "Thank you" never seems adequate, but until there is a better way of expressing our appreciation, THANK YOU!

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

Enhance Your Skills in Counseling at CU

### NOTICE TO PASTORS & CHURCH LEADERS WHO WORK WITH FAMILIES:

There is still time to apply for the Master of Science in Counseling

### Marriage & Family Therapy!

The Marriage & Family Therapy track in the MSC program at Campbellsville University can give you added confidence and insights in assisting those who depend on your caring and thoughtful advice.

Additionally, an advanced degree can move you one step closer to promotion in many areas.

CALL OR E-MAIL TODAY!

Let us tell you about all three tracks of our MSC program and see how we might be of help.

dfeastridge@campbellsville.edu

-- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE --  
MAIN CAMPUS • LOUISVILLE CAMPUS • ONLINE!

## Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

1 University Drive • Campbellsville, KY 42718

800-264-6014 • 270-789-5049

www.campbellsville.edu/msc

## God's complete love

### Guest columnist Gary Miller shares an 'Outdoor Truth'

I am out of the country on a mission trip, but I know you will enjoy guest columnist Gary Miller, a 1987 alumnus, and founder of Outdoor Truths Ministries which seeks to point outdoor enthusiasts to Christ. Check it out at www.OutdoorTruths.org. —Donnie Fox

I know that I am constantly growing as a hunter and fisherman. There's always room to get better.

One young man was being interviewed for a new position. The interviewer asked, "What do you wish to gain by your employment here?" The man replied, "I wish to gain experience." Well, there's one thing that's for sure: He will gain experience. It may be a good experience or a bad experience, but he will gain experience.

Each hunt offers much of the same. Hopefully, most of the days will bring good experiences, but undoubtedly some will bring a painful one. I recently bragged about my 55-yard shot on a double-bearded gobbler, but a few days later I missed another bird at only 15 yards. I may have thought that I had "arrived" as a hunter after such a long and impressive shot. But missing at such a short distance brought me back to

the truth that I am an incomplete hunter. As long as I continue to pursue this passion of mine, I will forever be learning and growing.

We can deal with feelings of incompleteness when it comes to hunting or fishing, but we are quick to give up when it comes to something like our Christian life. We tell ourselves that if we cannot do it completely, perfectly and wholeheartedly, we'll just not do it at all. And thus, we let our incompleteness determine our worth as a child of God.

Did you know that Michelangelo started 44 sculptures? Fourteen of them were never completed. I wonder what the value of

those 14 might be. Our worth to God is not based upon how many successful "Christian" days we have notched in our belts. It's based solely on the initiative of God to love us—even while we were unlovable. And God's determination to continue to love us is not based upon our ability to be lovable; it is based upon His desire to accept us, even though we are an incomplete work.

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Despite conservative opposition, Senate confirms Sotomayor

By Tom Strode

Washington—The U.S. Senate confirmed Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court Aug. 6 in a 68-31 vote, providing the country's highest judicial panel with its first Hispanic and third female member.

Sotomayor will sit with the other justices for oral arguments for the first time Oct. 5, when the court's next term begins.

The strong roll-call margin for the judge President Obama selected from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals was not surprising. For weeks, her confirmation appeared to be secure. The most significant question seemed to be how many Republicans would vote for her.

In the end, nine GOP senators supported Sotomayor's confirmation. Each of the 31 "nay" votes came from Republicans. All 59 Democrats present for the roll call voted for confirmation. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., supported confirmation but was unable to attend because of his ongoing battle with brain cancer.

After the vote, Obama commended his first nominee to the high court and the Senate's accomplishment in "breaking yet another barrier and moving us yet another step closer to a more perfect union."

"Like so many other aspects of this nation, I am filled with pride in this achievement and great confidence that Justice Sotomayor will make an outstanding Supreme Court justice," Obama said.

### Concerns over abortion

Many conservatives, pro-life leaders and pro-family advocates expressed concern about Sotomayor joining the Supreme Court. Though she has not ruled directly on abortion, there is a general assumption by pro-life advocates that she is pro-choice.

Southern Baptist public policy specialist Barrett Duke called Sotomayor's con-

firmation "the most far-reaching consequence of the 2008 elections to date."

Duke said he has "deep concerns" about Sotomayor's "ability to subordinate her ideological biases to the Constitution's objective standards."

"We will find out very soon which is the real Sonia Sotomayor, the one whose record and statements reveal a very liberal judge, or the one who renounced her former way of life and pledged allegiance to the Constitution during her confirmation hearing," Duke noted. "We must all pray that God will give (Sotomayor)—as well as all of the other Supreme Court justices—wisdom as she sets herself to the task of judging impartially."

Some GOP senators, as well as the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and other pro-life organizations, questioned her participation for

12 years on the board of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed at least six legal briefs in support of the 1973 Roe v. Wade opinion legalizing abortion.

The ERLC had indicated its opposition to Sotomayor's confirmation after an analysis of her record and reiterated it in a letter to the Judiciary Committee July 28.

"Despite her compelling personal story, we remain unconvinced that Judge Sotomayor would apply the law with blind justice as required by the Constitution," ERLC President Richard Land said in an Aug. 3 e-mail. "Simply put, she is out of the mainstream of the American public and, too often, of the very court for which she is being considered."

Sotomayor joined the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, based in New York, in 1998 as a nominee of President Clinton. President George H.W. Bush nominated her as a federal judge, and she was confirmed to that post in 1992. (BP)



Sonia Sotomayor

### IN RECOGNITION

of Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders

The 2009 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

**We Need Your Help To Gather the Following Information:**

- Full name of deceased
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
- Name of church where member, association, state where located
- Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before August 29 to:



**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Executive Office  
PO Box 43433, Louisville KY 40253-0433  
ATTN: Wanda Karolyi  
e-mail address:  
Wanda.Karolyi@kybaptist.org

## House committee rejects amendment to cut abortion funding from health care proposal

Washington—A U.S. House of Representatives committee turned back another pro-life effort July 31 to exclude abortion funding from health care reform legislation before approving the overall measure.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee voted against an amendment to prohibit federal funds from paying for an abortion or covering any part of a health plan that includes coverage of abortion. Later, the panel endorsed the bill by a narrow vote.

The committee's actions on health care reform came on the House's final day before beginning a five-week recess. The Energy and Commerce Committee became the third House panel to approve health care reform legislation, as well as the third one to reject amendments to prevent mandated abortion coverage and to exclude federal subsidies for abortions.

The previous day, the Energy and Commerce Committee defeated an amendment by Reps. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and Joe Pitts, R-Pa., to bar abortion from being required as part of a ba-

sic health benefits package in government and private plans. Stupak and Pitts also offered the amendment to prevent federal money for abortions.

While the committee rejected pro-life efforts at amending the bill, it adopted in a 30-28 vote July 30 an amendment by Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif., that was portrayed as maintaining the current bans on federal funding of abortion. Pro-lifers, however, described it as a "phony compromise."

The amendment by Capps, a pro-choice advocate, would allow the "public health insurance option"—which would be paid for by the federal government—to fund elective abortions. It also would permit federal subsidies for private insurance plans that include elective abortion coverage, according to a statement from the National Right to Life Committee.

NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson said the House's recent moves "would drastically change federal policy," adding "this is 'condition red' for the pro-life movement." (BP)

## LEADING AN OVERSEAS MISSION TRIP?

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU GET THERE TO FIND OUT YOU'RE UNPREPARED!**

### Team Leader Training for International Mission Trips

September 18-19, 2009  
Training begins at 6:30 pm on Friday and ends at 5 pm on Saturday

Kentucky Baptist Building  
13420 East Point Centre Dr.  
Louisville, KY 40223



There is no charge for the training, but registration is required at [www.kybaptist.org/tlt](http://www.kybaptist.org/tlt)

**For more information:**

- [www.kybaptist.org/tlt](http://www.kybaptist.org/tlt)
- 502-489-3529 or 866-489-3529 (toll free)
- [partnership@kybaptist.org](mailto:partnership@kybaptist.org)

For ongoing tips and resources, visit:  
[www.go2alltheworld.com](http://www.go2alltheworld.com)




## Maine, Washington become focus of pro-family battles

Augusta, Maine—Opponents of Maine's same-sex marriage law turned in 100,000 signatures to the secretary of state July 31 in their attempt to overturn the law—a total that is nearly double the amount required.

Needing only 55,000 valid signatures, the petitions were delivered by Stand for Marriage Maine. If enough signatures are validated, Maine citizens in November will decide whether to reject or keep the new law.

The effort is a result of Maine's unique "People's Veto" law, which allows citizens to gather signatures in an attempt to overturn laws passed by the legislature. The same-sex marriage law has not gone into effect and will not do so until citizens have a say, assuming the petitions qualify.

Maine may not be the sole focus of pro-family groups this fall. In Washington state, a coalition known as Protect Marriage Washington turned in 138,000 signatures July 25 in hopes of overturning that state's recently passed domestic partnerships law, which provides same-sex couples all the legal benefits of marriage. The group needed 120,000 signatures and will not know for several weeks if they were successful.

If one or both efforts qualify for the November ballot, it will provide a solid measurement of the status of the gay rights movement in two liberal-leaning states. A victory in either state—particularly in Maine—would give social conservatives a lift. Including the landmark vote in California last fall, same-sex marriage has been defeated in every state in which it has gone to the ballot. (BP)

**PRAYER PARTNERS**

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Missionaries Ken & Jealatta Roberts of Crab Orchard.** Ken is a church planting missionary who assists associations and churches in the development of ministries that address the spiritual needs of the growing Hispanic population in Southern Kentucky. Pray for salvation of the Hispanic couples he and Jealatta visit. Pray that God will increase the vision of partnering churches and raise up new leaders in the region to assist in the Robertses' work.

**2nd Chance Outreach in Columbia and Jamestown.** Greg Troutt is director of this nationwide, faith-based rehabilitation ministry for men and women suffering from addictions and other life-debilitating strongholds. The ministry specializes in non-medical detox, spiritual counseling, life coaching, after-care and relapse-prevention plans. Pray that God will provide additional volunteers, staff and resources for the growing substance-abuse ministry. Pray that addicts will recognize and call upon Jesus, as the only one who can set them free, give them peace of mind and a second chance at life.

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

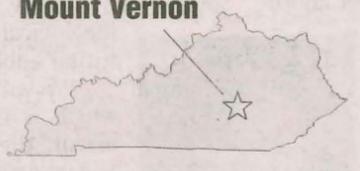
**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **ALEXANDRIA**—Grant's Lick Church recently called **Tom Wilkes** as pastor.
- **BUTLER**—Second Twelve Mile Church recently called **Jamie Thornsberry** as pastor.
- **MOUNT STERLING**—Howard's Mill Church recently called **Philip Milheiser** as pastor.
- **MOUNT VERNON**—Freedom Church will hold revival services Aug. 16-19, 7 p.m., with **Dale Rose** as evangelist. **David Sargent** is pastor.
- **CHAD BURDETTE** recently resigned as pastor of Northside Church.
- **MURRAY**—Westside Church recently called **Scott Douglas** as minister of youth. **Glynn Orr** is pastor.
- **PRINCETON**—Southside Church recently called **Bruce Hodge** as transitional pastor.
- **RICHMOND**—Kirkville Church recently called **Eric Snyder** as associate pastor of evangelism. **Butch Pennington** is pastor.
- **SALYERSVILLE**—First Church recently ordained **Parnell Campbell** and **Chris Caudill** to the gospel ministry. **Matthew Gullion** is pastor.
- **SEBREE**—First Church recently ordained **Jason Forker** and **Charles**

**Spotlight on ...**

**Mount Vernon**



First Church will host its annual Gospel Music Fest Aug. 15, 6 p.m., featuring **The Calvary Heirs, Fair Haven** and **Narrow Road**. For more information, call (606) 256-2922. **Eddie Nation** is pastor.

- McLean** as deacons. **Bob Hardison** is pastor.
- **SMITH MILLS**—**Dane Gray** recently resigned as pastor of Mount Pleasant Church.
- **SOMERSET**—High Street Church recently honored deacons emeriti **Linden Feltner, Hugh New, Sam Rayborn** and **Harold Robinson**, and ordained **Doug Burns** and **John Moore** as deacons. **Ed Amundson** is pastor.
- **WINCHESTER**—Corinth Church recently called **Jim Rediford** as pastor.

**LifeWay author Shirer set for weekend event in Louisville**

**Louisville**—Popular Bible study teacher Priscilla Shirer will be the featured speaker at the LifeWay Women's Going Beyond weekend Aug. 21-22 at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville.

The event combines intense Bible study with worship and prayer time. Shirer will share her life message, challenging women to go beyond the everyday, ordinary life to a soul-satisfying walk with Christ.

Shirer is the author of "He Speaks to Me: Preparing to Hear from

God" and "Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks."

"Women who attend Going Beyond don't just hear about God's power, they experience it," said Paige Greene, LifeWay Women's events director.

The event will run Aug. 21 from 7-9:30 p.m., and Aug. 22 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Admission is \$45. For more information or to register, visit [www.LifeWay.com/Women](http://www.LifeWay.com/Women) or call (800) 254-2022.

**Missionary with Kentucky ties appointed to serve in France**

**Lebanon, Ohio**—Kim Runner, a missionary with ties to Bowling Green, was appointed as an International Mission Board missionary last month at a commissioning service in Lebanon, Ohio.

Runner will serve on a church planting team working with postmodern young adults in Paris.

Despite making her home now in Oregon, Run-

ner calls Bowling Green her hometown. Her parents, Amos and Joan Runner, are members of Richardsville Baptist Church in Warren County.

Runner currently serves as a women's ministry strategist with the Northwest Baptist Convention and attends Greater Gresham Baptist Church in Gresham, Ore.



Kim Runner

**Campus minister selected to head alumni group at Pikeville College**

**Pikeville**—Kay Hammond, campus minister at Pikeville College, has been elected to head the school's alumni association.

Hammond, who has led the college's Baptist Campus Ministries full time since 2007, will help coordinate alumni reunions, banquets and other campus events, according to a press

release from the school.

In addition to her role as a campus minister, Hammond also directs the Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center in Pikeville, which provides supplies and counseling for expectant mothers in need.

Her husband, Dave, is pastor of Faith Baptist Church of Myra.



Kay Hammond

**KBC 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.
  - 24-25 Men's Chorale Fall Retreat, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
  - 25-26 Women's Chorale Fall Retreat, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
  - 25-27 FOCUS 2009, Jonathan Creek Camp & Conference Center, Hardin.
  - 26 Phase 1 Disaster Relief Training, First Baptist Church, Richmond.

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

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music and worship (25 hours/week) for Woodland Baptist Church, Louisville. Undergraduate music degree preferred, experience required. Submit resumé to [mmayabb1@yahoo.com](mailto:mmayabb1@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Children's director for newborns through 5th grade for Alton Baptist ([www.altonbaptist.org](http://www.altonbaptist.org)). Send to Monty Stratton, 1900 Waddy Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342; or e-mail to [mjstratton@gmail.com](mailto:mjstratton@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Gifted musician who shares a passion for worship and leading others to do the same with First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky. Position requires 25-30 hours per week. Interested in talents related to our contemporary worship format which includes overseeing the worship band, vocal team and media/technical staff. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 904, Owensboro, KY 42302; or e-mail to [myoung@fbcowb.org](mailto:myoung@fbcowb.org).

**SEEKING:** Vocalists for the Motet Singers of Louisville. For information, call (502) 239-5043 or 295-7254. Visit our website: [www.motetsingers.org](http://www.motetsingers.org).

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

**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@onechurchpeople.org](mailto:Lisa@onechurchpeople.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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 associate pastor of students and education for First Baptist Church of Live Oak, Fla. Send resumé to [apsearch@fbcliveoak.org](mailto:apsearch@fbcliveoak.org); or visit [www.fbcliveoak.org](http://www.fbcliveoak.org) for contact information.

**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.

## Spurring an 'Uprising'

*Kentucky native, with Southern Baptists' help, blitzes NYC with Christ's love through service*

By Joe Westbury  
Georgia Christian Index

**New York**—Cleaning graffiti from a public school desktop, scraping chewing gum from under a table, preparing a wall for painting, or enlisting individuals for HIV testing may not sound like the best way to spend a few vacation days, but that's how some people put feet to their faith this summer.

On a Monday leading up to the Fourth of July weekend, Beth McCart found herself in the Bronx, putty knife and can of spackle in hand, as she filled holes in a wall at a clinic that provides mentoring support to children of parents living with HIV/AIDS.

A few miles away in the heart of Manhattan, college student Sarah Beth Clark was painting a stairwell in a four-story apartment building. And over in Harlem, Jim Bass and Hill Boyett were standing on a sidewalk passing out brochures and encouraging passersby to enter a clinic for free HIV testing.

The volunteers from Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., and First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., were among 270 volunteers from several states who responded to a call to minister in the five boroughs of New York City. The outreach was sponsored by Gallery Church, an up-and-coming inner-city congregation sponsored by Ingleside and others nationwide.

### Taking inventory

Gallery's pastor, Aaron Coe, and his staff worked for most of the past year to identify ministry sites throughout the city where volunteers could provide commu-

nity service in the name of Christ. Those who participated said seeds were sown that will help the church develop a higher profile among those with whom they served.

"Events like 'City Uprising'—what we are calling this week's outreach—have a strong future with our congregation," Coe said as he drove between ministry sites citywide. "We already have dates for 2010 on the calendar and are hoping to have even larger groups from Georgia and other states next summer."

In addition to the New York event, the congregation sponsored a similar City Uprising in late July in Baltimore, where the church has planted a second congregation.

"Whether we are scraping gum or performing arts ministry in Central Park, we are leaving New Yorkers with a sense of the presence of Gallery Church and that we love them but, more importantly, Jesus loves them. That's the bottom line in what we are wanting to accomplish," added Coe, a



**KENTUCKY NATIVE** Aaron Coe, pastor of Gallery Church, explains ministry assignments to volunteers as they prepare to fan out across New York City neighborhoods. The church has two Manhattan locations and 20 small groups that meet throughout the week.

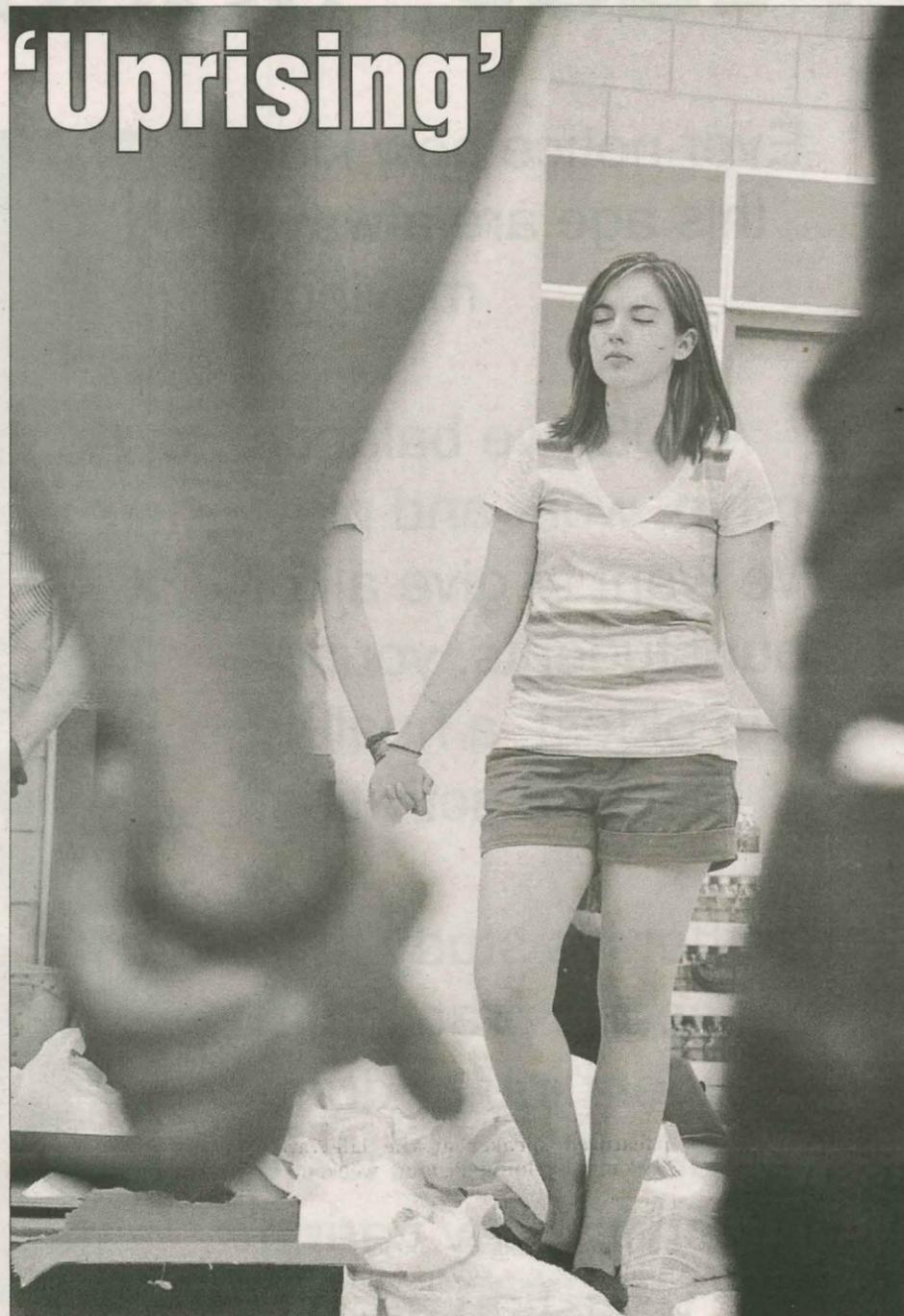
Kentucky native and graduate of Louisville's Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Gallery members were scattered among more than 40 ministry sites the first week of July. Among the most grateful were the health clinics that strive to test residents for HIV/AIDS. Coe said he and other members determined the clinics were ideal places for the volunteers to offer their services.

The spread of HIV/AIDS is explosive in portions of New York City. The Bronx, with an estimated 20,000 cases, has the highest death rate of any of the five boroughs



**STICKY SERVICE** Rich Walker of Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., scrapes gum from under a desk as part of "City Uprising," a community service event sponsored by Gallery Church in New York City.



**HANDS ACROSS NYC** Stephanie Hill, a member of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., joins in a prayer circle the night before the four-day "City Uprising" ministry effort. (Photos by Joe Westbury/Georgia Christian Index)

because of the poverty among minority populations such as Hispanics and Latinos. The sharing of needles through widespread drug use spreads the virus as much as unprotected sex.

"We discovered that one of the biggest needs of the clinics was to get people in off the streets to receive the free tests. So many individuals are living with the disease and have never been tested .... You can't do an adequate job of stopping the spread of the disease if those who have it do not change their risky behavior," Coe noted.

"The clinics are there to help the physical need, but we want to be there to help with the spiritual care that comes when individuals are told they are HIV positive. There is probably no greater life-changing event for some people than to be told they have the virus. We, as the church, feel we need to be there when an individual's world suddenly changes when they get that diagnosis," Coe said. "We want to be part of that conversation when people begin to ask the hard questions about life."

The volunteers provided a simple yet priceless community service. They stood on sidewalks and handed out leaflets urging individuals to stop briefly for a free HIV screening. At some point, if the opportunity presented itself, they told passersby they were from a local church and invited them to attend a worship service.

The clinics only tests about 10 individuals each month, while providing other services. When they are given funding

to pay someone to distribute the leaflets, they may administer 10 tests a day. But experience has shown that when volunteers from Gallery pass out the leaflets, the clinics test up to 40 a day, Coe pointed out.

### Day in the park

There was more to City Uprising than HIV testing. Volunteers worked in public schools to move furniture and scrape bubble gum, paint walls in social services centers like Health People in the South Bronx, and provide arts ministries in Central Park and Battery Park, overlooking the harbor and the Statue of Liberty.

Wherever they went, volunteers told strangers about Gallery's ministry and invited them to attend worship services or small-group meetings. Jonathan Rich, pastor of the arts at Atlanta's 1027 Church, was right at home engaging tourists and city residents in conversation about art in some of the city's parks.

Armed with a simple notepad and pencil, he asked individuals to make a quick sketch and to explain what they attempted to draw. He then invited them to visit the church later that week when the sketch and others from throughout the city would be displayed as community art.

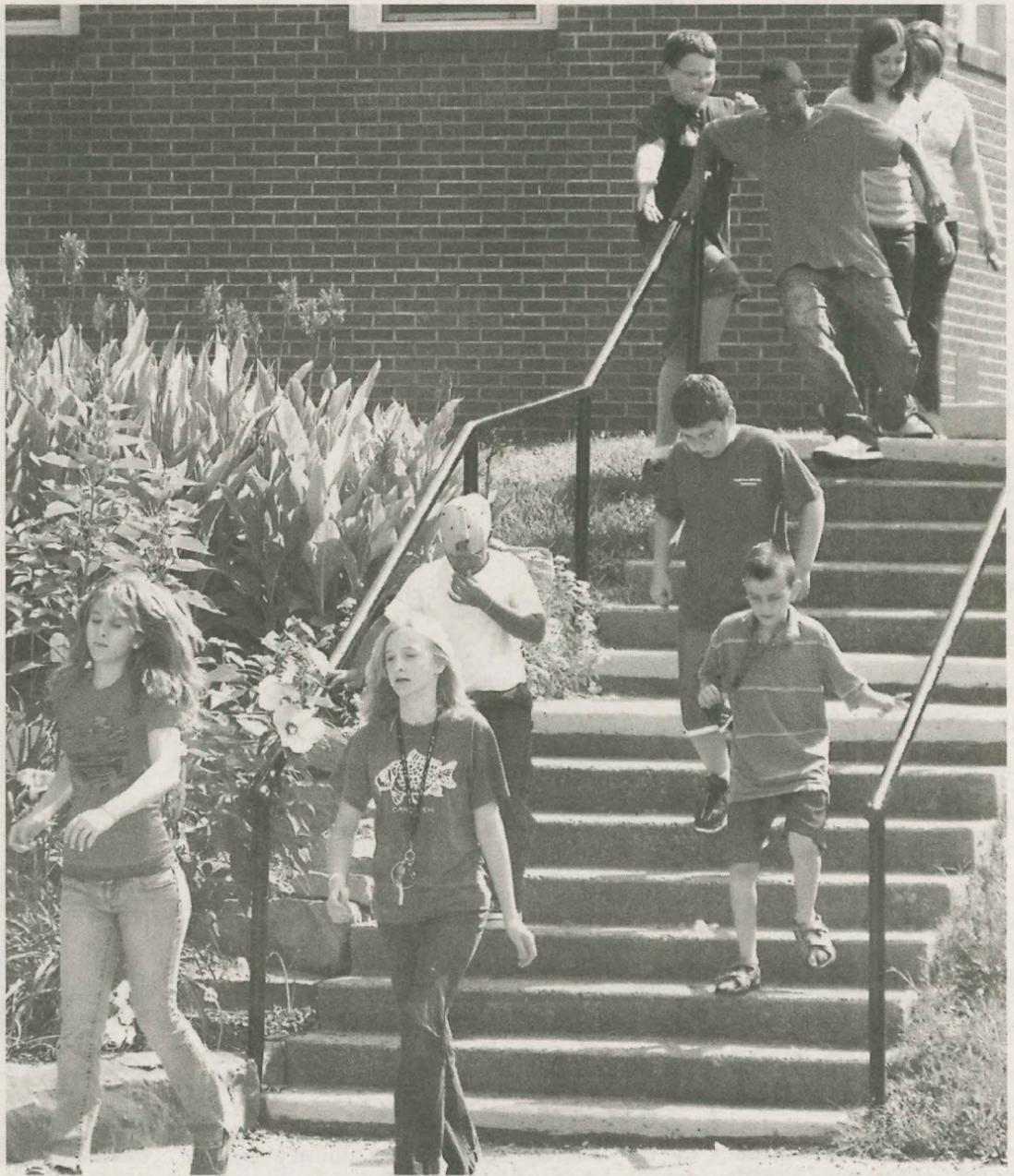
"New York City is very arts-centered and people love to view and discuss art in various forms," Rich said. "Gallery's presence in one of the arts neighborhoods plays into that and is a natural way to reach into the community." (BP)

# Middle school in motion

Ever notice how kids  
this age are always  
moving?

At OBI we balance  
worship, work and play.  
We want to give all of  
our students, young-  
est to oldest, a healthy  
blend of activities.

Whether it's study hall,  
sports practice, a  
student job or dorm  
devotions, it is all  
supervised by caring  
Christian adults.

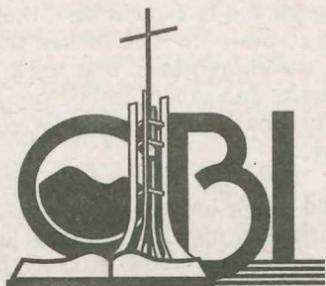


## Oneida Baptist Institute is ...

- ▶ A fully accredited Christian boarding school for boys and girls in grades 6-12 -- one of the most affordable in the U.S.
- ▶ A safe, structured environment for children who are struggling with peer pressure, family problems or social difficulties
- ▶ A school where students who are falling behind academically can improve their grades
- ▶ An opportunity for youngsters to take part in sports without being "cut" for lack of ability
- ▶ A campus where kids behind in reading and/or math can find help in our Tutoring Lab
- ▶ A chance for teens to learn to take pride in working at a campus job
- ▶ A place where the love of Christ is preached, taught and modeled by caring adults.

**Do you know a teenager who should be at OBI?**

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



*Education for Time and Eternity*

## Oneida Baptist Institute

PO Box 67 Oneida, Kentucky 40972

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

Web site: [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org)